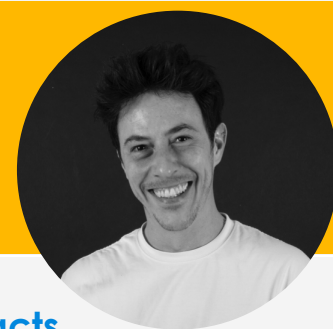


Riccardo Mora

Molecular Geneticist, Ph.D.



Biologist with 10+ years of experience in molecular biology and genetics. My research focuses on grapevine genetics and genome engineering, particularly seedlessness and heat stress resilience, using *Arabidopsis thaliana* as a model system. Skilled in genotyping technologies for varietal identification, complex trait analysis, and marker-assisted breeding. Experienced in plant-pathogen interactions and nitric oxide signaling.

Scientific Work Experiences

2023/12 →
today



Lab Manager and Post-doc Researcher

Laboratory of Genetic Biotechnology and Molecular Genetics - Department of Biotechnology – University of Verona

Topics of research: genomic engineering of *V. vinifera* and *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Complex traits dissection and functional validation. New molecular marker development for MAS selection and varietal identification. *In vitro* culture of embryogenic calli. Coordinator of the research group and academic supervisor. Participant in PRIN and PRIN-PNRR projects.

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Diana Bellin

2022/08 →
2023/08



R&D Scientist

Microbion S.r.l. – San Giovanni Lupatoto (VR)

Quality control in food, probiotic and pharmaceutical formulations in compliance with ISO 9001. Identification of prokaryotic/eukaryotic contaminants and antibiotics resistance through molecular and morphological approaches. Sanger and NGS Illumina consultant. ONT specialist in library preparation and sequencing for metagenomics characterization with MinION Mk1B. GLP and sterility practices in BSL-1 and BSL-2 laboratory. Project cost analyst, scientific project support and TITAN Project EU participant.

PhD Student

2018-10 →
2022-03



Laboratory of Genetic Biotechnology - Department of Biotechnology – University of Verona

Dissection of genetic determinants of phenology and qualitative traits in *Vitis vinifera* through two complementary genetic approaches: QTL mapping on bi-parental populations and association study (GWAS).

DNA extraction and genotyping with SSR/SNP markers through Sang-

Contacts

Address

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University of Verona
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E-mail

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riccardo.mora@hotmail.com

LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/in/riccardo-mora

ResearchGate

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Riccardo-Mora-2>

ORCID

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4537-9790>

Hard Skills

- Molecular biology and plant genetics
- NGS, ONT and Sanger sequencing
- Laboratory management
- Protocols development
- Project management

Technical Skills

- DNA/RNA manipulation
- Library preparation for Illumina and ONT sequencing
- Sanger sequencing with ABI 3130xl Genetic Analyzer
- Molecular cloning and heterologous expression
- PCR, RT-PCR, TD-PCR, HRM

er/NGS sequencing and Illumina *Vitis*18K SNP chip. Phenotyping and technological traits measurement (Brix degree, pH, polyphenols content), heat stress analysis through photosynthesis parameters. Varietal identification and parental analysis with microsatellite markers, genetic diversity analysis, allele frequency distribution and marker-assisted selection in breeding programs to improve local varieties for quality and resistance traits. Development of protocols for ancient DNA extraction from grape seeds.

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Diana Bellin

2018-03 →
2018-10



Research Fellow

Laboratory of Phytopathological Biotechnology – Department of Biotechnology – University of Verona

Characterization of pathogenicity signals in Kiwifruit during *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* (Psa) infection.

Evaluation of activity of different natural molecules in bacterial biofilm formation and *in vitro* motility. Design and development of plasmids expressing –his tag for Psa receptors purification and to study promoter sequences.

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Annalisa Polverari

2017-11 →
2018-03



Research Associate

Laboratory of Genetic Biotechnology - Department of Biotechnology – University of Verona

Complementation test on knock-out lines of *A. thaliana* for functional confirmation of pre-selected candidate genes. Development of transgenic lines of *A. thaliana* expressing recombinant GFP::proteins to study their cellular localization and function.

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Diana Bellin

2016-06 →
2017-10



Master's degree Trainee

Laboratory of Genetic Biotechnology - Department of Biotechnology – University of Verona

Identification of candidate genes involved in the signaling pathway of nitric oxide (NO) during the hypersensitive response in *A. thaliana*.

Genetic screening of mutant lines of *A. thaliana* to identify candidate genes involved in NO signaling pathway. Bulked-segregant analysis, pool and library preparation for Illumina NGS sequencing.

