



● WORK EXPERIENCE

01/09/2022 – Now – Bellinzona, Switzerland

SENIOR SCIENTIST – UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES OF SOUTHERN SWITZERLAND (SUPSI)

Responsibilities:

- Project leader of an SNF-granted project evaluating the impact of *Bacillus thuringiensis* on the food chain and spillover effect of *Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis* treated areas on the cultivated areas.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the health and biodiversity impacts of members of the *B. cereus* group.
- Gain insights into exposure and potential spill-over of biopesticides into the food chain, and identify biomarkers associated with high/low-risk strains or high/low-risk matrices.
- Evaluating the strengths and limitations of concepts used to analyze microbial risks for food safety and biodiversity and implementing novel risk assessment and management concepts in the food production process.

- Project leader of Horizon Europe-funded project: delivering tools for the prevention and preparedness of vector-borne diseases and their implementation on mosquito control programmes and harmonization within governmental and public health bodies.
- Contribute to the One Health paradigm shift through interdisciplinary, innovative, and open science required to tackle the spread of zoonotic pathogens and the emergence of zoonotic disease transmission.
- Improving the understanding of the interplay between humans, mosquitoes, reservoir species and the environment, and harnessing this to nowcast and forecast mosquito-borne diseases risk in a constantly changing and globally connected environment.
- Responsible for Continuing Education for the Institute of Microbiology.

23/05/22 – 05/08/2022 – Genève, Switzerland

TECHNICAL OFFICER - WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) NTD UNIT

Responsibilities:

- Assisting the WHO in developing public health policy on new tools and recommendations
- Editing of manuals and technical documents on Dengue and neglected tropical disease burdens.

Achievements:

- Editing a technical document on the surveillance of *Aedes* species in relation to the dengue virus control
- Contributed to the editing and writing of the companion document for the Neglected Tropical Diseases report

01/01/17 – 30/06/2022 – Zürich, Switzerland

STAKEHOLDER NETWORKING COORDINATOR FOR INFRAVEC2 – UNIVERSITY OF ZÜRICH AND UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES OF SOUTHERN SWITZERLAND (UZH/SUPSI)

Responsibilities:

- Workpackage leader directing the activities of seven international partners in Europe and Africa.
- Strategic engagement with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, policymakers, relevant institutions and academia, commercial sector, and international funding bodies in research and public health.
- Promoting transversal links and strengthening capacity for health sciences research in middle-low income countries across different disciplines.
- Designing and implementing strategies to meet the stated goals, and engaged the team to execute with excellence;
- In charge of long-term sustainability and business development of the project.
- Identifying innovating and new opportunities to incorporate in the portfolio.
- Assuring fullest utilization of resources in public health mission for surveillance and prevention of vector-borne diseases (VBD) and for epidemic outbreaks response including knowledge transfer of new tools and technologies.
- Disseminating, promoting the uptake of and evaluating training tools, technology transfer, and courses.
- Fostering the implementation of design guidelines and tools for improving quality and standardization of research infrastructures and data collection for greater reproducibility of research results.
- Fundraising, both in response to announced calls as well as by identification and pitching to novel relevant stakeholders.

- Advisor and trainer on regulatory policy on working under biosafety level 3 laboratories for handling CL3 pathogens and live arthropods.

Achievements:

- Editing of guidelines on “secure insectary design and containment” and their harmonisation across veterinary and public health laboratories;
- Obtained extramural funds from the Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary office (EFSA) to organized and run a summit at the ICIPE Research Institute in Kenya with representatives from 12 African countries to discuss research priorities and strategies to control the spread of vector-borne diseases (VBDs) in Africa.
- Act as Focal Point for the European Biosafety Association (EBSA) on “arthropod containment”.
- Publication of a peer-reviewed paper on Advancing vector biology research (Kohl et al. 2016, Pathogen and Global health).
- Production and editing of a series of video interviews (bVector) with experts in the field of VBDs.

01/6/14 – 31/12/20 – Zürich, Switzerland

SENIOR SCIENTIST – UNIVERSITY OF ZÜRICH (UZH)

Responsibilities:

- Designing and analysing experimental studies on animal health and disease spread prevention.
- Investigating the emergence and control of diseases affecting livestock (e.g. bluetongue, African-horse sickness, lumpy skin disease, epizootic haemorrhagic disease).
- Advising the Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) on transmission risk for pathogens affecting livestock.
- Management of technicians, master students, PhD students, research assistants, PostDocs.
- Understanding the parameters involved in the transmission of vector-borne viruses (Lumpy skin, Bluetongue, African horse sickness, Epizootic Haemorrhagic diseases, Japanese encephalitis, Zika, Dengue, West- Nile, Chikungunya, Usutu, Sindbis) and the exotic and indigenous population of Swiss mosquitoes and Culicoides.
- Vectors population dynamic, ecology and bionomics of mosquitoes and Culicoides species potentially involved in pathogens transmission.
- Technical support on mosquitoes surveillance and control in particular for developing countries including training on vector ecology, pathogens-vectors interactions, and diseases spread;
- Lecturer of the Medical and Veterinary Entomology course for biologists.
- Communicating scientific outputs to different target audiences including presentations at international conferences, public events, and conveying to internal and external stakeholders;
- Drafting and reviewing scientific publications for peer-reviewed journals.

