

Xavier PERRET

Swiss citizen, married, born June 2, 1961
2 children attending university (Master and bachelor)

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Details on some achievements: <https://xperret.com>



Microbiologist - Biologist

Plant-Microbe-Soil Interactions

Professional Profile

Innovative microbiologist with more than 25-year experience in leading researches on growth-promoting interactions between soil bacteria and crop plants. Led fruitful R&D collaborations with industrial partners (Becker-Underwood, DuPont, Mabritec, Syngenta). Established privileged links with academic and private research institutes world-wide (AU, AR, BE, BR, CA, CH, CI, CN, DE, ES, FI, FR, GB, IN, JP, MX, NL, PK, PL, PT, RS, SE, SG, SN, TN, TW, ZA). Obtained uninterrupted third-party funding for research, training and communication since 1992. Seasoned editor and peer-reviewer for reputed international journals with established publishing track record (>75 publications; >6,800 citations; H index 32; i10 Index 42). Directed >20 diploma, Master, Master of Advanced Studies and PhD theses on a broad range of scientific topics. Experienced lecturer for bachelor, master and PhD students. Reorganized and directed inter-university PhD programs. Skilled communicator for scientific outreach. Seasoned mentor for students and collaborators. Trilingual (E/F/S) with extensive international experience.

Areas of Expertise

- Legume-rhizobia symbioses
- Nitrogen-fixing bioinoculants
- Crop growth-promoting factors
- Biodiversity of soil microflora
- Quantification of live bacteria
- Genotyping of micro-organisms
- Plant and microbe genetics
- Multi-disciplinary approaches
- Project design & management
- Experimental design & control
- Critical data assessment
- Budget planification & control
- Obtaining third-party funding
- Scientific publishing & editing
- Scientific outreach
- Genome sequencing & analysis
- Mass spectrometry analyses
- Synthetic biology

Recent career highlights

- > Planned, executed and published a synthetic biology project to allow soil bacteria to colonize plant cells
- > In association with industry, developed mass spectrometry protocols and associated databases for the identification of plant-associated microbes
- > Controlled the identity and quality of commercial bioinoculants for industrial partners
- > Isolated from fields in CH, CI, PK and TN beneficial bacteria for agronomically important legume crops
- > Member of the Council of Foundation for the “*Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifique*” (CSRS) in Abidjan
- > Planned and coordinated the construction of laboratory space to house the Microbiology Unit groups
- > Successfully coordinated academic, research, and outreach activities of the 4 Microbiology Unit laboratories
- > Obtained and contributed to obtain research funding for more than 2 million CHF
- > Organized or co-organized five international conferences

Employment history

2003 – 2022 Group leader, Department of Plant Sciences, UNIGE, Geneva, CH
2000 – 2003 Senior lecturer, W.J. Broughton laboratory, Department of Plant Sciences, UNIGE, Geneva, CH
1994 – 2000 Senior researcher, W.J. Broughton laboratory, Department of Plant Sciences, UNIGE, Geneva, CH
1994 Research associate, S. Brenner laboratory, Addenbrooke’s Hospital, University of Cambridge, UK
1993 Post-doctoral researcher, S. Brenner laboratory, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla (CA), US
1992 Researcher, S. Brenner laboratory, Medical Research Council, Cambridge, UK
1986 – 1991 PhD student, W.J. Broughton laboratory, Department of Plant Sciences, UNIGE, Geneva, CH

Higher Education

1991 PhD thesis in biology – Directors, S. Brenner and W.J. Broughton. UNIGE, Geneva, CH
1986 Diploma in biology – Director, W.J. Broughton. UNIGE, Geneva, CH

Hobbies and Interests

VFR licenced pilot. Yachting. Painting and print making. Running 2 x 7 km a week and physical fitness once a week.