



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO  
DIPARTIMENTO DI BIOSCIENZE



# **Piccoli peptidi: nuovi prodotti per la difesa delle colture**

**Simona Masiero**

# The workers





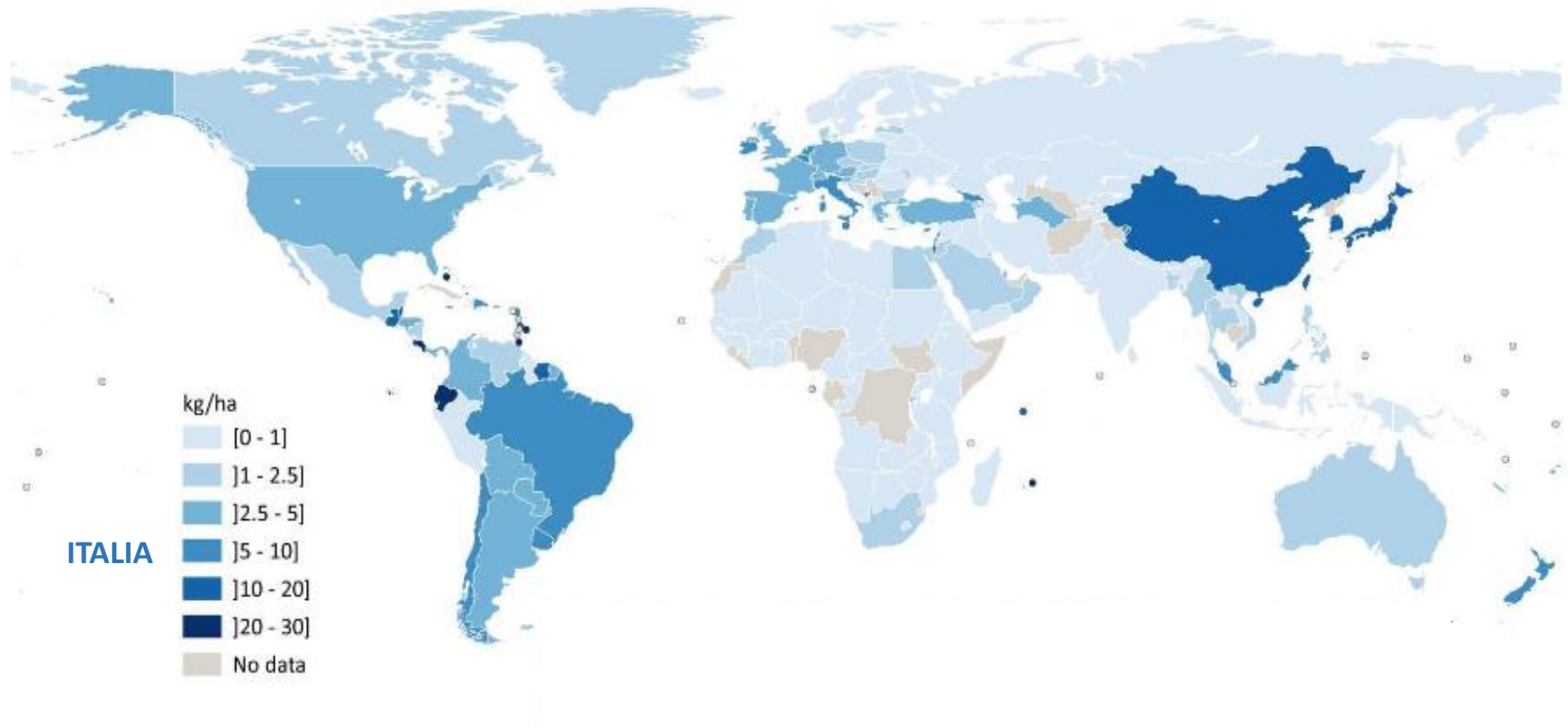
# The European green deal



**Moving towards a more healthy and sustainable EU food system,  
a corner stone of the European Green Deal**

# PPPs: prodotti per la protezione delle piante

## Uso dei pesticidi (2018)





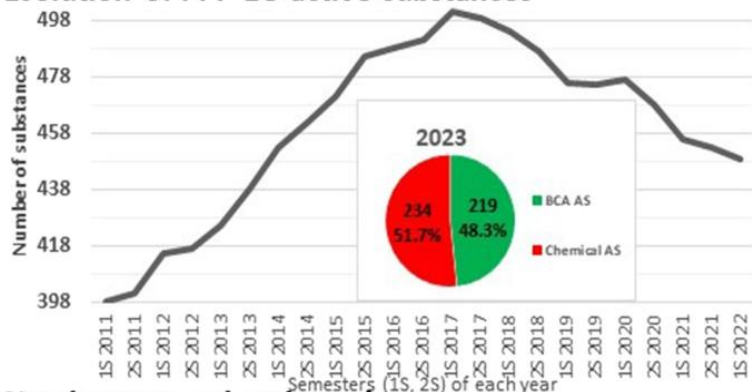
# Abbiamo bisogno di PPPs?





# La viticoltura ha bisogno di PPPs!

Evolution of PPP EU active substances



CfS: Candidates for Substitutions

circa 77 dei 440 PPP approvati in EU

Prodotti rameosi

Difenoconazole

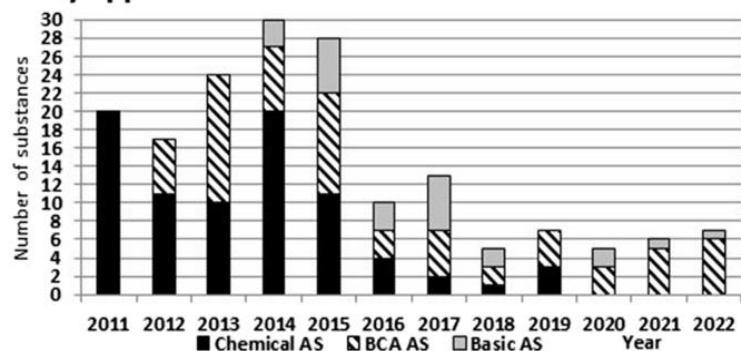
Dimethomorph

Epoxiconazolo

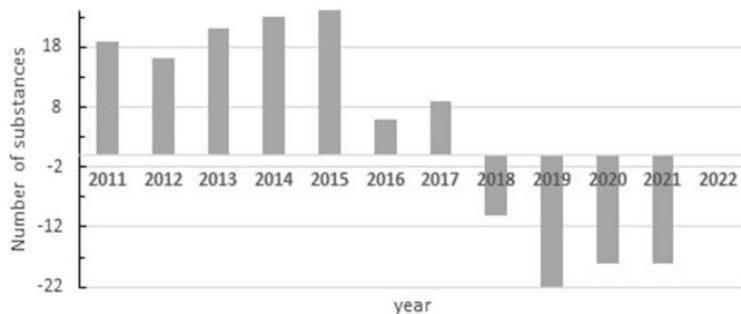
Metalxyl

Mancozeb (ormai vietato )

Newly approved active substances



Annual net balance of PPP EU active substances



# L'Europa ha bisogno di nuovi PPPs

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**Sostanze a basso rischio (Low PPPS)**

