

CURRICULUM VITAE
VERONICA ANCONA, PHD

Associate Professor, TAMUK-Citrus Center
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EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Plant Pathology , Texas A&M University, USA	2011
M.S. Plant and Soil Science , Texas A&M University-Kingsville, USA	2005
B.S. Agronomy with Honors , Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, México	2000

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

I am an Associate Professor of Citrus Pathology at the TAMUK-Citrus Center Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness and Environmental Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. My research experience includes investigating the molecular mechanisms regulating virulence of the vascular pathogens *Erwinia amylovora* and *Xylella fastidiosa*. My current research program follows three major lines of investigation. The first area of research focuses on *Phytophthora* foot rot disease in Texas. This research includes the epidemiological aspects of the disease, biological aspects of the pathogen, chemical control and the discovery of potential biocontrol agents against the pathogen. The second area of research focuses on Huanglongbing (HLB) disease of citrus. This research includes the characterization of the effector proteins produced by CLAs in Texas and the evaluation of therapies to mitigate the disease including the use of antimicrobials and heat therapy. The third area of research includes the characterization of the microbial communities associated with citrus and their role in tree health.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2020-present **Associate Professor**, Citrus Pathology, Texas A&M University-Kingsville Citrus Center. Weslaco, TX

2014 -2020 **Assistant Professor**, Citrus Pathology, Texas A&M University-Kingsville Citrus Center. Weslaco, TX

2011 - 2014 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**, Phytobacteriology, Crop Sciences Department, University of Illinois. Urbana, IL

2010 – 2011 **Teaching Assistant**, Introduction to Plant Pathology Laboratory. Plant Pathology and Microbiology Department, Texas A&M University. College Station, TX.

2006 - 2010 **Research Assistant**, Plant Pathology and Microbiology Department, Texas A&M University. College Station, TX

2005 – 2005 **Teaching Assistant**, Molecular and Mendelian Genetics Laboratory. Biology Department, Queen's University. Kingston, ON Canada.

2003 - 2005 **Research Assistant**, Texas A&M University-Kingsville Citrus Center. Weslaco, TX

2002 - 2003 **Project Developer and partner**, Peninsular Agricultural and Animal Products Habanero Co. Merida, Mexico

2001 - 2002 **Lab Technician**, Plant Pathology Diagnostics Clinic, Facultad de Agronomía, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. Mexico

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **2022 – Senior Teaching Award.** Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- **2018 – Travel Award** from Oomycete Molecular Genetics Network.
- **2016 – Junior Faculty Research Award** from the Dick and Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- **2016 – Raising Star Alumni Award** from the Javelina Alumni Association. Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- **2009 – Graduate Student Travel Award**, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas A&M University
- **2006 – Pathways to Doctorate Fellowship**, Texas A&M University
- **2005 – Outstanding Graduate Student**, College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- **2005 – Red Grapefruit Scholarship**, Texas A&M University-Kingsville -Citrus Center
- **2004 – Red Grapefruit Scholarship**, Texas A&M University-Kingsville -Citrus Center

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journals:

1. Mora, V., Ramasamy, M., Damaj, M. B., Irigoyen, S., **Ancona, V.**, Avila, C. A., Vales, M. I., Ibanez, Ibanez, F., & Mandadi, K. K. (2022). Identification and characterization of Potato Zebra Chip resistance among wild *Solanum* species. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 13:857493.
2. Yang, C., & **Ancona V.** (2022). An Overview of the Mechanisms against ‘Candidatus *Liberibacter asiaticus*’: Virulence Targets, Citrus Defenses and Microbiome. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 13, 850588. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2022.850588>
3. De Francesco, A., Lovelace, A., Shaw, D., Qiu, M., Wang, Y., Gurung, F., **Ancona, V.**, Wang, C., Levy, A., Jiang, T. & Ma, W. (2022). Transcriptome profiling of *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* in citrus and psyllids. *Phytopathology*. 112 (1): 116-130.
4. Laughlin, D. A., Solorzano, J., Enciso, J., & **Ancona, V.** (2021). Identification of Flooding Risk Factors in Texas Citrus Production with UAV imagery: A Case Study. *Subtropical Agriculture and Environments* 72:29-36.
5. Mora, V., Ramasamy, M., Damaj, M. B., Irigoyen, S., **Ancona, V.**, Ibanez, F., Avila, C. & Mandadi, K. K. (2021). Potato Zebra Chip: An Overview of the Disease, Control Strategies, and Prospects. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 2064.
6. Perez, E., Kunta, M., **Ancona, V.**, da Graça, J. V., Ayin, C., Santillana, G., & Mavrodieva, V. (2021). The Return of Asiatic Citrus Canker to Texas: Surveys and Eradication Efforts. *Plant Health Progress*, 22(2), 143-148.
7. Yang, C., and **Ancona V.** (2021). Metagenomic Analysis Reveals Reduced Beneficial Microorganism Associations in Roots of Foot Rot Affected Citrus Trees. *Phytobiomes J*. 5(3), 305-315.
8. Yang, C., Hu, H., Wu, Y., Lin, X., Fan, G., Duan, Y., Powell, C., **Ancona, V.**, Zhang M. 2020. Metagenomic analysis reveals the mechanism for the observed increase in antibacterial