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Diana Bellin

2013-05 →
2014-11



Bachelor's degree Trainee

Laboratories of Mycology and Microbiology - Department of Agriculture Science and Technologies – University of Bologna

Evaluation of effectiveness of biological compounds against the agents of Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) in hard wheat.

Evaluation of competition activity of different *Ascomycota* and bacterial strains against *Fusarium graminearum* and *F. culmorum*. Microbiological approaches to evaluate the antimicrobial activity of plantaricins

- Genotyping and fingerprinting
- Molecular assembly systems
- CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing
- QTL analysis
- Phenotyping
- *In vitro* culture
- Optical, immersion and SEM microscopy

Languages

English: B2

German: elementary

Interests

Photographer

Pianist

Houseplants expert

Nature lover

and bacteriocins produced respectively from *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *B. amyloliquefaciens*. Physiopathology and Europe's regulations for deoxynivalenol control in food.

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Annamaria Pisi

Academic tutors: Prof. Antonio Prodi e Dott. Francesca Gaggia

Education

October 2022 **Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. in Biotechnology**

University of Verona

October 2017 **Master of Science: Agri-food Biotechnology**

University of Verona

110/110 cum laude

October 2015 **Bachelor of Science: Biology**

Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna

96/110

Courses and Organizations

Member of Italian Society of Agriculture Genetics (SIGA)

Since September 2025

Reviewer for Springer Nature Journal

Since 2026

Courses:

- Epigenetics: advanced technologies
Theoretical course - FISV Federazione Italiana Scienze della Vita
Milano, February 16th-17th 2026
- cGMP regulations and Quality Assurance
Theoretical course – Quality Assurance Training Lab (virtual)
August 2022
- New breeding techniques: CRISPR-Cas9 in plants
Practical-theoretical course of Italian Society of Plant Genetics (SIGA),
Verona, July 2nd-5th 2019

Publications and Posters

Mora R., Dal Corso G., Maci S., Gambino G., Placchi N., Villa D., Marini M., Bolognesi G., Fanelli V., Montemurro C., Bellin D. - Engineering of seedlessness in grapevine: insights from *INNER NO OUTER* gene functional studies. First international congress on Plant Tissue Culture and Genome Engineering (PTCGE), Santa Susanna - Barcelona (Spain) May 10th-13th, 2026

Mora R., Dal Corso G., Maci S., Gambino G., Villa D., Marini M., Fanelli V., Montemurro C., Bellin D. - Engineering of seedlessness in *Vitis vinifera*: towards the functional evaluation of *VvILNO* gene as a new resource for grapevine seedlessness. LXVIII SIGA Annual Congress, Viterbo (Italy), September 9th-12th, 2025. ISBN 978-88-944843-6-6.

Marini M., Costantini L., Pettenuzzo S., Lorenzi S., **Mora R.**, Bolognesi G., Villa D., Grando M. S., Bellin D. - Genetic dissection of phenology in *Vitis vinifera* through multi-population QTL analysis. LXVIII SIGA Annual Congress, Viterbo (Italy), September 9th-12th, 2025. ISBN 978-88-944843-6-6.

Villa D., Marini M., De Rosa V., Falchi R., Londo J. P., **Mora R.**, Bolognesi G., Bellin D. - Evaluation of budbreak regulation on grapevine genotypes with extreme behavior. LXVIII SIGA Annual Congress, Viterbo (Italy), LXVIII SIGA Annual Congress, Viterbo (Italy), September 9th-12th, 2025. ISBN 978-88-944843-6-6.

Mascio I., **Mora R.**, Dal Corso G., Maci S., Pirolo C. S., Dellino M., Miazzi M. M., Fanelli V., Villa D., Marini M., Montemurro C. and Bellin D. - Functional analysis of *VvILN0* involvement in seed development in *Vitis vinifera* through a CRISPR-Cas9 mediated knockout approach. International Symposium on Biotechnological Tools in Horticulture, Rimini (Italy), May 5th-9th, 2025.

Maci S., **Mora R.**, Bellin D., Dal Corso G., Nitti A., Pirolo C. S., Dellino M., Miazzi M. M., Fanelli V., Montemurro C. - New *in vitro* cultivation techniques for molecular editing programs of grapevine. – V VITROSOI Congress, Viterbo (Italy), October 14th-17th, 2024.