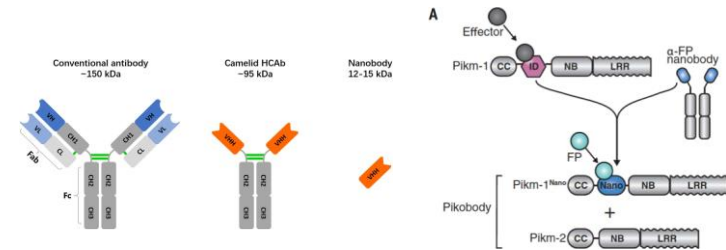
# L'Europa ha bisogno di nuovi PPPs



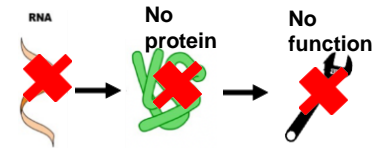


# Approcci biotecnologici

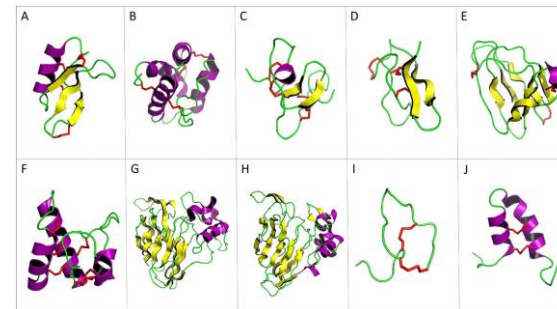
- **nanobodies/picobodies**



- **RNA interference**










- **Peptidi Anti-microbici**

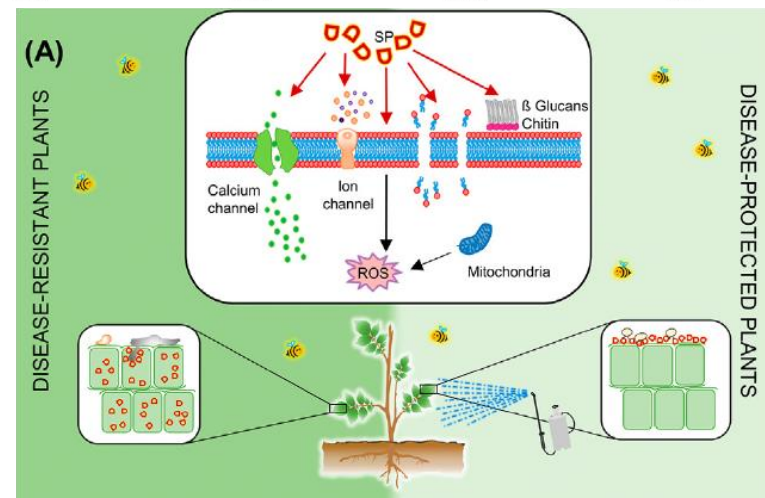
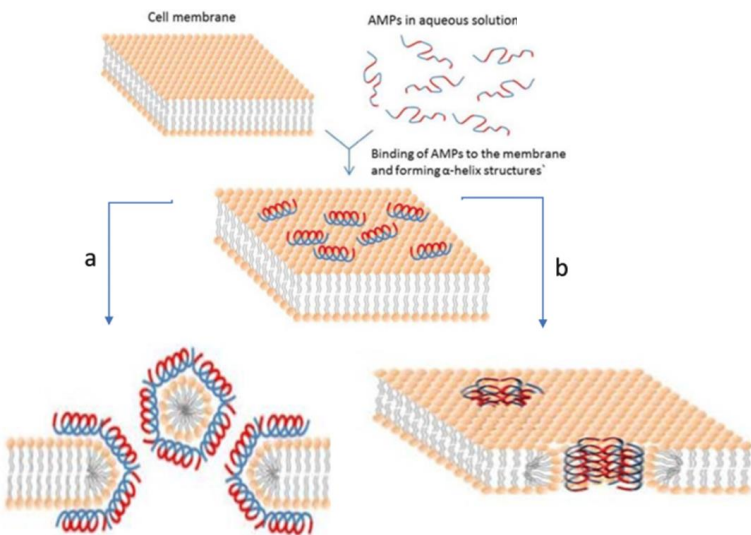
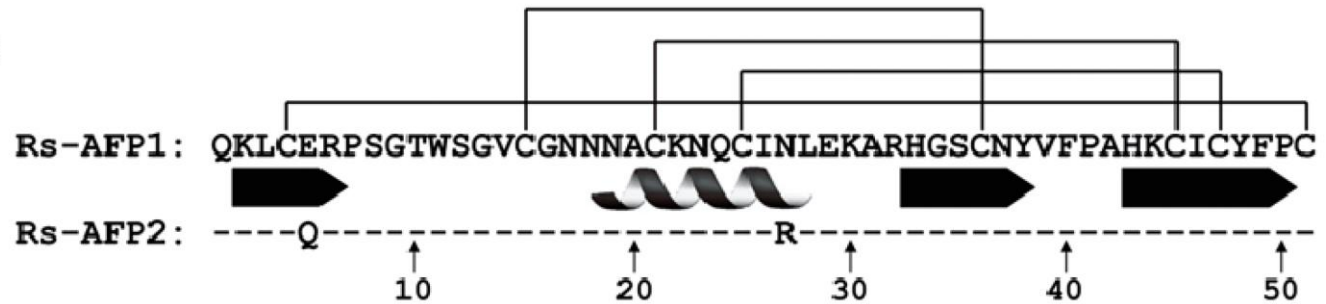


# Peptidi antimicrobici

**A**

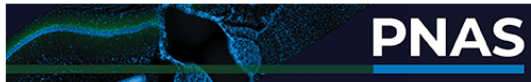
mollusc	insect		plant	mammal		
				 $\alpha$ -type	 $\beta$ -type	 $\theta$ -type
<b>MGD-1</b> Mussel	<b>Defensin A</b> Fleshfly	<b>Drosomycin</b> Fruitfly	<b>Rs-AFP1</b> Radish	<b>HNP-3</b> Human	<b>HBD-2</b> Human	<b>RTD-1</b> Macaque

**B**





# Peptidi antimicrobici: NCR044



[Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A](#). 2020 Jul 7; 117(27): 16043–16054.

Published online 2020 Jun 22. doi: [10.1073/pnas.2003526117](#)

PMCID: PMC7354933

PMID: [32571919](#)

## Antifungal symbiotic peptide NCR044 exhibits unique structure and multifaceted mechanisms of action that confer plant protection

Siva L. S. Velivelli,<sup>a</sup> Kirk J. Czymmek,<sup>a,b</sup> Hui Li,<sup>a</sup> Jared B. Shaw,<sup>c</sup> Garry W. Buchko,<sup>c,d</sup> and Dilip M. Shah<sup>a,1</sup>

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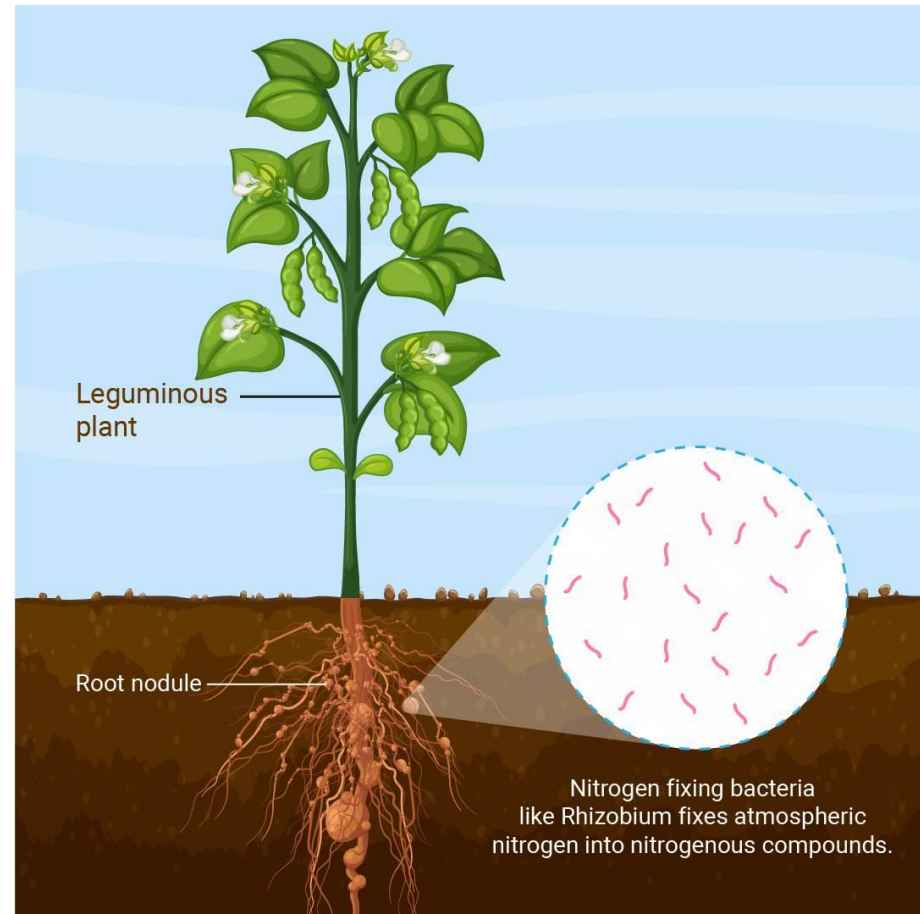
### Associated Data

► [Supplementary Materials](#)

### SIGNIFICANCE

[Go to: ►](#)

Several nodule-specific cysteine-rich (NCR) peptides expressed in a model legume *Medicago truncatula* exhibit potent antimicrobial activity. However, their structure–activity relationships and mechanisms of action against fungal pathogens of plants are still largely unknown. A small highly cationic peptide NCR044 with potent antifungal activity has been identified. This peptide has a unique highly dynamic structure and exhibits multifaceted mechanisms of action against a fungal pathogen *Botrytis cinerea*. Exogenous application of this peptide confers resistance to a gray mold disease caused by *B. cinerea* in tobacco and tomato plants as well as postharvest products. Our work paves the way for future development of NCR peptides as spray-on antifungal agents.



# Peptidi antimicrobici: NCR044

concentration of 3  $\mu\text{M}$  (Fig. 3 B and C). We also determined the antifungal activity of the chemically synthesized reduced form of the NCR044 peptide against *B. cinerea*. The reduced form of the NCR044 peptide inhibited the growth of *B. cinerea* with  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value of  $4.16 \pm 0.18 \mu\text{M}$  as compared with  $1.55 \pm 0.21 \mu\text{M}$  for the native oxidized form of the peptide. The resazurin cell viability assay revealed that *B. cinerea* spores lose their cellular metabolic activity at a concentration of 6  $\mu\text{M}$  as compared with 3  $\mu\text{M}$  for the native oxidized form of the peptide (SI Appendix, Fig. S2 A and B).

