
CURRICULUM VITAE

PD DI Dr. Angela Sessitsch



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EDUCATION

- 2003: Inst. of Soil Science and Center of Applied Genetics at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria. "**Venia docendi**" (**Habilitation**) in Microbial Ecology.
- 1992-1997: Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands. **Ph.D.** in Microbiology / Microbial Ecology
- 1982 - 1990: University of Technology, Graz, Austria. **M.Sc.** in Chemical Engineering (Bio- and Food chemistry) with honours.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2004 – present: **Unit Head (Bioresources Unit)** at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH comprising 30 employees and app. 15-20 contracted researchers (mainly Ph.D. students and post-docs). The Unit hosts a resource center of plant and microbial gene resources and performs research on beneficial plant-microbe interactions, microbial bio-prospection, and molecular detection of environmental, food and water pathogens. "Microbial Ecology" research is led by Dr. Sessitsch and the group studies beneficial plant-microbe interactions, functional genomics of soil and plant-associated bacteria and the development of high-throughput diagnostic tools for the analysis and detection of environmental and food microorganisms.
- 2002 – 2004: **Microbiologist** at the ARC Austrian Research Centers GmbH
Leader of the "Molecular Microbial Ecology" group,
Biotechnology Unit
Research on the molecular ecology and functional genomics of beneficial plant-microbe interactions, soil microbiology, biosafety

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- of GMOs, bioremediation, development of diagnostic DNA microarrays; Teaching of graduate and undergraduate students
- 1999 – 2002: **APART** habilitation fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Sciences
Research on molecular ecology of soil and plant-associated bacteria; Teaching of graduate and undergraduate students
- 1998 – 1999: **Herta-Firnberg** fellowship at the Division of Life Sciences, Austrian Research Centers GmbH, Austria.
Research on soil-plant-microbe interactions
- 1997: **Post-doctoral** position at the Wageningen Agricultural University, Department of Microbiology, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
Research on the ecology of *Lactobacillus* spp. in the large intestine of the human gastrointestinal tract
- IAEA expert mission** to Ghana. Teaching of molecular biology techniques in *Rhizobium* research
- 1996 – 1997: **Microbiologist** at the **FAO/IAEA** Agricultural and Biotechnology Laboratory Seibersdorf, Austria.
Research on the ecology of *Rhizobium*; development of the "**CelB Gene Marking Kit**". Training of research fellows.
Employer: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- 1994 – 1996: **Associate Professional Officer** at the **FAO/IAEA** Agricultural and Biotechnology Laboratory Seibersdorf, Austria.
Development and use of molecular biology techniques to study microbial ecology of *Rhizobium* (competition and diversity) to be used in developing countries. Technology transfer by training of fellows, by the development of a "**GUS Gene Marking Kit**" and its distribution to several countries.
Consultancies and **Teaching** in Mexico and Brazil.
Employer: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- 1994: Research on marker genes at the Center for the Application of Molecular Biology to International Agriculture (**CAMBIA**), Canberra, Australia
- 1990 – 1994: Research on Biological Nitrogen Fixation at the **FAO/IAEA** Laboratories Seibersdorf, Austria. Construction of marker gene cassettes for the identification of *Rhizobium* in order to enhance biological nitrogen fixation.
Employer: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

AWARDS / HONOURS

- Editor of FEMS Microbiology Ecology; Editorial Board Member of the ISME Journal; Editorial Board Member of Biology & Fertility of Soils
- Member of management team and WG leader of COST Action FA1103 “Endophytes for Agriculture and Biotechnology”
- Second vice-president of the Austrian Society for Molecular Life Sciences and Biotechnology (ÖGMBT)
- Member of the Austrian Commission of Gene Technology, since 1999
- Nominated by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) as member of the Scientific Panel (2003-2006) and as ad-hoc expert (2006-) on Genetically Modified Organisms
- ARC Award for scientific excellence 2003 and 2005
- APART fellowship 1999-2002 (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

Second Vice-President of the Austrian Society for Molecular Life Sciences and Biotechnology (ÖGMBT)
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Bodenkunde
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Bodenbiologie
International Society of Microbial Ecology
International Society of Applied Microbiology