

**Name**

**Paola BONFANTE**

**Birth  
Nationality**

Born in Torino, May 7, 1947

Italian

**Present  
address  
and role**

Department of Life Science and Systems Biology Viale Mattioli 25 - 10125 Torino

tel. +39 011 670 5965 (office)

fax +39 011 670 5962

E-mail: paola.bonfante@unito;

Skype paolabonfante

Full Professor of Plant Biology (till November 2017)

**Education**

- Italian Thesis in Biological Sciences, University of Torino (1970).
- PhD equivalent in Soil Mycology- CSMT, National Council of Research, Torino, ITALY (1970-1973)

**Key  
qualifications**

**Research Field:** Biology of Plant-Microorganism Interactions

**Research Group coordination:** Her group has a research tradition on the biology of symbiotic associations, mainly mycorrhizas, and fungal taxonomy which dates back to 1975. PB spent a long part of her scientific activity studying the intimate interactions that occur between fungi and plants as well as between bacteria and fungi, using cellular and molecular approaches. Applying DNA technologies, early in the nineties, she provided contribution to the knowledge of mycorrhizal diversity in natural as well as in cultivated fields. She has discovered a group of endobacteria which live inside mycorrhizal fungi and may modulate some of the functional traits of their fungal hosts.

The current main scientific missions of the group are: To understand the cellular and molecular basis of plant-fungal interactions in mycorrhizas; to investigate the genetic determinants which characterize some mycorrhizal fungi; to define the fungal biodiversity in soil; to evaluate the fungal impact in natural and agricultural ecosystems; to investigate the fungal interactions with other microorganisms. The expertise on cellular and molecular biology of plant/fungal interactions as well as on dynamics of fungal populations is witnessed by a large number of original, review and technical papers and multiple international collaborations.

**Major current scientific projects**

Bacterial and fungal microbiomes in rice, tomato and wheat; Dissecting the role of the fungal intracellular microbiota, Rice and tomato responses to AM fungi; Genomics and Functional genomics in mycorrhizal fungi; Cellular and molecular interactions between plants and mycorrhizal fungi, with particular attention to signalling and colonization processes; Systemic effects of mycorrhizal fungi on plant traits

**Positions**

Full Professor of Plant Biology at the University of Torino (1984-2017)

Head of the Department of Plant Biology (October 2006-December 2011)

Responsible of the Centro di Studio sulla Micologia del Terreno del CNR- Torino, currently named Sezione di Torino dell'Istituto di Protezione per le Piante (1995-2009),

Coordinator of the PhD school in Biological and Biotechnological Sciences; (2006-

2013), Coordinator the PhD Course in Biology and Biotechnology of Fungi (2000-

2005)

<b>Teaching positions</b>	Till November 2017- Natural Sciences (Botany, Plant-Microbe interactions), Biology (Plant-Microbe interactions), Plant Biotechnology
	Supervisors of more than 20 Ph.D students
<b>Scientific production</b>	Papers in refereed journals: 283 (listed in the official site of the University Ministry and in the web sites of the Torino University
	<a href="http://www.dbios.unito.it/do/docenti.pl/Show?_id=pbonfant#pubblicazioni">http://www.dbios.unito.it/do/docenti.pl/Show?_id=pbonfant#pubblicazioni</a>
	<b>Google scholar:</b> H index 82; citations 21689 <a href="https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=WIJOKEQAAAAJ&amp;hl=en">https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=WIJOKEQAAAAJ&amp;hl=en</a>
	<b>Web of Science:</b> H index 57; citations: 10693 <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y85tkylj">https://tinyurl.com/y85tkylj</a>
	<b>Scopus:</b> H index 61; citations: 12493 <a href="https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=7005707157">https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=7005707157</a>
<b>Scientific responsibilities</b>	Member of the Scientific Committee of CNR (2012-2016); Member of the Scientific Committee for Research Activities-Provincia di Trento (2014-).
<b>Editorial activities</b>	Organizer of many symposia, workshops and meetings on mycorrhizas and symbiotic fungi; Visiting scientist in Japan (1989) and Brasil (2012).
	Invited speakers in many international congresses of Mycology, Microbiology, Botany, Biotechnology, Plant Pathology, Cell Biology, Fungal genetics, Genetics, Memorial Symposium for Biology of Symbiosis, ICOM, iMMM, Microbiota meetings Invited to be External examiner (Opponent) for more than 15 PhD Dissertations in Europe Member of the Scientific Committee of the Dijon Campus (France) Member of the Scientific Committee of Plant for Future (Italy) Organizing committee of many meetings, among which MPMI Meeting in Sorrento (2007), 8th International Congress of Plant Pathology (Torino, 2008), Indian-Italian Workshop (November, 2010), IMMM (Cambridge 2015, Toulouse, 2017), ISME 2016 <b>IMA Executive Committee</b> (International Mycological Association) 2018-
	<b>Editorial activities</b> Editor of Environmental Microbiology (2013-); Associate Editor of The ISME Journal (Autumn 2018-) Associated Editor of Fungal Biology (Till 2015); Board member of New Phytologist, Board member of <i>IS-MPMI Interactions</i> Referee for papers concerning mycorrhizas for different journals (ie. Science, Nature, Plant Cell, Plant Journal, Plant Physiology, Planta, Fungal Biology & Genetics, PNAS) and for scientific European and American (NSF) Agencies. Referee for ERC (Senior grants, 2011, Consolidated grants, 2016)
<b>Awards</b>	Fellow of Academy of Sciences of Torino (2000), Academy of Agriculture of Torino

(2000) Academia dei Lincei Rome (November 2011), Académie d'Agriculture de France (2018)

Award for Plant Biology 2010, Roma, June 2010

Award for the Award for the French Food Spirit- Science – Paris, December 16, 2010

She is in the list of:

1. Top Italian Scientists- Ranking 5 for the typology **Natural sciences**  
[http://www.topitalianscientists.org/TIS\\_HTML/Top\\_Italian\\_Scientists\\_Natural\\_Environmental\\_Sciences.htm](http://www.topitalianscientists.org/TIS_HTML/Top_Italian_Scientists_Natural_Environmental_Sciences.htm)
2. Highly Quoted Researchers, (ISI) Philadelphia.<http://hcr.stateofinnovation.com>;
3. One hundred Italian Experts: <http://100esperte.it/search?id=bonfante-paola-70>
4. In the list of Clarivate Analytics: highly quoted researcher 2017
5. Member of Group 2003 <https://www.gruppo2003.org>

•