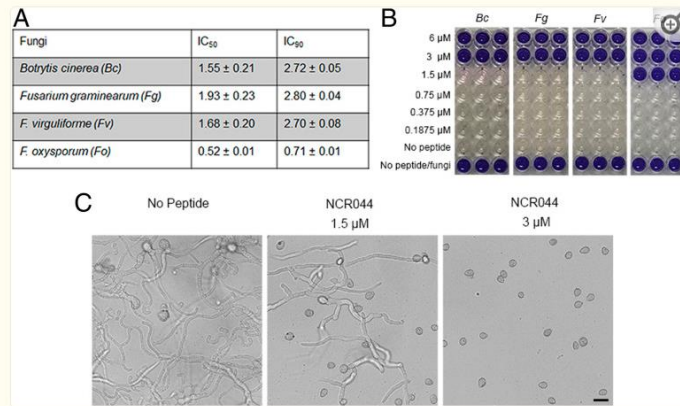
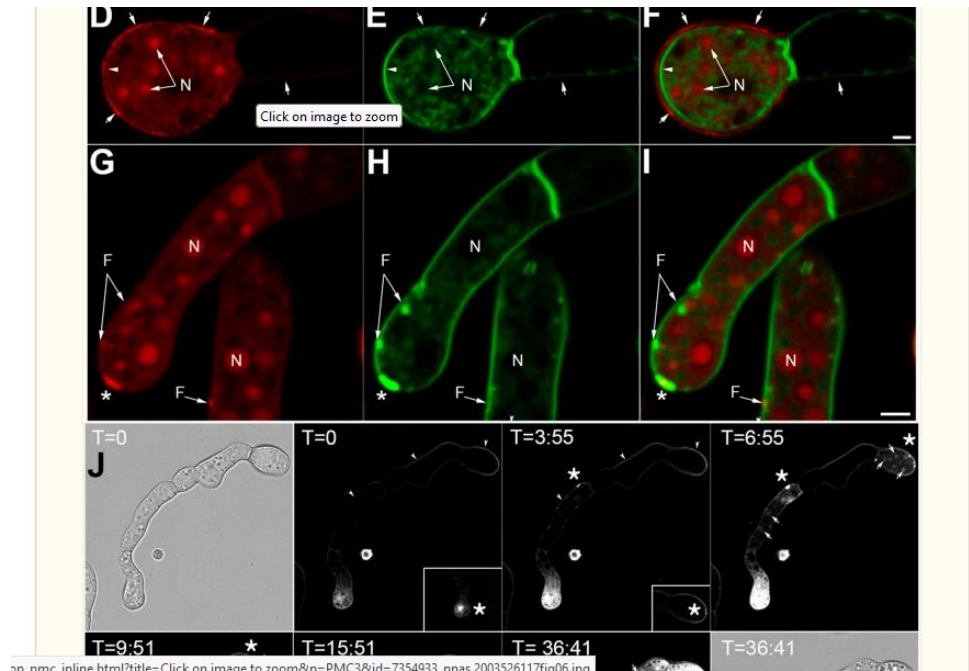


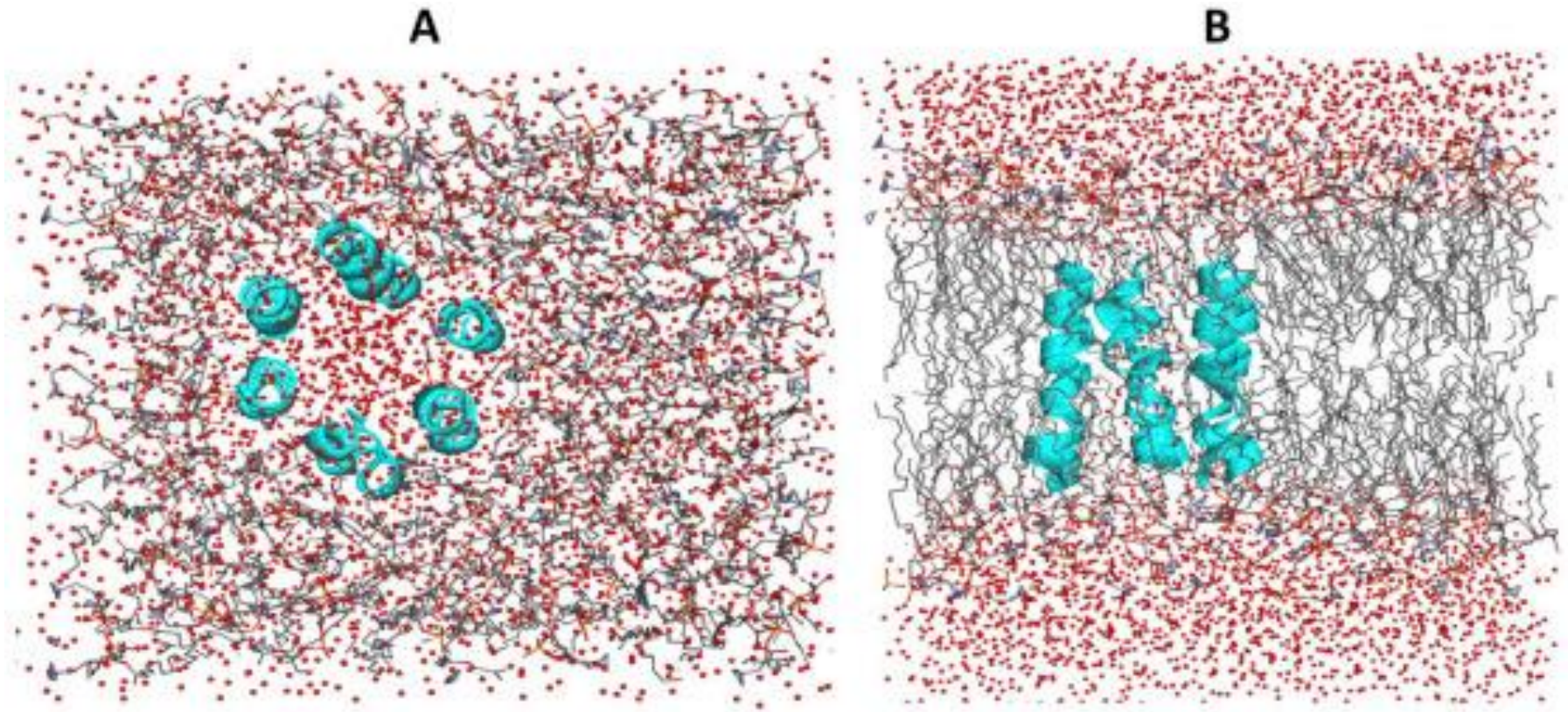
Fig. 3.

Antifungal activity of NCR044 against *B. cinerea* and *Fusarium* spp. (A)  $\text{IC}_{50}$  and  $\text{IC}_{90}$  values of NCR044 for each pathogen are shown. Data are means  $\pm$  SEM of three independent biological replicates ( $n = 3$ ). (B) Results of the fungal cell viability assay using resazurin, a metabolic indicator of living cells. A change from blue to pink/colorless signals resazurin reduction and indicates metabolically active fungal spores after 60 h. In the presence of 3 or 6  $\mu\text{M}$  NCR044, fungal cells lost their metabolic capacity and did not reduce resazurin. (C) Representative microscopic images showing the inhibition of *B. cinerea* growth 24 to 48 h after treatment with 1.5 or 3  $\mu\text{M}$  of NCR044 (Right). *B. cinerea* without peptide added served as a negative control (Left). (Scale bar, 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .)





