

MACARENA MARIN

ABOUT

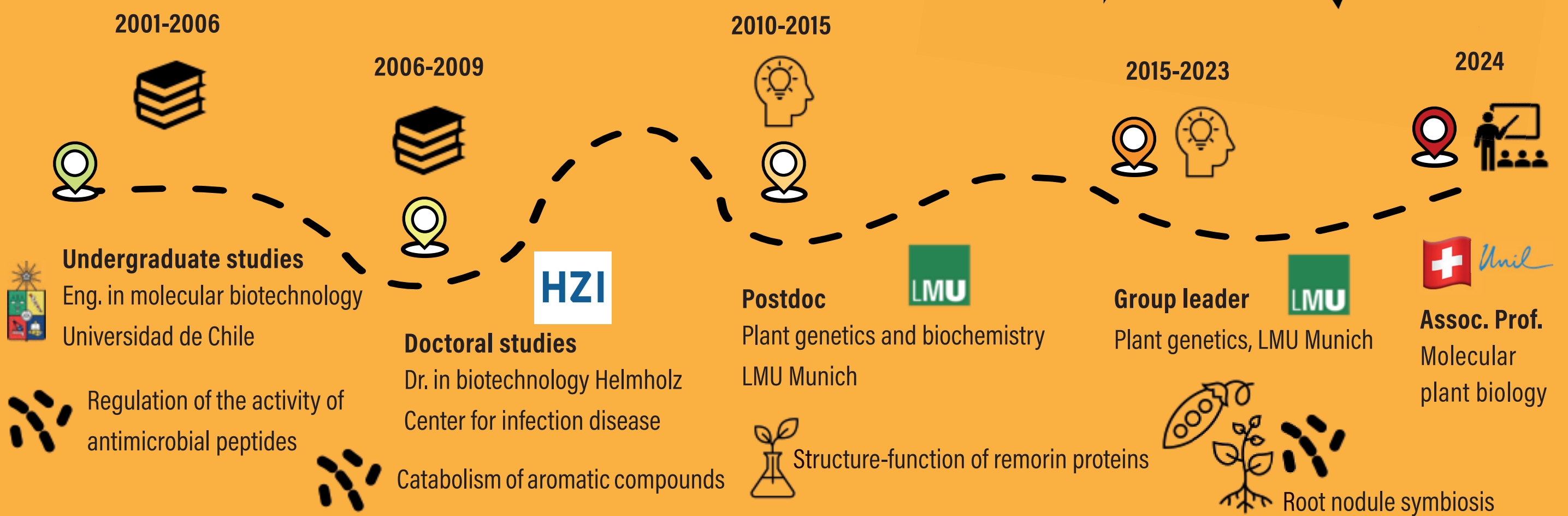
Macarena Marín is a molecular biologist from Chile with specializations in genetics, microbiology, and plant biology. She holds a habilitation and works as a project leader at the LMU Munich Biocenter. Next year, she will join the University of Lausanne in Switzerland as an Associate Professor. Her research team investigates the mechanisms by which legumes communicate with symbiotic and commensal bacteria, and how these interactions contribute to overall plant health. Beyond her professional achievements, she is happily married and the mother of a two-year-old boy.



WHAT TO TELL STUDENTS

„Embrace your decisions;
make the best out of them.“

CV TIMELINE



KEY EXPERIENCE

During my doctoral studies, my enthusiasm for research waned due to the absence in my then-team of an environment that fostered discussions and curiosity. The sole focus was data collection, leaving me questioning my future in academia. Nevertheless, I decided to give academia another chance, drawing from the fond memories of my undergraduate years in Chile. This decision marked a turning point when I joined as a postdoc the lab of Thomas Ott, an enthusiastic young group leader at the time. It was this experience that reignited my passion for science.

MAJOR SCIENTIFIC FINDING

We have provided the first genetic evidence supporting a three-decade old model postulating the existence of an oxygen diffusion barrier within nodules. This barrier functions as a mechanism through which legume nodules protect the oxygen-sensitive nitrogen-fixing enzyme, nitrogenase.