Mora R., Dal Corso G., Pettene M., Calzolari G., Maci S., Montemurro C., Bellin D. - Establishing functional analysis of *VvILN0* in *Vitis vinifera* through a CRISPR/Cas9 mediated knockout approach. LXVII SIGA Annual Congress, Bologna (Italy), September 10th-13th, 2024 - ISBN: 978-88-944843-5-9

Bolognesi, G., Delfino, P., Broccanello, C., **Mora, R.**, Marini, M., Gardiman, M., Giust, M., Tomasi, D., Crespan, M., Bellin, D. - Genome wide association mapping of phenology related traits in *Vitis vinifera* L. - Open Conference on Grapevine Physiology and Biotechnology (GPB), Logroño, La Rioja (Spain), 7th – 11th July, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.58233/C88ukF2e>

Vervalle J. A., Costantini L., Lorenzi S.; Pindo M.; **Mora R.**; Bolognesi G.; Marini M.; Lashbrooke J. G.; Tobutt K. R.; Vivier M.; Roodt-Wilding R.; Grando M. S.; Bellin D. A high-density integrated map for grapevine based on three mapping populations genotyped by the Vitis18K SNP chip. Theor Appl Genet 135, 4371–4390 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00122-022-04225-6>

Mora R. – Dissection of genetic determinants of phenology and qualitative traits in *Vitis vinifera* through two complementary genetic approaches - PhD thesis, October 7th, 2022, <https://iris.univr.it/handle/11562/1075187>

Vervalle J. A., Costantini L., Lorenzi S., **Mora R.**, Marini M, Lashbrooke J. G., Burger P, Vivier M. A., Grando M. S., Roodt-Wilding R., Bellin D. - Construction of a high-density consensus map based on three mapping populations and a reference genome sequence. XI International Symposium on Grapevine Physiology and Biotechnology (virtual), Stellenbosch (South Africa) October 31st – November 5th, 2021,

Mujtaba T., Marini M., Shmulevitz R., **Mora R.**, Bolognesi G., Bellin D., Tornielli G. B. - Understanding the genetic basis of grapevine phenological traits through QTL mapping. XI International Symposium on Grapevine Physiology and Biotechnology (virtual), Stellenbosch (South Africa), October 31st – November 5th, 2021.

Mora R., Delfino P., Crespan M., Gardiman M., Giust M., Tomasi D., Bolognesi G., Marini M., Bellin D. - *Identification and validation of SNPs associated to the veraison time/flowering-veraison time interval in grapevine*. LXIV SIGA Annual Congress (virtual) September 14th-16th 2021.

Vervalle J.A., Costantini L., Grando M.S., Lorenzi S., **Mora R.**, Marini M., Lashbrooke J., Burger P., Vivier M., Roodt-Wilding R., Bellin D. *High-density consensus linkage map based on three mapping populations using the Vitis18K SNP chip for grapevine breeding*. LXIV SIGA Annual Congress (virtual) September 14th-16th 2021.

Marini M., Shmulevitz R., Baroni A., Mujtaba T., Bolognesi G., Zeneri M., **Mora R.**, Imanifard Z., Polverari A., Tornielli G.B., Bellin D. *Selection of new grapevine genotypes derived from the autochthonous cv. Corvina*. LXIV SIGA Annual Congress (virtual) September 14th-16th 2021.

Marini M., Shmulevitz R., Vervalle J., Baroni A., **Mora R.**, Mujtaba T., Costantini L., Zeneri M., Bolognesi G., Tornielli G.B., Grando M.S., Polverari A., Bellin D. - *Understanding the genetic determinism of phenological and quality traits in 'Corvina' grape variety for selection of improved genotypes* – Macrowine 2021 (virtual), June 23rd-30th, 2021.

Tornielli G.B., Marini M., Shmulevitz R., **Mora R.**, Imanifard Z., Delfino P., Bellin D. - *Determination of phenological and quality traits in progenies obtained from local grapevine varieties*. – CONAVI, VIII Conference of viticulture, Udine (Italy) July 5th-7th, 2021.

Imanifard Z., Delfino P., Liu R., Huang J., **Mora R.**, Guzzo F., Delledonne M., Bellin D. - *The specific transcriptome modulation associated to Nitric Oxide induced Cell Death*. - 7th Plant Nitric Oxide International Meeting, Nice (France) October 24th-26th 2018.

Mora R., Imanifard Z., Delfino P., Mascio I., Kleinfelder Fontanesi K., Delledonne M., Bellin D. - *Identification of a positive regulator of nitric oxide signaling during pathogen induced hypersensitive cell death in Arabidopsis thaliana*. - LXII SIGA Annual Congress, Verona (Italy), September 25th-28th, 2018.