# Peptidi antimicrobici: peptaibols



Modello di un canale formato da peptaibols usando membrane artificiali

# I peptidi sono commercializzati (USA)

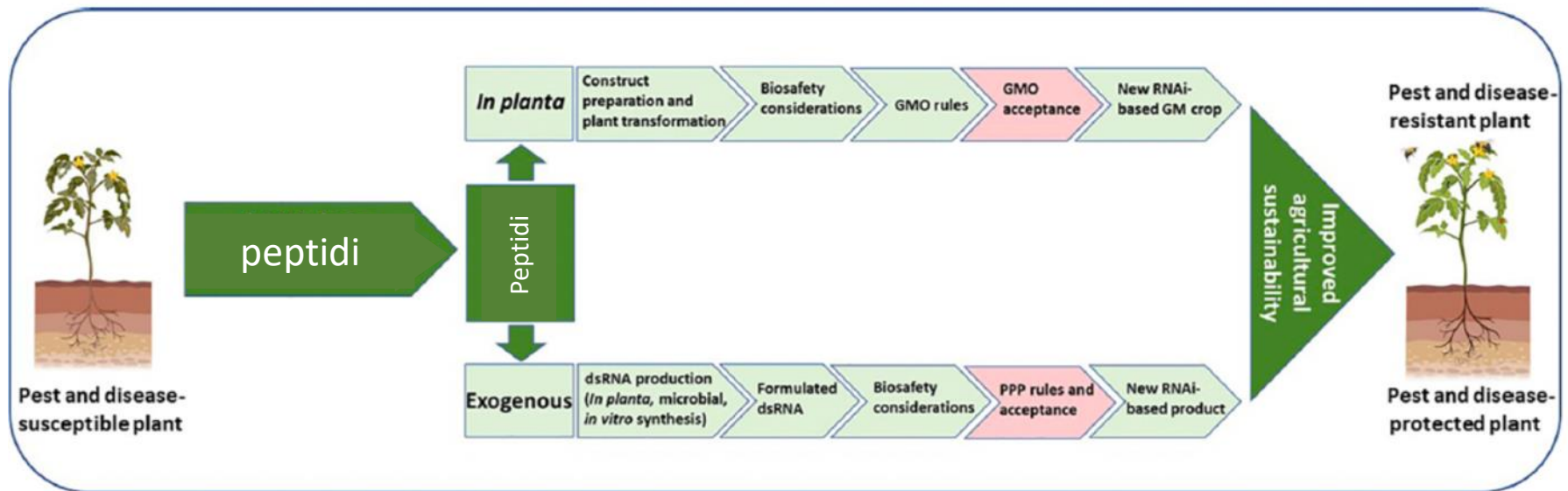


## CROPS

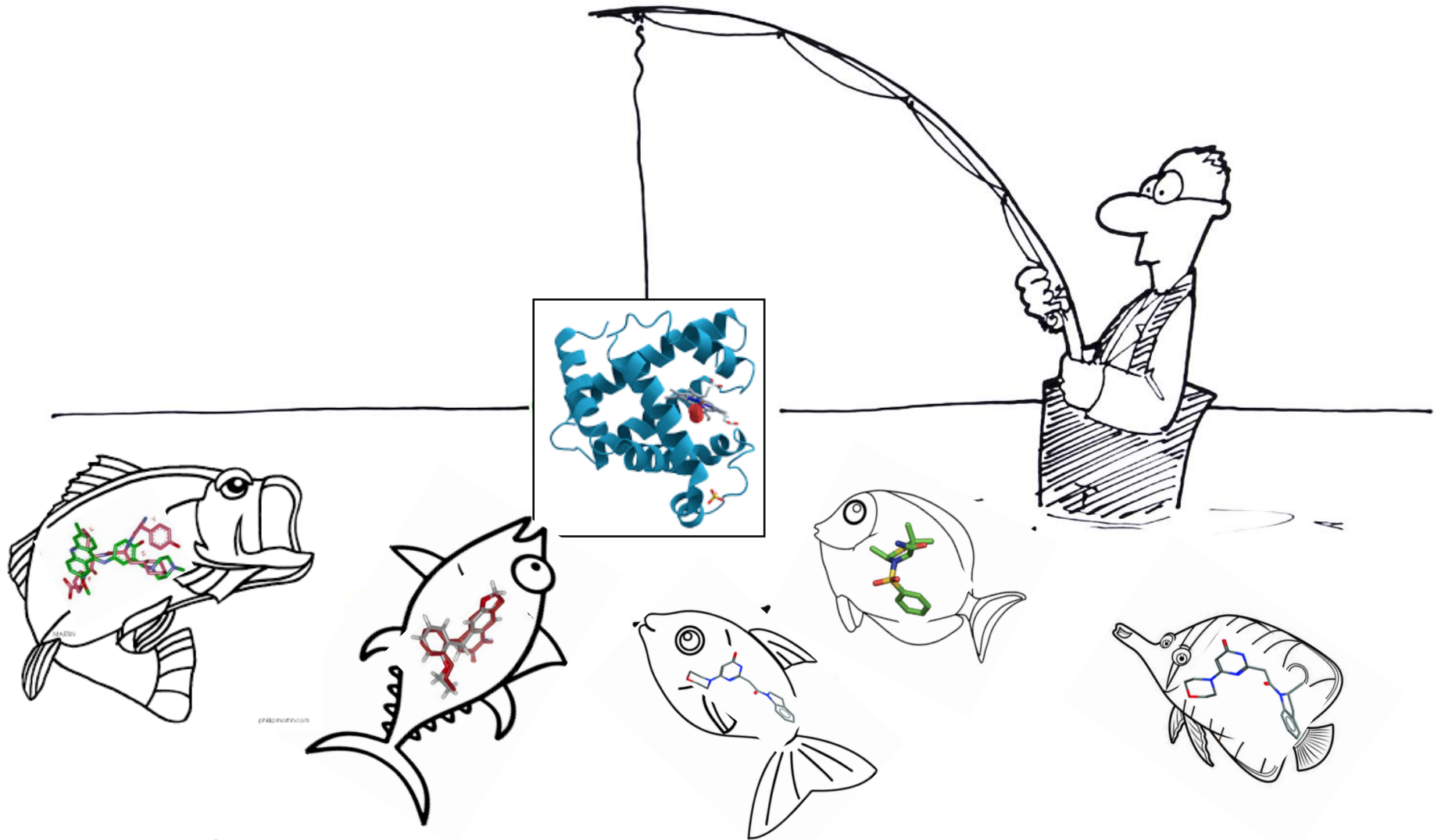




# Piccoli-peptidi



# Farmaci peptidici



pesce=peptide

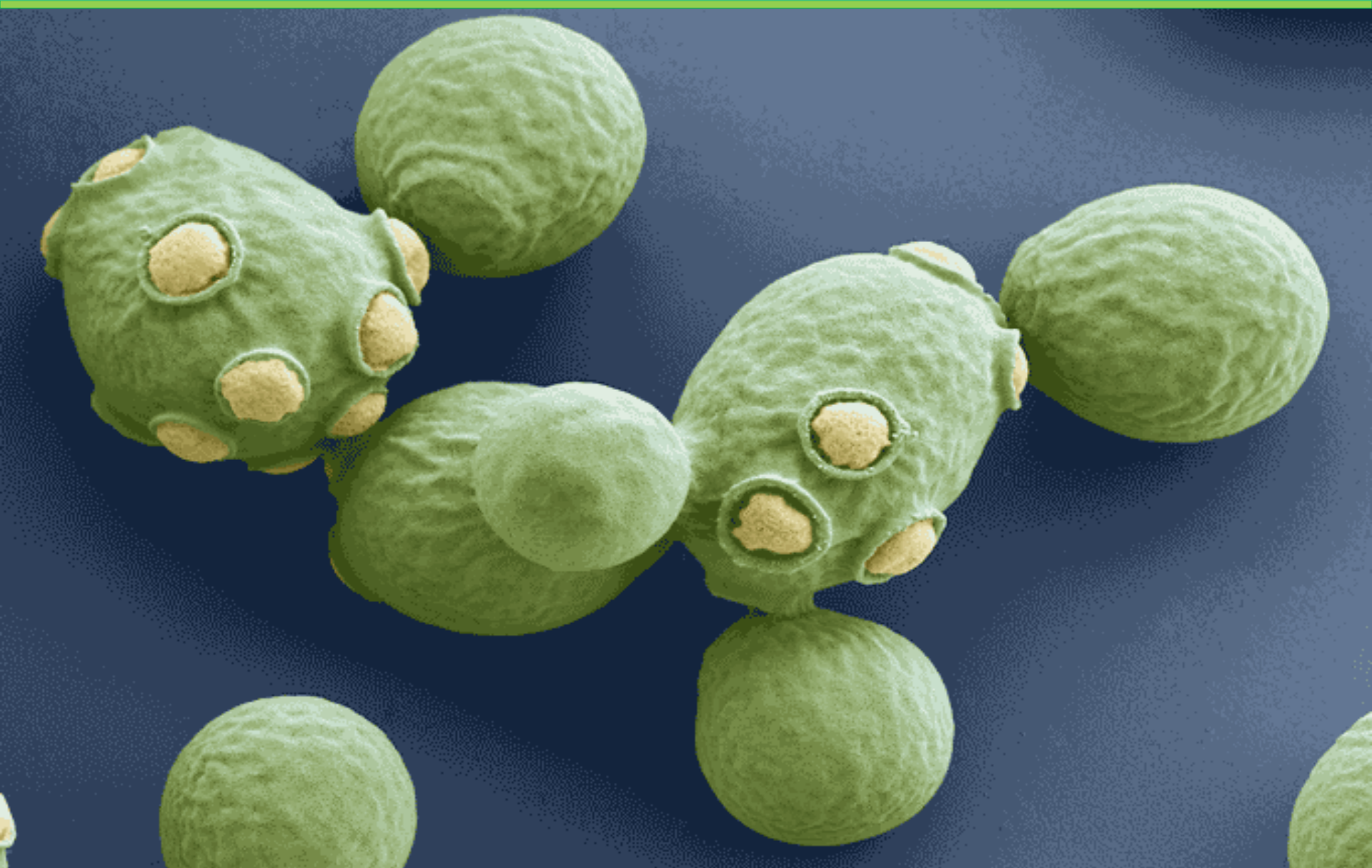


# Possiamo saggiare milioni di peptidi



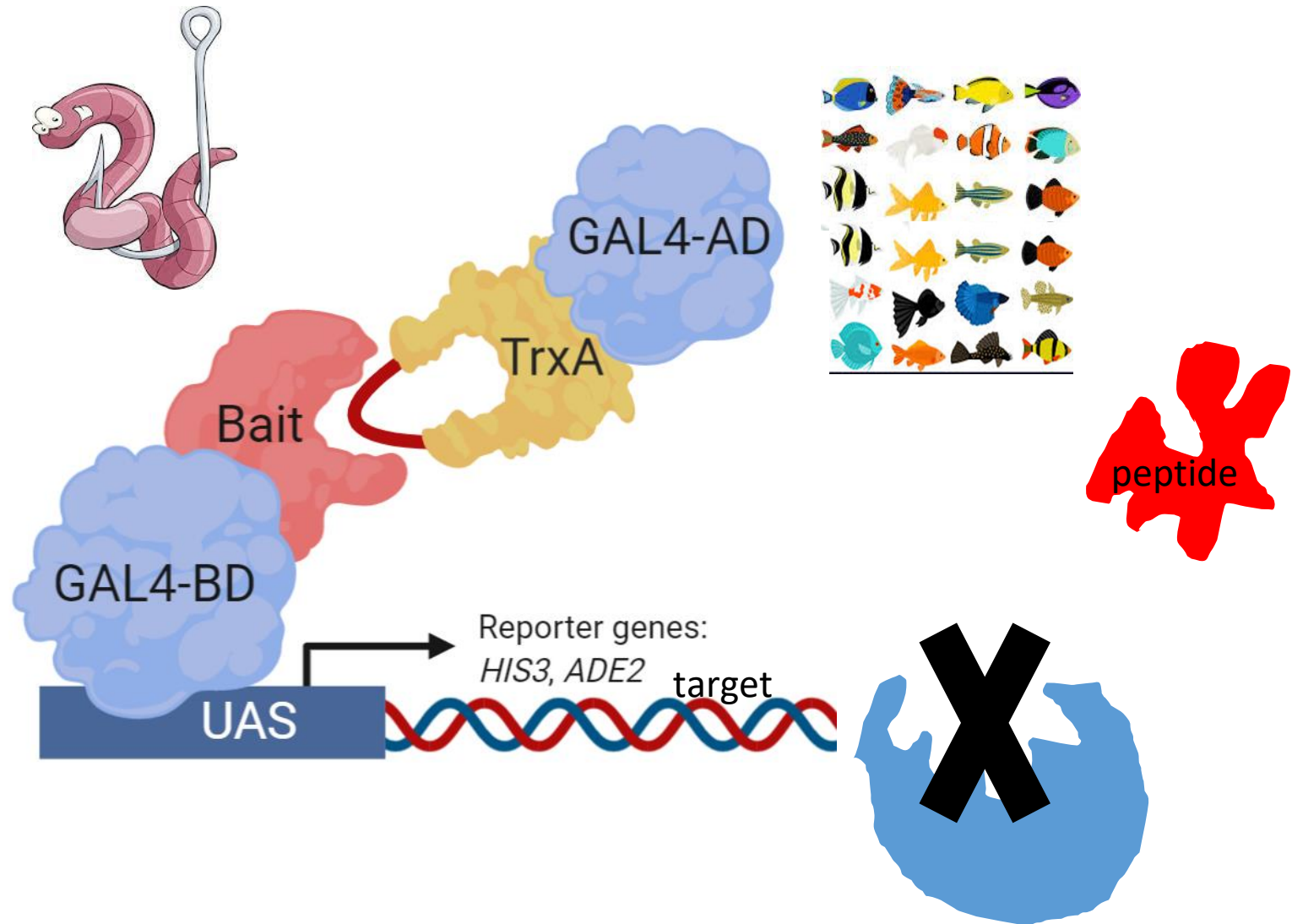


