CURRICULUM VITAE

AMNON LERS

University Education and Additional Training

1980-1982	B.Sc. in Biology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.
1983-1985	M.Sc. in molecular genetics at the Biochemistry Dept. at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Title of thesis: Promoter mutations that allow constitutive expression of the nitrogen fixation *nifHDKY* operon. Supervisor: Prof. Ada Zamir.
1985-1990	Ph.D. in molecular genetics at the Biochemistry Dept. at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Title of thesis: Induction of massive β-carotene accumulation in the alga *Dunaliella bardawil*: from a cell to a single gene. Supervisor: Prof. Ada Zamir.
1990-1993	Postdoctoral position at the Zoology and Botany Depts at Duke University with Profs. John E. Boynton and Nicholas W. Gillham. Research subject: Molecular studies on structure, function and expression of the photosystem II D1 protein in the alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* and its role in photoinhibition.

Positions Held and Academic Status

1993 (April) to date	Research Scientist at the Agricultural Research Organization (ARO), The Volcani Center, in the Dept. of Postharvest Science of Fresh Produce.
1998	Promoted to Senior Scientist (grade B).
2003	Guest lecturer in the Hebrew University, Faculty of Agriculture (M.Sc. /Ph.D. level course on Postharvest Biology).
2006	Promoted to grade A.
2007-2010	Head of the Dept. of Postharvest Science of Fresh Produce.

Publications

Lers, **A.,** Bitoun, R. and Zamir, A. (1986) Transcriptional analysis of promoter mutations in the *Klebsiella pneumoniae nifHDKY* operon. ***J. Bacteriol.*** *165:* 175-180.

Zilberstein, A., Koch, T., Altschuler, Y., Lers, A. and Zamir, A. (1987) Characterization of DNase(s) activity in Tobacco leaf extracts. ***Plant Sci.*** *52:* 57-65.

Ben-Amotz, A., Lers, A. and Avron, M. (1988) Stereoisomers of β-carotene and phytoene in the alga *Dunaliella bardawil.* ***Plant Physiol.*** *86:* 1286-1291.

Sadka, A., Lers, A., Zamir, A. and Avron, M. (1988) A critical examination of the role of *de-novo* protein synthesis in the osmotic adaptation of the halotolerant alga *Dunaliella.* ***FEBS Lett.*** *244:* 93-98.

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Lers, A., Levy, H. and Zamir, A. (1991) Co-regulation of gene homologous to early light -induced genes in higher plants and β-carotene biosynthesis in the alga *Dunaliella bardawil*. ***J. Biol. Chem.*** *266:* 13698-13705.

Lers, A., Heifetz, P. B., Boynton, J. E., Gillham, N. W. and Osmond, C. B. (1992) The carboxyl-terminal extension of the D1 protein of photosystem II is not required for optimal photosynthetic performance under CO_2- and Light-saturated growth conditions. ***J. Biol. Chem.*** *267:* 17494-17497.

Shapira, M., Lers, A. Osmond, C.B., Gillham, N. W. and Boynton, J. E. (1996) Regulation of chloroplast gene expression in *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*: transfer of low light grown cells to high light suppresses synthesis of the Rubisco LSU protein and enhances synthesis of the photosystem II D1 reaction center protein. ***Plant Mol. Biol.*** *33:* 1001-1011.

Heifetz, P. B., Lers, A., Turpin, D. H., Gillham, N. W., Boynton, J. E. and Osmond, C. B. (1997) *dr* and *spr/sr* mutations of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* affecting D1 protein function and synthesis define two independent steps leading to chronic photoinhibition and confer differential fitness. ***Plant Cell and Environ.*** *20:* 1145-1157.

Lers, A., Jiang, W., Lomaniec, E. and Aharoni, N. (1998) Gibberellic acid and CO_2 additive effect in retarding postharvest senescence of parsley. ***J. Food Sci.*** *63:* 66-68.

Lers, A., Khalchitski, A., Lomaniec, E., Burd, S. and Green, P. J. (1998) Senescence-induced RNases in tomato. ***Plant Mol. Biol.*** *36:* 439-449.

Lers, A., Burd, S., Lomaniec, E., Droby, S. and Chalutz, E. (1998) The expression of grapefruit gene encoding an isoflavone reductase-like protein is induced in response to UV irradiation. ***Plant Mol. Biol.*** *36*: 847-856.

Lers, A., Burd, S., Sonego, L., Khalchitski, A. and Lomaniec, E. (1998) Nucleotide sequence of a full-length *C14* cDNA clone (accession No. AJ003137) encoding for cysteine protease CYP1 from tomato. ***Plant Physiol.*** *116:* 1193.

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Pérez-Amador, M. A., Abler, M. L., De Rocher, E. J, Thompson, D. M., van Hoof, A., LeBrasseur, N., Lers, A. and Green, P. J. (1999) Identification of *BFN1*, a bifunctional nuclease induced during leaf and stem senescence in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. ***Plant Physiol.*** 122: 169-179.

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