Achievements:

- >700,000 CHF of research funds secured for the National Centre for Vector Ecology providing positions for technicians (1), PhD students (4), research assistant (2), PostDoc (1).
- Contributing to improving capacity building on veterinary services dealing with livestock health and welfare across several developing countries with tailored training courses in both lab and field methodologies.
- Unique expertise in high containment/insectary facility code of practice and design.
- Supervised to completion two master students, three PhD students, two research assistants and one PostDoc.
- Delivered scientific publications on peer-reviewed journals and presented outcomes at national and international conferences and congresses.
- Organized and chair International conferences and congresses.

10/6/19 – 16/6/19 – Sofia, Bulgaria

TRAINER – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY RISK ASSESSMENT CENTRE ON FOOD CHAIN, RACFC

I worked as a consultant for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Risk Assessment Centre on Food Chain, RACFC (2018) on training staff from the National Diagnostic and Research Veterinary Medical Institute, Sofia (NDRVMI), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine within Trakya University (TrU) and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine within University of Forestry (LTU). The aim of the project was to implement molecular tools for the rapid identification of arthropods as vectors of pathogens of medical and veterinary interest (GP/EFSA/ENCO/2018/04).

Project title: “Specific competent vectors identification with the view of multiannual monitoring of some exotic vector-borne diseases in Bulgaria with modern molecular-biological tools” (GP/EFSA/ENCO/2018/04).

I was training and providing technical support during field and laboratory activities on the identification of insect vectors responsible for the transmission of pathogens of veterinary importance (mosquitoes and Culicoides).

25/3/19 – 26/3/19 – Bucharest, Romania

EXPERT/LECTURER TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME – INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

Expert Mission as a lecturer in Romania as part of the project: "Enhancing National Capabilities for Early and Rapid Detection of Priority Vector-Borne Diseases of Animals (Including Zoonoses) by Means of Molecular Diagnostic Tools". My role was to discuss the existing up-to-date techniques for the collection and identification of the most important vectors of the priority diseases for the project.

It was a temporary expert assignment.

20/10/13 – 20/10/18 – Zürich, Switzerland

DIRECTOR – EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR VECTOR ECOLOGY

Responsibilities:

I was the Director of the European Society for Vector Ecology (E-SOVE). During my mandate, I was in charge of forming an advisory board and its coordination, organizing the bi-annual conference (hosting worldwide participants) from chairing the programme to the abstract selection, logistics, catering and coordination of the local organizer.

Achievements:

- Distinguished service award granted by the Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE) – September 2015.
- Honour Award. International Conference of Entomology. 21-23rd February 2014, Punjab University Patiala, India
- Successfully organized two international conferences with >200 participants (E-SOVE 2012, Thessaloniki, Greece; E-SOVE 2014, Lisbon, Portugal).
- I created the first course on vector control, surveillance and identification of vectors (ticks, mosquitoes, Culicoides, sandflies, and blackflies). This course was running at each of the two conferences that I organized.

19/4/18 – 21/4/18 – Tbilisi, Georgia

EXPERT/LECTURER TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME – INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

- Editing and presenting Standard Operating Procedures for collection of arthropod vectors (Culicoides, biting midges) involved in the transmission of pathogens affecting livestock (e.g. bluetongue, Schmallenberg, and African- horse sickness viruses)
- Teaching and training to 38 veterinary authorities of 29 Balkan countries. Disseminate validated and verified techniques for capture, storage and quantification (evaluation) of priority arthropod vectors;
- Disseminate validated and verified techniques for the identification of priority arthropod vectors.
- Disseminate proven techniques for the control of arthropod vectors. Provide recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders in the field of animal diseases and zoonosis.

