
Director of the French Plant Genomic Ressource Center

In a context of plant improvement and adaptation in light of the changing climatic and demographic context, where energy resources are limited, plant genome exploration is one of the strategic approaches of choice. To address these major questions, I juggle with the management of projects, human and financial resources, international partnerships and working relations.

PROFESIONNAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXPERTISE

RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTOR | NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH | Toulouse, France
2003 - Present

Director of the French National Centre for Plant Genomic Resources

- Creation ex nihilo and management of a Biological Resources Centre dedicated to genomics unique in France and Europe (National Centre for Plant Genomic Resources - CNRGV)
 - Project development with international recognition
 - Involvement in various national and international agriculture research programs
 - Management of a team of 20 people (from technicians to researchers)
 - Financial applications and getting of funds for projects development (regional, national and international agencies)
 - Definition of human resources, financial needs, and appropriate methods for the implementation of the project
 - Definition of operating constraints adapted to the activities of the structure (building, equipment, techniques, database, tracking methods with the development of a dedicated Laboratory Informatics Management System - GENOLIMS (07/3487169 patent)
 - Quality management System certification of the structure (ISO 9001 label obtained and maintained since 2005)
 - Oral presentations in national and international scientific meetings each year – Invited speaker (Europe, USA, India)
 - Coordination of regular programs meetings with multiple international collaborators (scientists, companies, representative of the agricultural sector)
 - Regular adult training courses
 - Evaluation of programs funding's applications
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FRENCH SENATE | Paris, France

2013 - Present

Member of the scientific committee of the Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Options (OPECST)

- The OPECST is a body of common information to the National Assembly and the Senate. It has the task, to inform Parliament of the consequences of the choice of science and technology in order, to make enlightened decisions
- The Scientific Committee acts as an intermediary between the political world and the world of research. It is made up of fifteen leading figures selected for their competence. Link: <http://www.senat.fr/opepst/eng/index.html>

Involvement in a specific coordination committee aiming at studying the economic and environment impact of Biotechnologies

- Working meetings with governmental officials, community leaders, and representative of farmers
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MEMBER OF SEVERAL CONSORTIUMS

2005 - Present

- Member of the International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium (IWGSC)
 - Member of the Sugarcane Genome Sequencing Initiative (SUGESI)
 - Member of the International Barley Genome Sequencing Consortium (IBGSC)
 - Member of International Sunflower Sequencing Consortium (Genomics of Sunflower)
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OTHER RESPONSABILITIES

2005 - Present

- Reviewer of scientific journals (Molecular Genetics and Genomics, BMC Genomics, Gene, Molecular plant, Functional and Integrative Genomics, Genetics and Molecular Biology)
- Board member of various technological committees
- Member of a committee for the establishment of a specific standard for BRCs (AFNOR)
- Executive Board Member of research federation (FR 40)
- President of personnel recruitment selection boards for INRA

- Member of juries for recruitment
- Member of thesis juries

AWARDS

2015: Knight in the Order of Legion of Honor from the French government (Ministry of Agriculture.)
2015: Vermeil Medal from the French Academy of Agriculture
2013: Knight of the Order of Agricultural Merit by the French government (Ministry of Agriculture.)
2013: Award for the scientist of the year of Toulouse city
2012: INRA Awards: <http://jobs.inra.fr/A-la-une/Lauriers/Lauriers-2012/Helene-Berges/>

OTHERS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHER | NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH | Toulouse, France 2000-2002

Scientific researcher in the laboratory of interactions between plant and microorganisms INRA-CNRS.

Dr. Daniel KAHN

- Establishment of a collaboration with French and German teams
 - Development of a research program aiming at understanding the natural nitrogen fixation of alfalfa
 - Implementation of new technologies for genome studies
 - Development and use sophisticated robotic devices
 - Development of a computer database
 - Management of technical staff
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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHER | NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH | Toulouse, France 1998-2000

Scientific researcher in the laboratory of interactions between plant and microorganisms. INRA-CNRS.

Dr. Pierre BOISTARD and Dr. Jacques BATUT

- Development of a research program aiming at understanding the natural nitrogen fixation of alfalfa
 - Adult training courses
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ASSISTANT RESEARCHER – PHD STUDENT | NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH-CNRS | Toulouse, France 1991-1996

Assistant researcher in the laboratory of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics of the CNRS – (Team Dr. Olivier FAYET)

- Development of a project aiming at producing therapeutic molecules in a bacteria at the national center for scientific research (CNRS)
- Teaching at the University of sciences Paul Sabatier

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS CREDENTIALS

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCES Paul SABATIER | Toulouse, France

1995

- Ph.D. thesis - Molecular Biology and Genetics

LANGUAGES SKILLS

English: fluent in written and spoken English
Spanish: fluent in written and spoken Spanish
French: native language

LINKS

<http://jobs.inra.fr/en/Career-opportunities/Researchers-in-the-spotlight/Helene-Berges>
<https://inra-dam-front-pad.brainsonic.com/index.php/player-html5-8952f791f54b09d0dd7886654445913a.html>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-pA_qkQcLE
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxBUXmPLF3Y>
<http://jobs.inra.fr/Nos-metiers/Reportages/inside-inra-decouvrez-nos-metiers/Inside-Inra-a-Toulouse>
<http://www.academie-agriculture.fr/prix-medailles/medaille-vermeil-academie>