- activity of penicillin against uncultured bacteria *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* relative to oxytetracycline in planta. *Antibiotics* 9(12):874.
9. Franco, J.Y., Thapa, S.P., Pang, Z., Gurung, F.B., Liebrand, T.W.H., Stevens, D.M., **Ancona, V.**, Wang, N., Gitta Coaker. 2020 Citrus Vascular Proteomics Highlights the Role of Peroxidases and Serine Proteases during Huanglongbing Disease Progression. *Mol Cell Proteomics*. 19 (12) 1936-1951; DOI: 10.1074/mcp.RA120.002075
 10. Chaudhary S., Laughlin D.A., Setamou M., da Graça J. V., Kunta M., Alabi O.J., Crosby K.M., Ong K.L., **Ancona V.** 2020. Incidence, Severity, and Characterization of Phytophthora Foot Rot of Citrus in Texas and Implications for Disease Management. *Plant Dis*. 104 (9): 2455–2461
 11. Gurung F.B., **Ancona V.**, Campos M., Choppakatla, V.K. 2020. Efficacy test of commercial formulations against Phytophthora root rot of citrus. *Subtrop Ag Environ J*. 71: 29-35.
 12. Thapa, S. P., De Francesco, A., Trinh, J., Gurung, F. B., Pang, Z., Vidalakis, G., Wang, N., **Ancona, V.**, Ma, W., Coaker, G. 2020. Genome-wide analyses of *Liberibacter* species provides insights into evolution, phylogenetic relationships, and virulence factors. *Mol. Plant Pathol*. 21:716-731
 13. Yang C., Powell C.A., Duan Y., **Ancona V.**, Huang J.Y., M. Zhang. 2020. Transcriptomic analysis reveals root metabolic alteration and induction of huanglongbing resistance by sulphonamide antibiotics in huanglongbing-affected citrus plants. *Plant Pathol*. 69:733-743
 14. Garza B., **Ancona V.**, Enciso J., Perotto-Baldivieso H., Kunta M., Simpson C. 2020. Quantifying citrus tree health using true color UAV images. *Remote Sensing*. 12, 170; doi:10.3390/rs12010170
 15. Lee, J.H., **Ancona, V.**, Chatnaparat, T., Zhao, Y. 2019. The RNA-binding protein CsrA controls virulence in *Erwinia amylovora* by regulating RelA, RcsB, and FlhD at the posttranscriptional level. *Mol. Plant Microbe Interact*. doi: 10.1094/MPMI-03-19-0077-R.
 16. Clark K, Franco JY, Schwizer S, Pagn Z, Hawara E, Liebrand TWH, Pagliaccia D, Liping Z, Gurung FB, Wang P, Shi J, Wang Y, **Ancona V**, Van der Hoorn AL, Wang N, Coaker G, W Ma. 2018. An effector from Huanglongbing-associated pathogen targets citrus proteases. *Nat Comm*. doi: 10.1038/s41467-018-04140-9
 17. Xu J, Zhang Y, Zhang P, Trivedi P, Riera N, Wang Y, Liu X, Fan G, Tang J-L, Coletta-Filho H, Cubero J, Deng X, **Ancona V**, Lu Z, Zhong B, Roper C, Capote N, Catara V, Pietersen G, Vernière C, Al-Sadi AM, Li L, Fan Y, Xu X, Wang J, Yang H, Jin T, and N Wang. 2018. The structure and function of the global citrus root-associated microbiome. *Nat. Comm*. 9(1):4894. doi: 10.1038/s41467-018-07343-2.
 18. Márquez-Pérez, F. J., Flores-Sánchez, J. L., Rodríguez Mejía, L., Márquez Gómez, J., Michereff, S. J., **Ancona, V.**, Robles-Bermúdez, A., Domínguez-Monge, S. 2018. Progress and spatial pattern of huanglongbing in Persian lime in Nayarit, Mexico. *Revista Bio Ciencias* 5(2), e351. doi:10.15741/revbio.05.02.01
 19. Lee JH, **Ancona V**, Zhao Y. 2018. Lon protease modulates virulence traits in *Erwinia amylovora* by directly monitoring major regulators and indirectly through the Rcs and Gac-Csr regulatory systems. *Mol Plant Pathol*. doi:10.1111/mpp.12566
 20. Pagliaccia D, Shi J, Pang Z, Hawara E, Clark K, Thapa SP, Francesco AD, Liu J, Tran T-T, Bodaghi S, , Folimonova SY, **Ancona V**, Mulchandani A, Coaker G, Wang N, Vidalakis G, Ma W. 2017. A Pathogen Secreted Protein as a Detection Marker for Citrus Huanglongbing. *Front. Microbiol*. 8:2041 doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2017.02041