This was a temporary assignment

14/10/02 – 30/5/14 – Pirbright, United Kingdom

RESEARCH SCIENTIST – THE PIRBRIGHT INSTITUTE

Responsibilities:

- Experimental design, management, data collection, statistical analyses and reporting of studies in the field of animal health and welfare related to livestock diseases outbreaks (bluetongue) including clinical trials and post-mortem;
- Investigating virus-vectors interactions and livestock pathogen (bluetongue, African-horse sickness, and Schmallenberg viruses) transmission mechanisms for arthropod insects (Culicoides biting midges);
- Investigating the safety and efficacy of bluetongue virus (BTV) vaccine for Europe;
- Convey scientific output towards different stakeholders including the European Commission (EC), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council; Evaluating genome changes and phenotype implications (e.g. re-assortment, virus adaptation) for bluetongue virus transmission;
- Reassortment and overwintering mechanisms for Bluetongue virus and its implication on vectors and ruminant hosts.
- Trainer at the “BTV diagnostic course for foreign scientists”. Diagnostic for BTV replication in vectors and virus isolation techniques;
- Lecturer on “Mosquitoes transmitted diseases” as part of the MSc in Veterinary Microbiology of the University of Surrey.

Achievements:

- Provided relevant risk assessment and guidance in the field of vaccination strategies for the livestock bluetongue disease to the European Commission that changed the approach to vaccination policy;

Successfully delivered four funded projects:

- “Bluetongue virus reassortment and overwintering in the Culicoides host” (DEFRA funding)
- “Vector-borne transmission pathways and serological diagnostics of Schmallenberg virus” (DEFRA funding)
- “Defining the thermal and vector requirements of orbiviral pathogens as a means of predicting incursion risk to the UK” (DEFRA funding)
- “Development of a safe, efficacious bluetongue virus vaccination strategy for Europe” (EU funded Project Contract QLK2-2001-01722).

- Consultancy on the supervision of a commercial vaccine trial experiment to examine the efficacy of BTV-8 vaccine (Intervet Schering-Plough Animal Health, Boxmeer - Netherland);
- Providing technical and scientific support during three livestock outbreaks: foot&mouth disease, bluetongue, and Schmallenberg.
- Delivered scientific publications on peer-reviewed journals and presented outcomes at national and international conferences and congresses.
- Organized and chair International conferences and congresses. Obtained my PhD from the Royal Veterinary College (London, UK)
- Chairman and symposium organizer at the 6th International SOVE Annual conference; 22-27th of September 2013 - La Quinta, California (US).
- Chairman and symposium organizer at the 2012 SOVE Annual conference; 23-27th of September 2012 St. Augustine, Florida (US).
- Chairman and symposium organizer at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of

1/3/95 – 1/10/02 – Crevalcore (Bologna), Italy

RESEARCH SCIENTIST IN ENTOMOLOGY – CENTRO AGRICOLTURA AMBIENTE “G.NICOLI” (CAA)

Responsibilities:

- Coordination, technical direction, scientific supervision on blood-sucking arthropod control (mosquitoes, sandflies, Culicoides and blackflies);
- Field monitoring and control of breedings sites, adult trapping and ovitraps for *Ae.albopictus*, *Cx. pipiens* and sandflies.
- Lab rearing of sandflies and mosquitoes spp.
- Setting up of projects, technical reports and peer-reviewed papers connected to the data generated.

Achievements:

- Delivered scientific publications on peer-reviewed journals and presented outcomes at national and international conferences and congresses.
- Supervision of one technician, two research scientists, and several (20) veterinary officers in public health units during the control of the invasive tiger mosquito *Aedes albopictus* (Italy, 2000-2002).

● **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

1/9/89 – 30/3/96 – Bologna, Italy

BACHELOR – Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna

<https://www.unibo.it/it>

1/9/06 – 30/4/13 – London, United Kingdom

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) – Royal Veterinary College, University of London (UCL)

<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/>

● **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s): ITALIAN

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
FRENCH	B2	B2	B1	B2	B1
GERMAN	A2	A2	A12	A2	A2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

● **DIGITAL SKILLS**

Behavioural

innovative | positive thinking | Active listening | Google Drive | curious | flexible | Friendly | Good at being proactive and efficient in high stress situations

Digital

Microsoft Teams | Zoom | Microsoft PowerPoint | Twitter | LinkedIn | Google Docs | E-mail use | Microsoft Excel | Microsoft Word | Microsoft Office | WhatsApp | Word | Skype | Outlook | Microsoft Powerpoint | Internet user | Gmail | Power Point

Technical competences

Presentation and negotiation skills | Research | Excellent writing and verbal communication skills | Written and

Verbal skills Presenting Research and analytical skills leadership Strategic Planning Analytical skills Ability to Work Under Pressure Good time management Organizational and planning skills Critical thinking

Personal skills

Motivated | Reliability | Creativity | Flexibility | Conflict resolution | Empathic listener | Good Communication | Efficient multi-tasking | Problem-solving | Communications | Excellent team player | Cross cultural skills | Responsibility | Team-work oriented | Good listener and communicator | Decision-making | Teamwork