Polyamine metabolism and activation of lipid signalling pathways in Arabidopsis thaliana

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Acknowledgements

There is a beautiful poem by Antonio Machado that says: “Walker, your treads are the path and nothing more; walker, there is no path, the path is made when walking. Stroke by stroke, verse by verse...” Despite the fact that this poem was written in exile nearly a century ago, it is a good reminder of the intriguing uncertainty in nowadays life. Such was the case with this PhD – it started in Barcelona and ended unexpectedly in Amsterdam. What happened in between was a kind of a soap opera (a great one) that would require an extra act, a few beers and a copyright.

This section is typically the smallest in a thesis manuscript, but it contains the largest amount of very relevant “non-scientific data”. As I am also pretty sure that some people will spend few minutes reading it, I will put special care in summarizing chronologically those who played an important role in this series during the last few years.

One of the first actors was Antonio, from whom I heard for the first time the word “polyamine” (poly what?) and who became my former boss in Barcelona. Besides convincing me about the potential of these molecules with “funny” names, he also appointed me as a technician first, assistant professor later, and PhD student (briefly) at last. I will always be grateful for many things Antonio, especially for your unconditional support and for letting me work at a handful of top European labs, including the Max Planck Institute in Golm, where I had the pleasure of working alongside Prof. Joachim Kopka, contributing towards the improvement of his methods of analysis in metabolomics.

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