# Il doppio ibrido per trovare nuove molecole



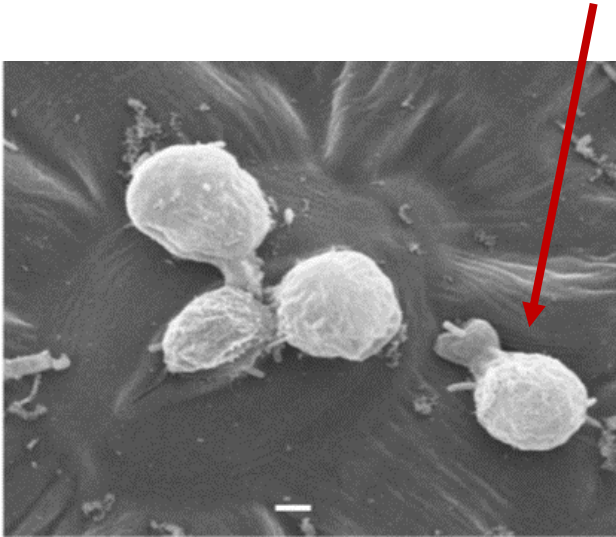


# Il nostro test



# Il nostro bersaglio: *P. viticola*

*Le zoospore di P. viticola necessitano  
della parete per attaccare la vite*



*Zoospore di P. viticola*

Colombo et al., 2020



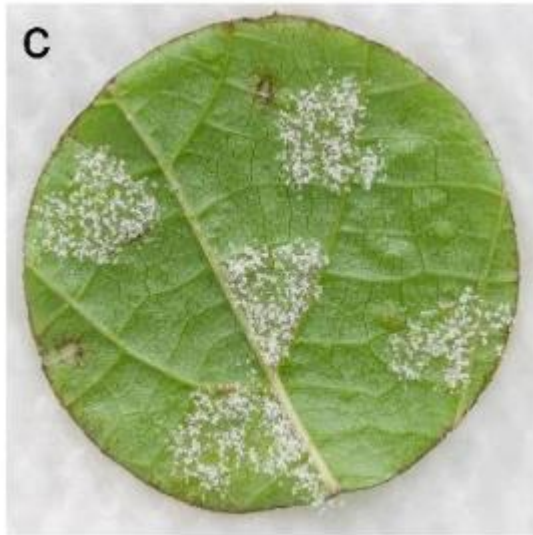
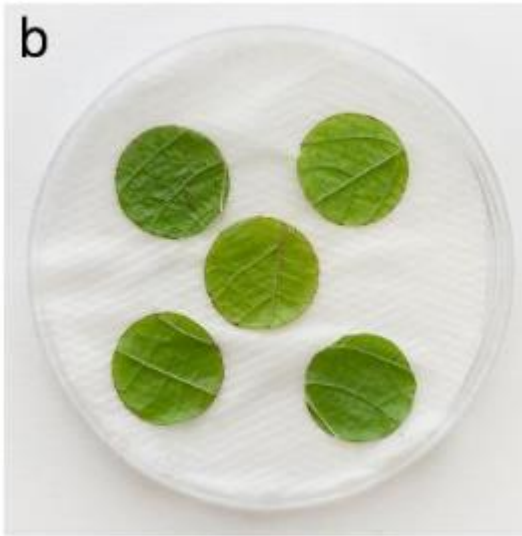
Fondazione  
**CARIPLO**

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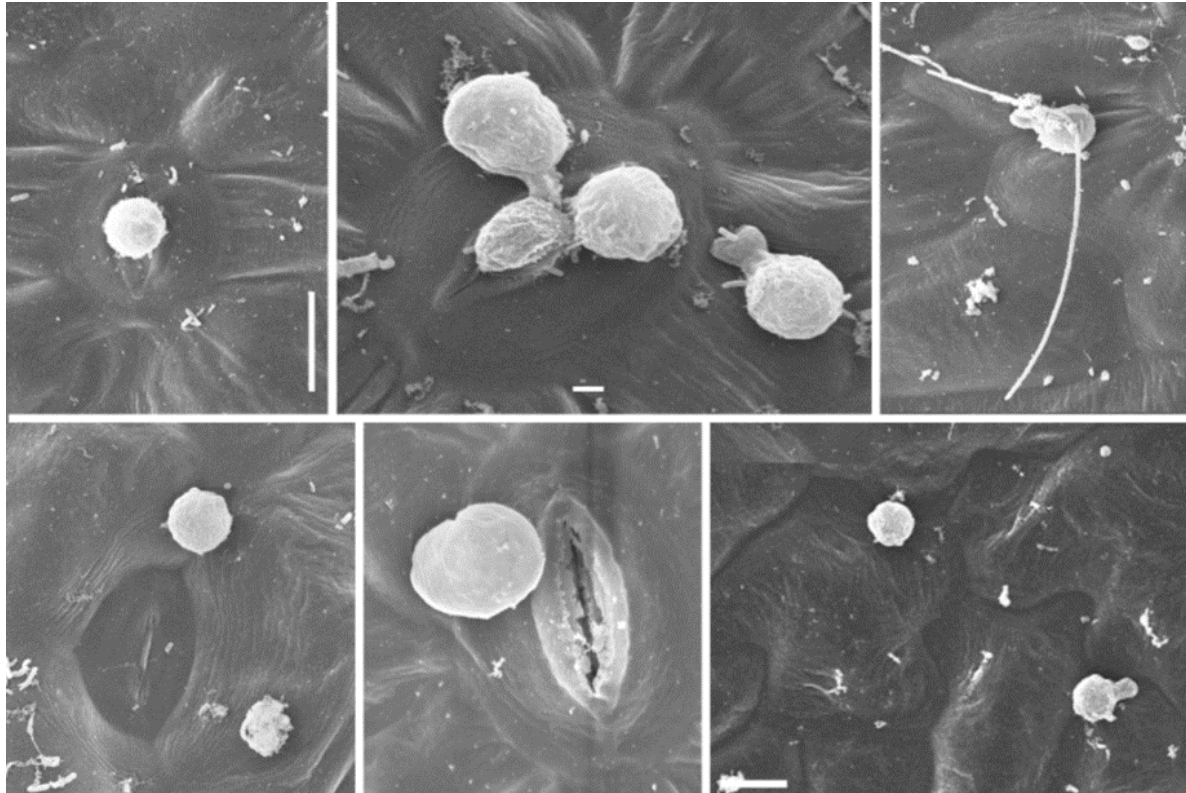




