

A Brief Biographical Sketch



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Address: Rua Guarará, 538/52, Jardim Paulista, 01425-000 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Born: November 10, 1960 – Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil

Education:

B.Sc. – Federal University of Lavras, MG, Brazil, 1984

M.Sc. - Federal University of Lavras, MG, Brazil, 1989

Ph.D. - University of Louvain, Belgium, 1994

Employment history:

Assistant Professor – Genetics Department, ESALQ, University of São Paulo, 1994 to 2001

Associate Professor – Genetics Department, ESALQ, University of São Paulo, 2001 to 2012

Professor – Genetics Department, ESALQ, University of São Paulo, 2013 - present

Visiting Scientist – Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Melbourne, Australia, 2003; Center for Applied Plant Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, The Ohio State University, USA, August 2016 – July 2017

Director of International Relations, CAPES, Brazil, 2011-2012

Director of Research Programs, CAPES, Brazil, 2012-2016

Graduate Dean: University of São Paulo, 2016 – April, 2023.

Scientific Director São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP): April 2023 - present

Research history: During 31 years at the Genetics Department, ESALQ, University of São Paulo, 45 graduate students have worked under my direct supervision, 27 Ph.D. and 18 M.Sc. and 13 postdocs. These students have largely worked in two major areas of research investigation: intracellular protein trafficking and plant-insect-pathogen interactions. Altogether this research activity has resulted over 80 publications (mostly from my postgraduate research activities and those of his postgraduate students and postdocs) and two patents (USPTO). I received 5,599 citations and my H Index = 41 (Google Scholar, January, 2026). Along this period, I have also been principal investigator on research grants totalling over US\$ 6 million. I have reviewed papers for prestigious journals, and also to Brazilian and International Funding Agencies (CAPES, CNPq, FAPESP, Brazil) and (NSF, USA; BBSRC and UKRI, UK and the Ministry of Education, France), respectively. In addition, I am Associate Editor of Genetics and Molecular Biology, Scientific Reports and Frontiers in Plant Science journals and I have several international collaborations.

Google scholar: scholar.google.com.br/citations?user=TgrAk4kAAAAJ&hl=en&hl=en

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Scopus: 6604025545

Role in Regulatory Agencies

For two years (2005-2007), I've been appointed as a full member of the National Biosafety Committee (CTNBio), Brazil, to deal with Genetically Modified Organisms.

Resource and knowledge Management:

In 2011, I was appointed as Director of International Relations at CAPES (Coordination of Higher Education Improvement Personnel). CAPES is a Federal Agency linked to the Ministry of Education in Brazil and is a powerhouse in terms of Postgraduate education with an annual budget of approximately US\$ 1.5 billion. I directly participated with the establishment of the Science Without Borders Program, a landmark initiative funded by the Brazilian Government to foster internationalization of the Brazilian Universities. One-hundred-one thousand people from undergraduate, postgraduate, post-docs and senior scientists, in a four-years period, were trained in the most prestigious universities worldwide, as well as a strong internship program in private companies. During this time, I was involved with setting up Agreements with universities all over the world, as well as with international-partner Agencies. After the Program started, I moved to the Directorate of Graduate Programs, the largest and widest Directorate at CAPES, to fund postgraduate Programs (nearly 4,500) and postgraduate students (approx. 100,000). Under my responsibility was also the Portal de Periódicos (Virtual Library), the largest digital collection of scientific information in the world, provided for free to the Brazilian scientific community. Along the three-years period at I had the opportunity to interact with the Publishers, setting up new agreements and also building up research-funding initiatives in strategic areas in Brazil.

The experience obtained at CAPES allowed me to join USP higher administration. Thus, after 4.5 years working in the Brazil's largest Federal Agency, I was appointed Deputy Provost of Postgraduate studies at the University of Sao Paulo (USP), Brazil. USP is the largest University in Brazil, with 30,000 postgraduate students distributed in 270 Postgraduate programs in all areas of knowledge. USP is also the best-ranked university in Latin America. Actually, I've been strongly involved in fostering internationalization of USP academic environment, mostly related to USP postgraduate programs. From January 2022 to April 2023 I was appointed as Graduate Dean at the University of São Paulo.

In 2023, I was appointed as Scientific Director of São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP).

Awards and Scientific Achievements

Member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (2015).

Member of the São Paulo Academy of Sciences (2018).

Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society (2025).

Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (2026).

Language Skills

Portuguese (mother language);

English (fluent);

French (fluent).