21. **Ancona V**, Lee JH, Zhao Y. 2016. The RNA-binding protein CsrA plays a central role in positively regulating virulence factors in *Erwinia amylovora*. *Scientific Reports* 6: 37195 (doi: 10.1039/srep37195)
22. Wang N, Jin T, Trivedi P, Setubal JC, Tang J, Machado MA, Triplett E, Coletta-Filho HD, Cubero J, Deng X, Wang X, Zhou C, **Ancona V**, et al. 2015. Announcement of the International Citrus Microbiome Consortium. *J. Cit Pathol. iocv_journalcitruspathology_27940*.
23. **Ancona V**, Lee JH, Chatnaparat T, Oh J, Hong JI, Zhao Y. 2015. The bacterial alarmone (p)ppGpp activates type III secretion system in *Erwinia amylovora*. *J Bacteriol.* 197(8): 1433-1443
24. **Ancona V**, Chatnaparat T, Zhao Y. 2015. Conserved aspartate and lysine residues of RcsB are required for amylovoran biosynthesis, virulence, and DNA binding in *Erwinia amylovora*. *Mol Genet Genomics*. DOI 10.1007/s00438-015-0988-8
25. **Ancona V**, Zhao Y. 2014. The GrrSA-Csr global regulatory system plays a critical role in in *Erwinia amylovora* virulence. *Acta Horti* 1056. 207-212.
26. Zhao, Y, **Ancona V**, Li W, Lee JH. 2014. An alternative sigma factor cascade regulates expression of type III secretion system in *Erwinia amylovora*. *Acta Horti* 1056. 155-160.
27. Li W, **Ancona V**, Zhao Y. 2014. Co-regulation of polysaccharide production, motility, and expression of type III secretion genes by EnvZ/OmpR and GrrS/GrrA systems in *Erwinia amylovora*. *Mol Genet Genomics*. 289(1):63-75.
28. **Ancona V**, Li W, Zhao Y. 2014. Alternative sigma factor RpoN and its modulator protein YhbH are indispensable for *Erwinia amylovora* virulence. *Mol. Plant Pathol.* 15(1):58-66.
29. **Ancona V**, Appel DN, de Figueiredo P. 2010. *Xylella fastidiosa*: a model for analyzing agricultural biosecurity. *Biosecur Bioterror.* 8(2):171-182.
30. Qin QM, Pei J, **Ancona V**, Shaw BD, Ficht TA, de Figueiredo P. 2008. RNAi screen of endoplasmic reticulum-associated host factors reveals a role for IRE1alpha in supporting *Brucella* replication. *PLoS Pathog.* 25;4(7):e1000110.

Book Chapters:

1. **Ancona V**, Zhao Y. 2015. Microbe-Associated Molecular Patterns, Chapter 3. In N. Wang, J.B. Jones, G.W. Sundin, F.F. White, S.A. Hogenhout, C. Roper, L. De La Fuente, J.H. Ham (Eds.), *Virulence Mechanisms of Plant-Pathogenic Bacteria* (pp. 35-52). St. Paul, MN: APS Press.