# NoPv1 e *P. viticola*



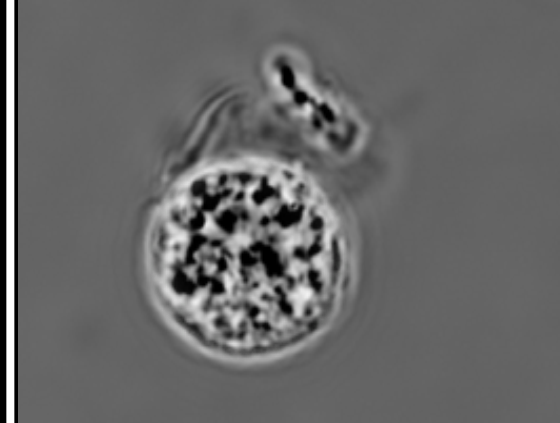
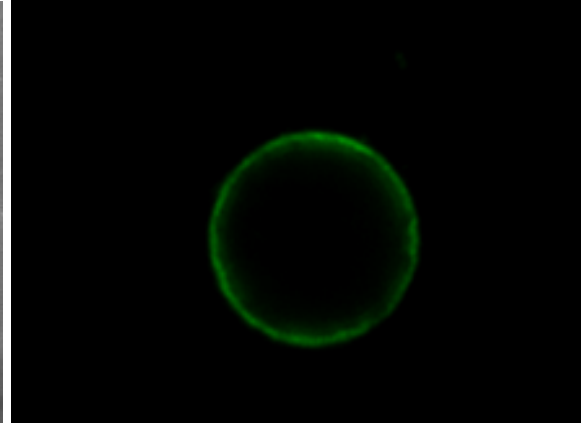
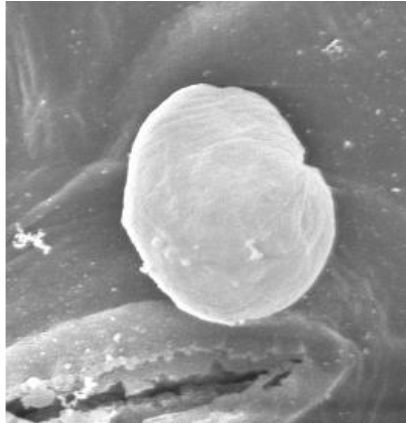
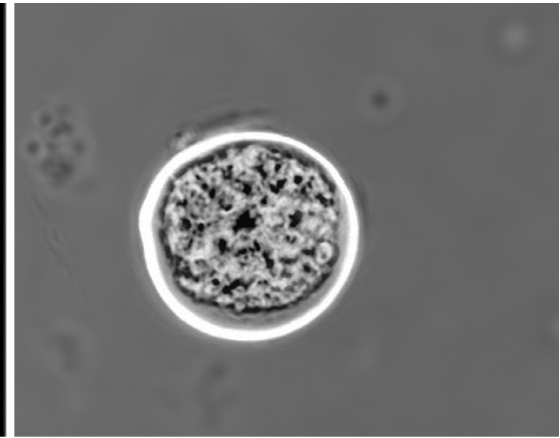
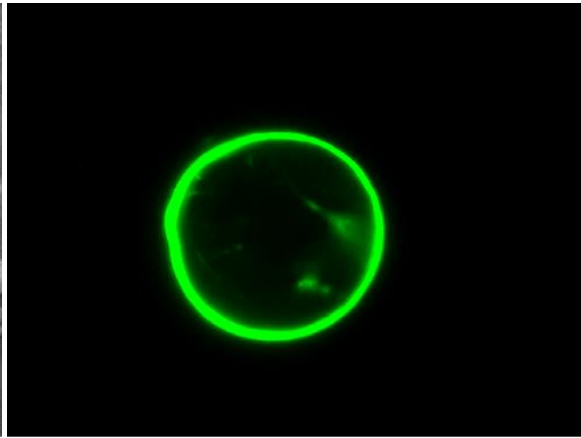
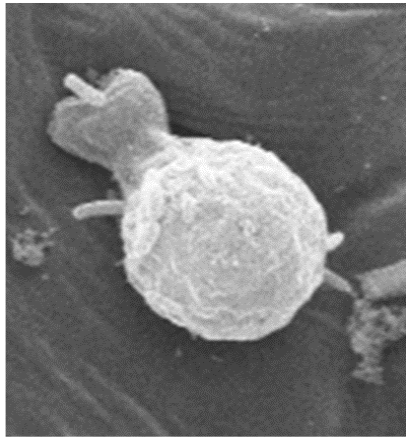
# NoPv1 e *P. viticola*



Control

NoPv1

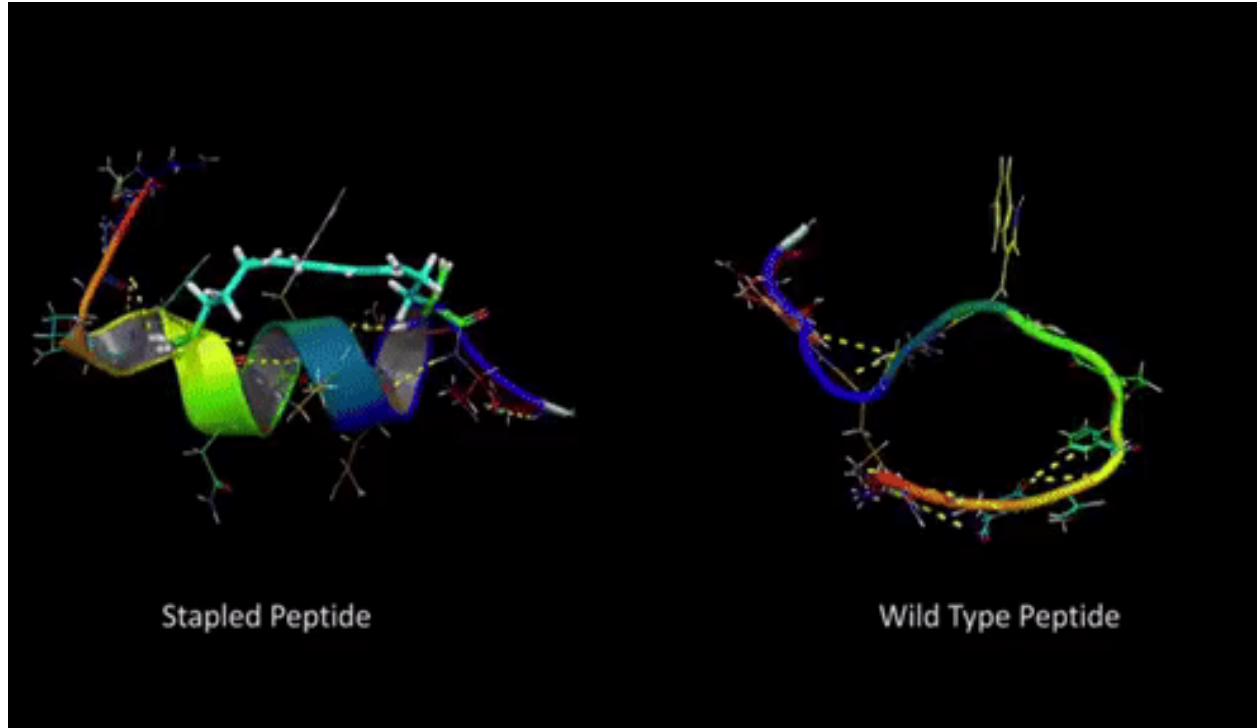
PCT/IB2018/059834  
Colombo et al., 2020





# Il doppio ibrido e la scoperta di nuovi peptidi

- I peptidi ciclici sono piu' resistenti alle proteasi
- I peptidi ciclici passano piu' facilmente attraverso le membrane.
- Maggiore affinità per i target



Rosa et al., 2023

# Bilancio Fitosanitario Toscana 2023

## Malattie segnalate

Prod.  
integrata

100 aziende

Peronospora: 96%

Black rot: 46%

Oidio: 23%

Botrite: 11%

Prod.  
biologica

80 aziende

Peronospora: 99%

Black rot: 39%

Oidio: 28%

Botrite: 10%

Sintomi peronospora (foto: INRAE)



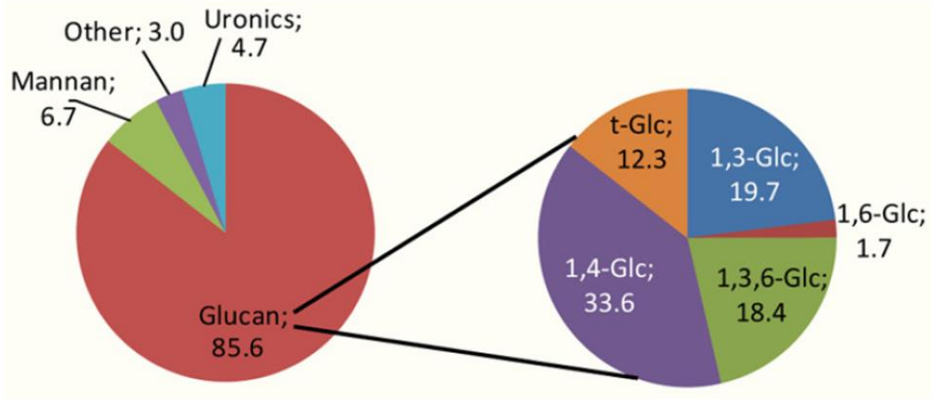
Sintomi black rot (foto: INRAE)

