

Amir Akhgari - Short CV

Amir Akhgari, (PhD), is currently senior scientist at VTT Technical Research of Finland Ltd., Plant Biotechnology Group.

He graduated from University of Helsinki, Faculty of Pharmacy, Division of Pharmaceutical Biology in 2015. He performed his PhD thesis at VTT (2008-2015), under supervision of Dr Kirsi-Marja Oksman and Dr Heiko Rischer, in which he investigated biosynthetic capacity of less investigated medicinal plant from the Apocynaceae family, *Rhazya stricta*, in cell and organ cultures and by metabolic engineering approach.

He also performed two post-doc research periods (2016 - 2020) on “antibiotics biosynthesis engineering and “synthetic biology of cyanobacteria” at University of Turku, Finland, Faculty of Technology, Dept. of Life Technologies Antibiotics Biosynthesis Engineering (<https://abelab.utu.fi/>)

His research interest is to understand biosynthesis of secondary metabolism, particularly in plants, using novel genomics tools, e.g. CRISPR, to produce known or novel compounds in plant *in vitro* cultures. Amir’s expertise covers plant cell culture technologies, molecular techniques for overproduction of desired metabolites and their chemical analyses, and cellular agriculture.

Currently, he is involved in EU - InnCoCells project which aims to develop new cosmetic ingredients from plants and plant cells. He is recipient of the Finnish Culture Foundation and Finnish Post-doctoral Pool grants to conduct post-doc research.