

Linda Avesani, PhD

SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE

Università degli Studi di Verona · Dipartimento di Biotecnologie · Strada Le Grazie 15, 37134 Verona · linda.avesani@univr.it · +39 045 8027839

ENGLISH · 1/3

Profile

Associate Professor of Agricultural Genetics at the University of Verona, with continuous research and teaching activity from 2000/2010 to the present. Her work combines plant genetics and biotechnology, molecular farming, plant-virus nanoparticles, metabolomics, and applications in human health, biodiversity and sustainability.

Current position	Associate Professor, University of Verona (2020–present); GSD 07/AGRI-06, SSD AGRI-06/A.
Education	PhD in Agro-industrial Biotechnology (2004); MSc-equivalent degree in Agro-industrial Biotechnology (2000, 110/110 cum laude); Specialist degree (2009, 110/110 cum laude).
Qualifications	National qualification for Full Professor 07/E1 (2020); Associate Professor 05/A1 (2017) and 07/E1 (2016).
Research output	56 journal articles; 25 papers as last and/or corresponding author; 3 book contributions; co-inventor on 10 patent families.

Academic appointments and institutional service

- Associate Professor (2020–present), fixed-term Researcher type B (2016–2020) and type A (2012–2016), University of Verona.
- Member of the Department Third Mission Committee (2025–present) and of the Teaching and Learning Planning Technical Committee for the Pharmacy degree programme (2024–present).
- Member of the University Committee for the Approval of Research on Human Participants (CARP, 2021–2026), scientific member of the Animal Welfare Body (2016–2024), and Workers' Safety Representative (2013–2025).

Research areas

- Molecular farming and plant-based production of recombinant proteins, vaccines and nanomaterials.
- Plant-virus nanoparticles for diagnosis and therapy of autoimmune diseases, including type 1 diabetes, Sjögren syndrome, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and systemic lupus erythematosus.
- Genetics, genomics, metabolomics and bioprospecting of agricultural and medicinal plants; biodiversity and urban biomonitoring.

ENGLISH · 2/3

Teaching and student service

- Continuous teaching activity since 2010 across Bachelor's, Master's and international Master's programmes.
- Course leader for Molecular Farming (LM-9, 48 hours, 2016–present); coordinator and module leader for Plant Bioreactors (LM-7, 28 hours, 2018–present); module leader for Biomolecular and Genetic Methods (L-2, 40 hours, 2020–present); course leader for Plant Genetic Resources (L-2, 2021–2024).
- Regular organisation of international invited seminars within Molecular Farming; international teaching in the Fruit Science Master's programme at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano.
- Teaching evaluations 2015/16–2024/25: 558 valid questionnaires across 29 surveys; mean score for teaching-related items 3.65/4, with 96.9% positive responses; overall satisfaction 3.48/4, with 93.3% positive responses.
- Supervision of 82 theses since 2001, including 39 Master's, 13 Bachelor's and 7 doctoral theses as supervisor/co-supervisor; examiner for 5 doctoral and 39 Master's theses.
- Vice-Chair of the Pharmacy Teaching Committee (2024–present) and member of the Quality Assurance Committee for Medical and Molecular Biotechnology (2018–present).

Collaborations, funded projects and awards

- UniVR unit leader in CORESPACES (HORIZON, 2026–2029); scientific lead of the Diamante Project (HORIZON, 2025–2026); Work Package leader in Pharma-Factory (H2020, 2017–2021); national coordinator of the FIRB Futuro in Ricerca project (2010–2014, €799,000).
- PI of èVRgreen (Fondazione Cariverona, €338,000) and scientific lead/partner in projects on biodiversity, air quality and urban sustainability; partner in the National Biodiversity Future Center (PNRR, 2022–2025).
- Structured collaborations with UC Davis, John Innes Centre, Fraunhofer Institute and other European partners; visiting scientist at UC Davis, John Innes Centre and CNR-IBBA.
- Awards include Top Innovative Woman in Life Science (EIB, 2026), Marisa Bellisario Award (2016), UK–Italy Business Award (2016), Global Social Venture Competition (2016), and National Innovation Award / Equal Opportunities Award (2015).

ENGLISH · 3/3

Knowledge transfer and public engagement

- Majority shareholder and Board member of Diamante SB srl (2024–present); previously majority shareholder and Chief Scientific Officer of Diamante srl (2016–2024), a University of Verona spin-off working on plant nanotechnologies for autoimmune disease diagnosis and therapy.
- CEO and laboratory lead of the Officina Biotecnologica srl spin-off (2009–2016), focused on plant-based production of recombinant proteins.
- Co-inventor on 10 patent families: 6 with granted and active patents, 3 international applications pending and 1 lapsed family (status checked August 2026).
- More than 25 public-engagement initiatives in the last four years. Scientific and organisational coordinator of èVRgreen Week 2025: 25 events across 9 venues, 542 students and 30 teachers involved in citizen-science activities, 665 observations and 271 taxa recorded.
- èVRgreen outputs include an urban tree-canopy dataset, a network of 50 temperature-monitoring stations and lichen biomonitoring involving 500 students, in partnership with the City of Verona.

Scientific impact and dissemination

- Invited speaker at international conferences and seminars, including the Immunoengineering Gordon Research Conference (USA, 2026), DIRANO Conference (2025), CBGP-UPM/CSIC (Spain, 2024) and Transgenic Plants and Transformation Technologies (Austria, 2022).
- Co-author of 61 conference posters and 13 oral communications; member of the Communication Group of the Italian Society of Agricultural Genetics (2019–2022) and organiser of national congresses and training courses.
- 56 peer-reviewed journal articles (2003–2026), including publications in Science Advances, Journal of Experimental Botany and Frontiers in Plant Science; reviewer and Guest Editor for international journals.