# La parete di *G. bidwellii* (black rot)



Regione  
Lombardia

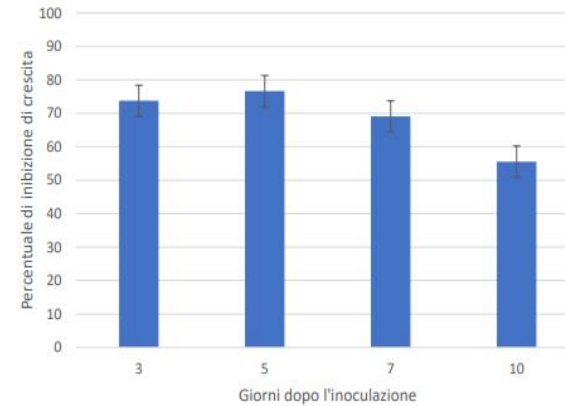
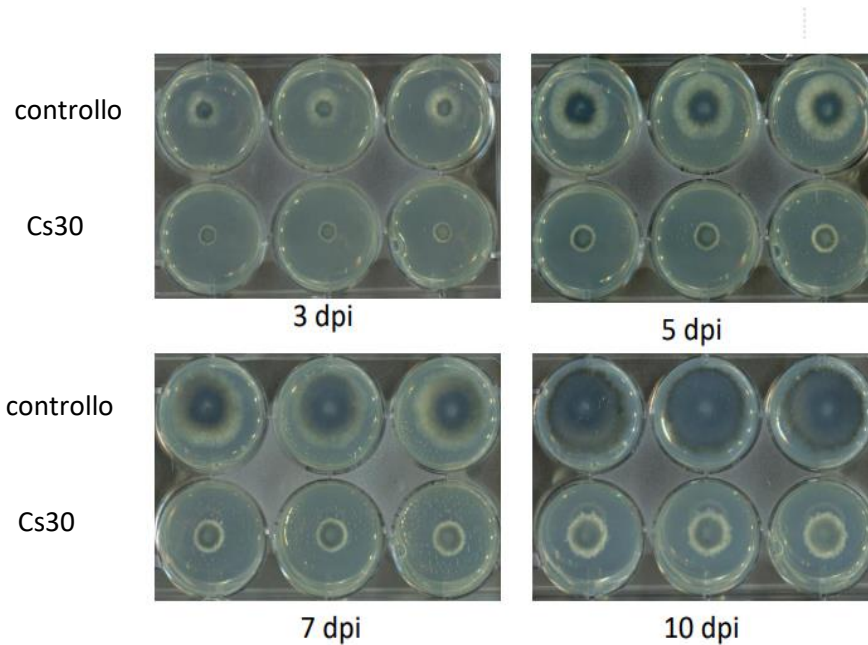
Target: 1,3-beta-glucanosyltransferasi



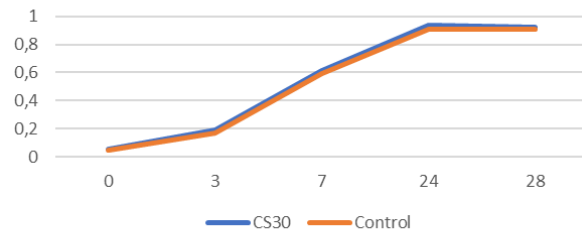
Mélida, Hugo, et al. "Analyses of extracellular carbohydrates in oomycetes unveil the existence of three different cell wall types." *Eukaryotic Cell* 12.2 (2013): 194



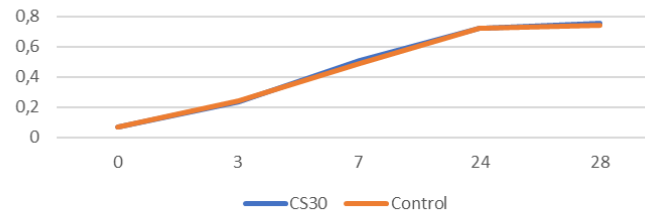
# I peptidi sono specifici



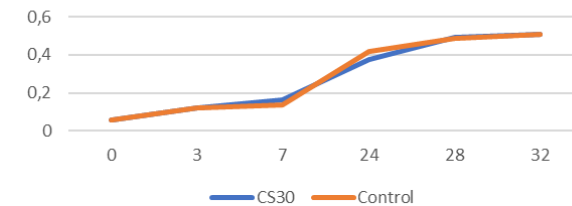
*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*