Collaborations

- **Dott. Giorgio Gambino** – *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto per la Protezione Sostenibile delle Piante (CNR-IPSP), Torino, Italy*
- **Prof. Cinzia Montemurro** – *University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy*
- **Dott. Manna Crespan** - *Centro di Ricerca per la Viticoltura (CREA-VE), Conegliano, Italy*
- **Prof. Maria Stella Grando** and **Dott. Laura Costantini** – *Department of Cellular, Computational and Integrative Biology (CIBIO), University of Trento, Italy*
- **Dott. Jessica Vervalle** – *Wageningen University and Research (WUR), Wageningen, Netherlands*

- **Dott. Massimo Pindo** – *Fondazione Edmund Mach*, San Michele all'Adige, Italy
- **Prof. Matteo Ballottari** - *Sole Lab*, Department of Biotechnology, University of Verona, Italy
- **Prof. Massimo Delledonne** – *Functional Genomics Laboratory*, Department of Biotechnology, University of Verona, Italy
- **Dott. Francesco Licausi** – *Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna*, Pisa, Italy

Grants

MARCH 2024

Research Fellowship / Department of Biotechnology - University of Verona

"Development of approaches for genetic improvement in grapevine", partially financed under "Research and Development 2021/22" call, promoted by Fondazione Cariverona

DECEMBER 2023

Research Fellowship / Department of Biotechnology - University of Verona

"Genetic analysis on ancient DNA from grape seeds from archeological sites" – PRIN2022 project "ArchaeoAdWines – Archeology of Adriatic Wine"

OCTOBER 2018

PhD Fellowship / Department of Biotechnology - University of Verona

XXXIV PhD course in Biotechnology

MARCH 2018

Research Fellowship / Department of Biotechnology - University of Verona

"Research of natural compounds with inhibitory activity of the infectious process of phytopathogenic bacteria"

NOVEMBER 2016, OCTOBER 2018/2019/2020, MARCH 2019/2020, MAY 2020

Scholarship for Laboratory Teaching Activities / Department of Biotechnology - University of Verona

- *Genetic methodologies course*
- *Molecular genetics course*
- *Transcriptomics course*

Supervisor and Correlator Activities

MARCH 2026

Academic supervisor / Student Massimiliano Fasoli - Master's Degree in Agri-food Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

Academic supervisor / Student Enrico Frattini - Master's Degree in Agri-food Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

JULY 2025

Academic supervisor and correlator / Student Kamilia Safi Ahmed - Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

JUNE 2025

Academic supervisor / Student Ginevra Vigna - Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

FEBRUARY 2025

Academic supervisor / Student Silvia Ruffini - Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

Academic supervisor and correlator / Student Nicole Placchi: Marker-assisted selection and editing for the development of new grapevine varieties. - Master's Degree in Agri-food Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

OCTOBER 2024

Academic supervisor / Student Daniel Losciale - Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

Academic supervisor / Student Thomas Bertoncetto - Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

MARCH 2024

Academic supervisor and correlator / Student Matthew Pettene: Production of constructs for genomic editing of multiple loci on the *Inner No Outer* gene in *Vitis vinifera*. - Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

DECEMBER 2023

Academic supervisor and correlator / Student Antonio Baggio: Optimization and application of PCR-based molecular markers for assisted selection in grapevine. - Master's Degree in Agri-food Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

Academic supervisor and correlator / Student Giorgia Calzolari: Assembly of CRISPR-Cas9 constructs for the knockout of *VvILN0* gene in *Arabidopsis thaliana* - Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

Supervisor and correlator / Student Zohra: Syed Kazmi: Application of two assembly strategies for the creation of CRISPR-Cas9 constructs for gene knockout in *Arabidopsis thaliana* - Bachelor's Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

MARCH 2021

Supervisor and correlator / Student Andrea Lombardini: "Phenotypic characterization and QTL analysis in the segregating population of *Vitis vinifera* Cabernet Sauvignon x Corvina" – Master's Degree in Agri-food

NOVEMBER 2019

Supervisor and correlator/ Student Giada Bolognesi: “Optimization of approaches for the validation of SNPs associated with phenotypic traits in *Vitis vinifera*” – Master’s Degree in Agri-food Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

MAY 2019

Supervisor and correlator / Student Gabriele Calliari: “Molecular validation and phenotyping of a segregating population deriving from the cross Garganega x Pinot Bianco” – Bachelor’s Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

FEBRUARY 2019

Supervisor and correlator / Student Matteo Kaixi Chen: “Selection of resistant genotypes to *Plasmopara viticola* with SSR molecular markers in Corvina x Solaris crossing population” – Bachelor’s Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

OCTOBER 2018

Supervisor and correlator / Student Anita Adami: “Optimization of a protocol for varietal identification of *Vitis vinifera* cultivar by means of SSR markers and its application in a case study” – Bachelor’s Degree in Biotechnology, Faculty of Biotechnology – University of Verona

I authorize the processing of my personal data present in the curriculum vitae pursuant to Legislative Decree 30 June 2003, n. 196 and of the GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679).