Conference Abstracts:

1. Gurung M, Gurung F, Simpson C, Hernandez JL, **Ancona V**. 2017. Evaluation of the antagonistic activity of native *Trichoderma* isolates from Texas citrus orchards against *Phytophthora nicotianae*. *Phytopathology* 107:S5.1. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-107-12-S5.1>
2. Chaudhary S, **Ancona V**, Barbola C. 2017. Identification and characterization of *Phytophthora* isolates from citrus orchards of South Texas. *Phytopathology* 107:S5.1. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-107-12-S5.1>
3. DaGraca J, Kunta M, Setamou M, **Ancona V**, Louzada ES, Alabi OJ, Bartels DW, Dale J. 2017. Huanglongbing in Texas 2012-2017 – an update. *J Cit Pathol. iocv_journalcitruspathology_34714*
4. Franco J, Liebrand T, **Ancona V**, Coaker G. 2017. Investigating the role of secreted proteases

- during HLB progression. J. Cit Pathol. iocv_journalcitruspathology_34714
5. Franco J, Thapa S, **Ancona V**, Wang N, Ma W, Coaker G. 2017. Genomic and proteomic investigation of the interaction between citrus and *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*. J Cit Pathol. iocv_journalcitruspathology_34714
 6. Thapa S, Ma W, Wang N, **Ancona V**, Coaker G. 2017. Genome sequence and genetic diversity of the Huanglongbing pathogen *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*. J Cit Pathol. iocv_journalcitruspathology_34714
 7. Uribe-Bueno, M., Garcia, C., **Ancona, V.**, Hernandez, J.L. 2016 Bioinformatic analysis of *Trichoderma* genes involved in the tryptophan-independent indole acetic acid biosynthesis pathway. *Subtrop Ag Environ J*. Vol. 67.
 8. Duberney P.R., Setamou, M., Hernandez J.L., **Ancona, V.** 2016. Evaluation of soil adjuvant OR-079 with Metalaxyl for Phytophthora root rot control in citrus. *Subtrop Ag Environ J*. Vol. 67.
 9. Perea B.O., Nelson S.D., Alabi O.J., **Ancona V.** 2016. Effects of Irrigation Method and Application Schedule in Mefenoxam Control of *Phytophthora* Propagules in Texas Citrus Groves. *Subtrop Ag Environ J*. Vol. 67.
 10. Olivares A.L., Hernández-Mendoza J.L., Nelson, S. D., **Ancona, V.** Isolation of Bacterial Communities from Citrus Roots infected with *Phytophthora nicotianae*. *Subtrop Ag Environ J*. Vol. 67.
 11. Olivares, A., J. Hernandez-Mendoza, S. Nelson, **V. Ancona.** Isolation of endophytic bacteria associated with roots from citrus infected with *Phytophthora nicotianae*. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 106.
 12. Duberney, P., J. Hernandez, **V. Ancona.** Evaluation of soil conditioner OR079 for the optimization of metalaxyl in control of *Phytophthora nicotianae* in Texas citrus orchards. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 106
 13. Chaudhary, S., M. Setamou, O. J. Alabi, J. da Graca, M. Kunta, **V. Ancona.** Incidence and severity of Phytophthora disease and assessment of inoculum levels in Texas citrus orchards. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 106
 14. Chaudhary S, Setamou M, Alabi O, Jiffon J, Kunta M, Crosby K, DaGraca J, **Ancona V.** 2015. *Phytophthora nicotianae* and Huanglongbing cause nutritional imbalances in grapefruit trees. *Phytopathol.* 105:11S, S4.1-S4.27
 15. Perea BO., Nelson SD., Alabi OJ., **Ancona V.** 2015. Inoculum sources of *Phytophthora nicotianae*. *HortScience.* Vol. 50 (9): S304
 16. Olivares AL., Simpson C.R., Kusakabe A., Setamou M., Nelson S.D., **Ancona V.** 2015. The effects of citrus planting design on soil properties and *Phytophthora nicotianae* propagule counts in flood irrigated soil. *HortScience.* Vol. 50 (9): S303.
 17. Chaudhary S., Setamou M., Alabi O., Jiffon J., Kunta M., **Ancona V.**, Crosby K., DaGraca J. 2015. Synergistic impact of *Phytophthora nicotianae* and Huanglongbing in grapefruit groves under field conditions in South Texas. *Subtrop Ag Environ J*. Vol. 66.
 18. Chatnaparat T, **Ancona V**, Zhao Y. 2014 The bacterial alarmone ppGpp serves as a global signal to regulate type III secretion system and other virulence factors in plant pathogenic bacteria. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 104:S3.24
 19. Lee J H, **Ancona V**, Zhao Y. 2014 Integration host factors are required for sigma 54-dependent *hrpL* gene expression and virulence in *Erwinia amylovora*. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 104:S3.67
 20. **Ancona V**, Zhao Y. 2013. CsrA is a positive regulator of virulence factors in *Erwinia*