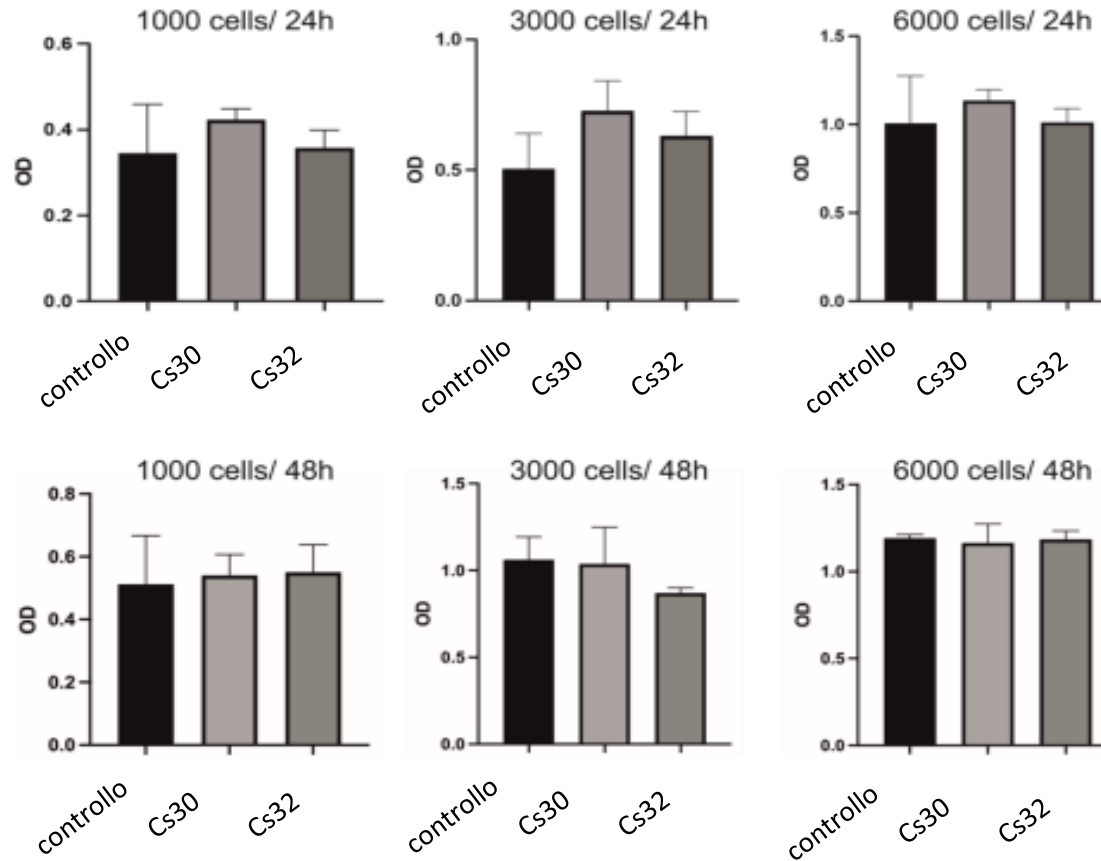
*Agrobacterium tumefaciens*



*Escherichia coli*



# Peptidi anti-BR



# Dove siamo



## Acknowledgement of receipt

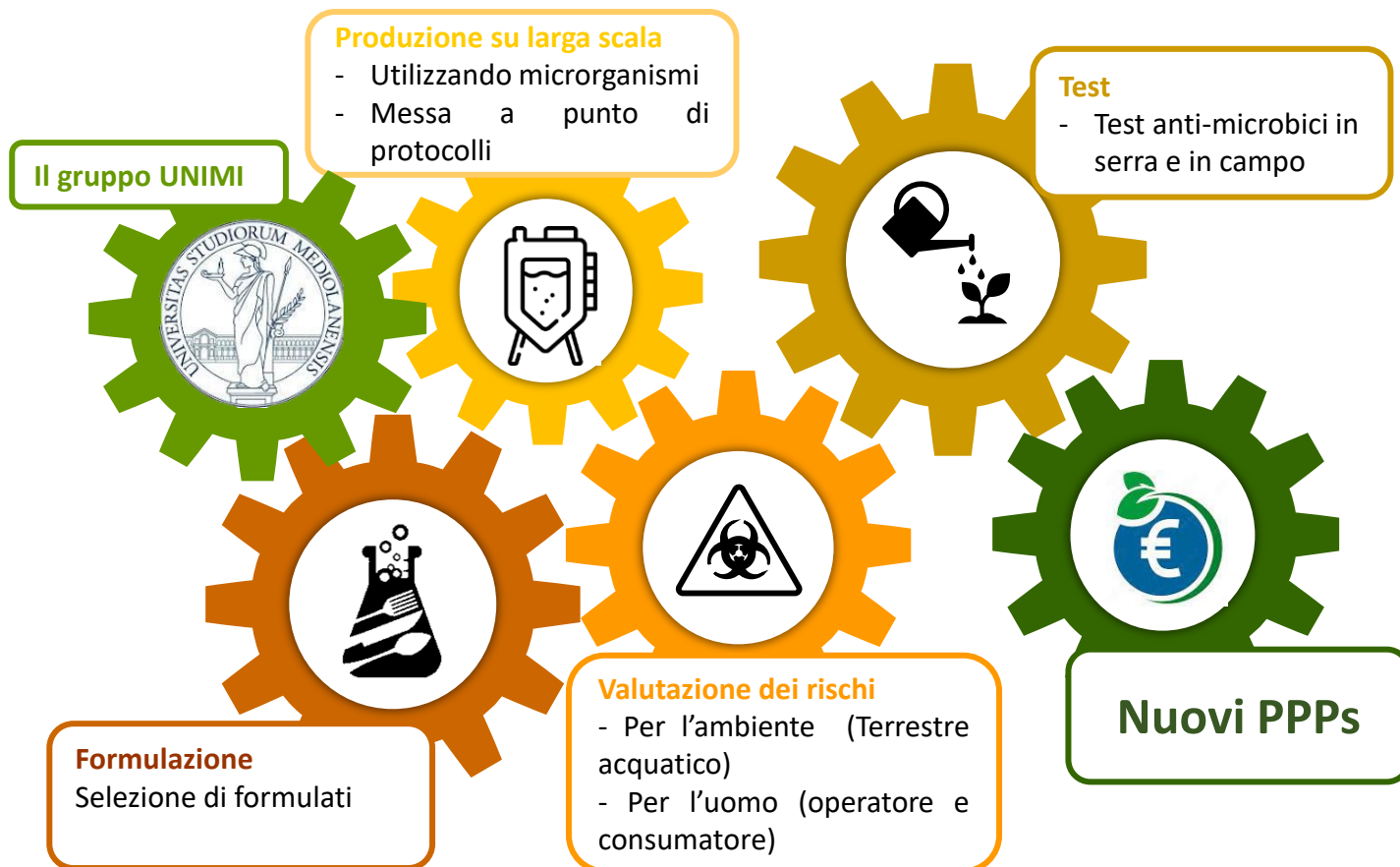
We hereby acknowledge receipt of your request for grant of a European patent as follows:

Submission number	12589019
Application number	EP23207559.8
File No. to be used for priority declarations	EP23207559
Date of receipt	02 November 2023
Your reference	P2367EP
Applicant	Università degli Studi di Milano
Country	IT
Title	ANTIMICROBIAL PEPTIDES FOR THE CONTAINMENT OF OOMYCETES IN AGRICULTURE





# Dove intendiamo andare



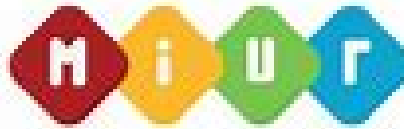
# Grazie a .....

Fondazione  
**CARIPLO**

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**Regione  
Lombardia**



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**Riverside**

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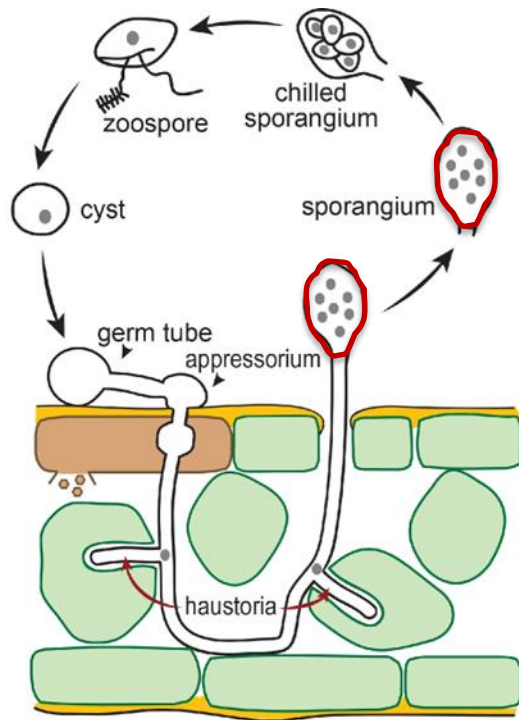
**Prof.ssa Silvia Sabbatini**

**Fondazione E. Mach**

**Dr.ssa Silvia Vezzulli**

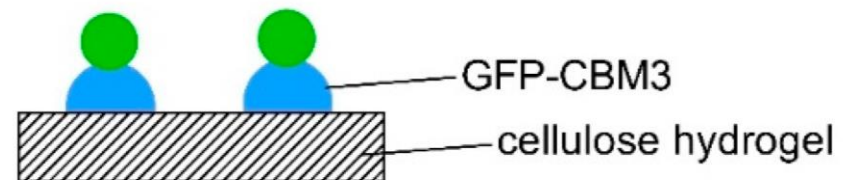
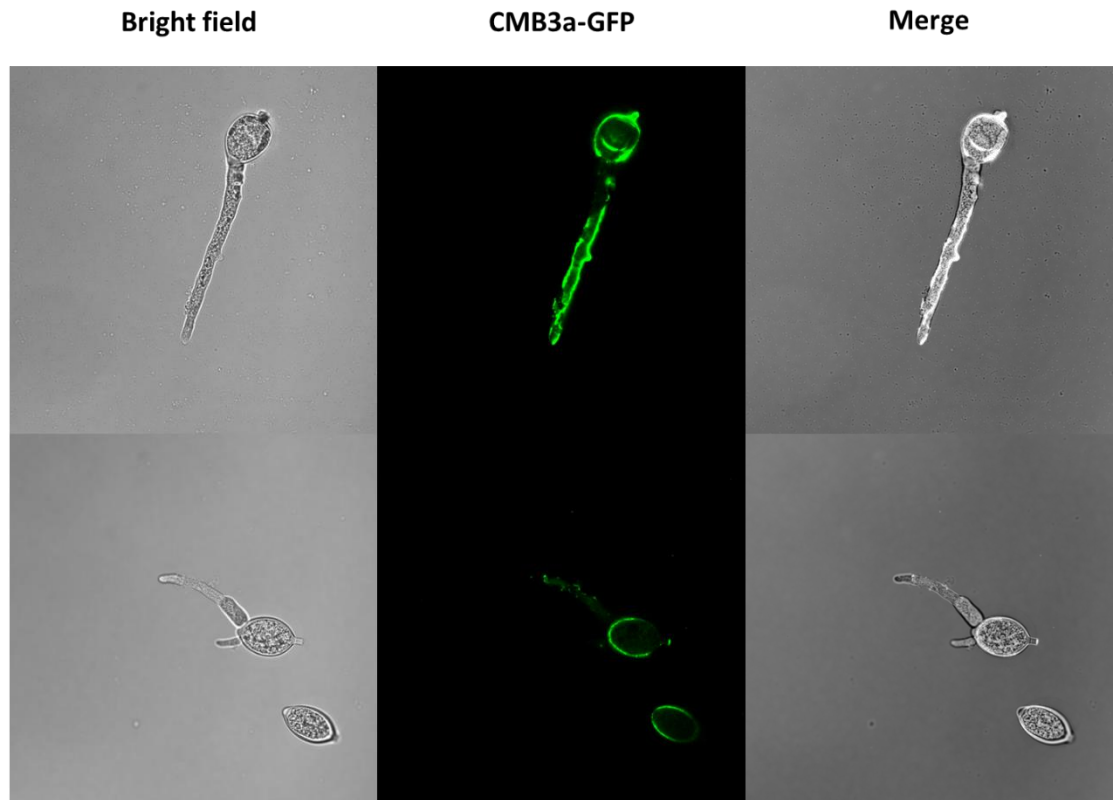
**Dr.ssa Paola Bettinelli**

# Are we able to confirm the interaction?



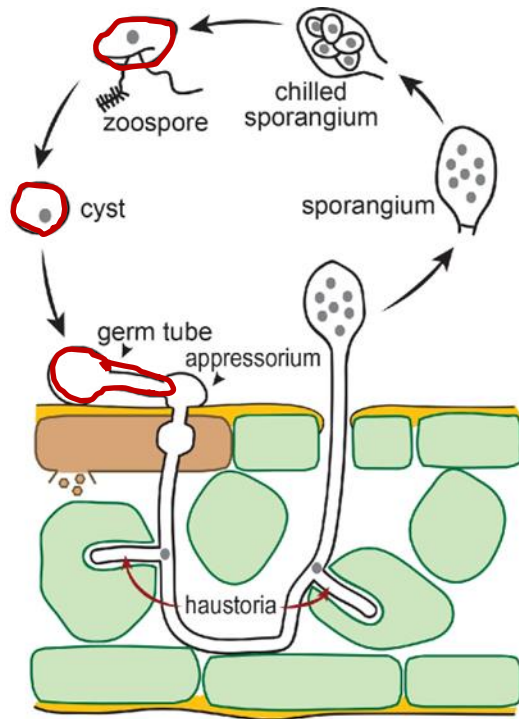
Untreated control

CP32 – EC<sub>50</sub>





# Are we able to confirm the interaction?



Untreated  
control

CP32 – EC<sub>50</sub>