- amylovora*. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 103:S2.6
21. **Ancona V**, Zhao Y. 2013. The GrrSA-Csr global regulatory system plays a critical role in *Erwinia amylovora* virulence. XIII International Workshop on Fire Blight. 1056: 207-212
 22. Zhao Y, **Ancona V**, Lee JH. 2013. An alternative sigma factor cascade regulates expression of type III secretion system in *Erwinia amylovora*. XIII International Workshop on Fire Blight. 1056:155-160.
 23. **Ancona V**, Wang D, Zhao Y. 2012. Dynamics and environmental regulation of virulence gene expression in *Erwinia amylovora*. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 102:S4.5
 24. Li W, **Ancona V**, Zhao Y. 2012. The role of sigma factors in regulating virulence gene expression in *Erwinia amylovora*. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 102:S4.70
 25. **Ancona V**, Appel DN, De Figueiredo P. 2010. Regulatory role of c-di-GMP biosynthesis genes of *Xylella fastidiosa*'s virulence factors. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 100:S7
 26. **Ancona V**, De Figueiredo P. 2009. Regulation of c-di-GMP intracellular levels in *X. fastidiosa*. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 99:S4
 27. **Ancona V**, Wei S, Appel DN, Hayakawa Y, de Figueiredo P. 2008. c-di-GMP regulation of *Xylella fastidiosa* Temecula gene expression and biofilm formation. *Phytopathol.* Vol. 98:S13
 28. **Ancona V**, Nelson SD, Anaya M, Louzada ES. 2005. Isolation and Expression Analysis of Cold Responsive Genes from *Poncirus trifoliata*. In *Proceedings of the American Society of Plant Biology*. Seattle, WA.
 29. **Ancona V**, Nelson SD, Louzada ES. 2005. Identification of cold responsive genes from *Poncirus trifoliata*. In *Proceedings of the South Branch of the American Society of Agronomy*. San Antonio TX.
 30. **Ancona-Contreras V**, Gutiérrez Mauleón H, Alvarado Gómez OG, Valdés Lozano CGS. 2001. RT-PCR standardization for PVY detection in potato and its application to quantify virus incidence in national and international seeds. CIA-FAUANL. *Avances de Investigación 2001*. P. 93-95. Marin, NL, Mexico.
 31. Montes Cavazos F, **Ancona-Contreras V**. 2001. Cultural Practices to manage virus incidence in field plots of *Cucurbita pepo* L. Var. Zucchini Gray. CIA-FAUANL. *Avances de Investigación 2001*. P. 29-30. Marin, NL, Mexico.

Presentations:

1. **Ancona V**. Reduction of beneficial citrus root-microbe association in response to disease pressure. Biology Department, seminar series. University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley. November 19, 2020.
2. **Ancona V**. Citrus greening: therapy evaluations in Texas. Texas Citrus Mutual. May 22, 2019
3. **Ancona V**. Characterization of native *Trichoderma* isolates from Texas citrus orchards. Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society Annual meeting. February 8, 2019
4. **Ancona V**. Texas Citrus: Opportunity for Research. South Texas College, STEM Summit. October 5, 2018.
5. **Ancona V**. Challenges and opportunities of the Texas Citrus Industry in the HLB era. Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, seminar series. Texas A&M University-College Station. October 3, 2018.
6. **Ancona V**. Phytophthora: The slow killer of Texas citrus. Texas Citrus Mutual Mid-Year Meeting. May 9, 2018

7. **Ancona V**, S Chaudhary. 2018. Molecular and morphological characterization of *Phytophthora nicotianae* isolates from citrus roots in Texas. Oomycete Molecular Genetics Network. Annual Meeting, Tai'an China, April 9, 2018.
8. **Ancona V**. Soilborne diseases of citrus. Citrus Irrigation Techniques to save water and improve grower returns. Water Development Board, Lone Star Citrus Growers, Mission TX, May 9, 2017
9. **Ancona V**. Characterization of citrus-microbe interactions in the presence of chronic disease. International Conference of the Genetics Society of Korea, Jeju Island. November 11, 2016
10. **Ancona V**. Nematode Diseases of Citrus. Texas Citrus Mutual Mid-Year Meeting. May 27th, 2015
11. **Ancona V**. Nematode problems on citrus production. Crop Production services Meeting. January 15th, 2015.

TEACHING

Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness and Environmental Science. Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Undergraduate Courses:

- PLSS4328- Introduction to Plant Pathology.
- PLSS4326- Fruit Crop Production.

Graduate Courses:

- PLSS5353- Advanced Plant Pathology.
- PLSS6346-Citrus and Subtropical Fruit Crops.
- PLSS5390-Scientific Writing.
- PLSS5390-Host Plant Resistance

Graduate Student Committees:

Texas A&M University-Kingsville. MSc in Plant and Soil Science:

- Chair of Lakshmi Pasupuleti, Current Student
- Co-chair of Venkatramana Kotte, Current Student
- Chair of Sabrina Garza, Current Student
- Chair of Raelene Mendez, May 2022
- Chair of Miriam Calderon, August 2021
- Chair of Victoria Mora, May 2021
- Chair of Cynthia Puente, August 2020
- Chair of Meena Gurung, August 2018
- Co-Chair of George Thomas III, August 2018
- Chair of Perla Duberney, August 2017
- Chair of Ana Olivares, May 2017
- Chair of Benjamin O. Perea, May 2016
- Chair of Siddhi Jadhav, May 2016

Texas A&M University, PhD in Horticulture

- Member of Shima Chaudhary, Texas A& M University, December 2018

International Committees:

- Member of Mariana Uribe Bueno, Instituto Politecnico Nacional-Reynosa, MX, Master's in Biotechnology, January 2017

Undergraduate students:

- Raelene Mendez (summer 2017). Project: Identification of citrus endophytic bacteria by PCR and sequencing analysis.
- Christopher J, Barbola (summer 2016). Project: Evaluation of control methods for citrus greasy spot
- Ramiro Diaz (spring and summer 2015). Project: Finding an Interaction between *Tylenchulus semipenetrans* and *Phytophthora nicotianae* in Citrus Infected Plants.
- Perla Vargas (spring and summer 2015). Project: Evaluation of Biological Control Agents against *Phytophthora nicotianae*.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- American Phytopathological Society
- Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society
- International Society of Molecular Plant Microbe Interactions

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Blackboard Collaborate Training. TAMUK-Distance Learning & Instructional Technology (January 23, 2017)
- Grant Development Workshop. Grant Training Center, Austin TX (June 7-9, 2017)
- Certification in Distance Education. From Texas A&M University-Kingsville Center for Teaching Effectiveness and Distance Learning & Instructional Technology. Summer 2016 (30h).
- South Texas Student Success Conference: Writing for Learning for Hispanic Serving Institutions. Center for Teaching Effectiveness, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, 2015
- Faculty Workshop Series: Best Practices for Teaching, Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, University of Illinois 2014
- Developing Critical Thinking Workshop, Center for Teaching Excellence, Texas A&M University, 2010
- Writing Syllabi that Engage and Motivate Students Workshop, Center for Teaching Excellence, Texas A&M University, 2010
- Teaching Large Classes Workshop, Center for Teaching Excellence, Texas A&M University, 2010
- Fellow Certificate, Graduate Teaching Academy, Texas A&M University, 2008

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Member of the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC),

2017 – present

- College Representative in the Academic Technology Advisory Committee, 2016-2018
- Member of the Off-campus Academic Technology Task-force 2017
- Member of the Plant and Soil Science Graduate Curriculum development, 2017
- Graduate Teaching Academy, Group Leader, Texas A&M University, 2010 - 2011
- Plant Pathology and Microbiology Seminar Committee Member, 2008 – 2009

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- President of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society 2021 – 2022
- Member and Chair of the Poster committee for the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, 2016 – present
- Member of Member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Texas Pest and Disease Management Corporation, 2014-present
- Member of the Bacteriology committee from the American Phytopathological Society 2006-present
- Article Reviewer: *MPMI*, *Crop Protection*, *Horticulture Research*, *Plant Disease*, *Journal of Applied Microbiology*, *Current Microbiology*, *Revista Mexicana de Fitopatologia (Mexican Journal of Phytopathology)*