Roger Castells-Graells, PhD

First name: Roger E-mail: <u>rcastellsg@g.ucla.edu</u>
Family name: Castells-Graells ORCID: <u>0000-0002-3985-6194</u>

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/rogercastells

2015 – 2019	Ph.D in Biochemistry, John Innes Centre - University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK Advisor: Prof. George Lomonossoff Thesis: Viruses in motion: maturation of an insect virus-like particle – a nanomachine
2011 - 2015	Degree in Biotechnology (BSc), Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), Spain
2007 - 2015	Music Professional Degrees in Saxophone and Oboe. Music Conservatory of Terrassa, Spain

Fields of Specialization

Structural Biology, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Synthetic Biology, Protein Design, Virology

Research experience

Jan. 2020 – Present Postdoctoral Scholar, University of California, Los Angeles, USA

 Computational design and characterization of novel protein assemblies as imaging scaffolds for structural biology (cryo-EM) applications in the lab of Prof. Todd Yeates.

Oct. 2019 – Jan. 2020 Postdoctoral Researcher, John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK

• Study and production of **virus-like particles** for **biotechnology** applications like vaccines and medicine. Horizon 2020 Pharma Factory project in the lab of Prof. George **Lomonossoff**.

Oct. 2015 – Sept. 2019 PhD Student, John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK

• Study of **virus maturation** using transient expression systems and biophysical and structural methods, including **cryo-EM**, in the lab of Prof. George **Lomonossoff** (PhD project, John Innes Centre, June 2016 – September 2019).

Collaborations with:

- Prof. Jack **Johnson** (The Scripps Research Institute, USA)
- Prof. Neil **Ranson** (The Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology, UK)
- Prof. Tatiana **Domitrovic** (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- Study of the alteration of **host vesicular trafficking** by an **effector** from *Phytophthora infestans* and study of the deletion of a **gene cluster** in tomato with **CRISPR/Cas9** in the lab of Prof. Sophien **Kamoun** (Rotation 3, The Sainsbury Laboratory, March May 2016).
- Study of **starch synthesis in wheat grains** in the lab of Prof. Alison **Smith** (Rotation 2, John Innes Centre, January March 2016).
- Production of **engineered mosaic virus-like particles** from turnip crinkle virus (TCV) **in plants** in the lab of Prof. George **Lomonossoff** (Rotation 1, John Innes Centre, October December 2015).

- Oct. 2014 Feb. 2015 Internship Undergraduate Research Programme
 Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics (CRAG), Barcelona, Spain
 - Study of the structure of **plant genomes** looking at elements like transposons with bioinformatic tools. Mentored by Dr. Cristina **Vives**, Dr. Pere **Puigdomènech** and Dr. J. M. **Casacuberta**.
- July Sept. 2014 Internship Amgen Scholars Undergraduate Summer Research Programme, Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich, Munich, Germany
 - Study of chloroplast membrane proteins, OEP21 and Tic-22, with Dr. Bettina Bölter (Soll lab).
- July Aug. 2013 Internship International Biology Undergraduate Summer School, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
 - Study of the durable disease resistance gene Lr34 from wheat with Dr. Simon Krattinger, in the lab of Prof. Beat Keller.

Publication list

- 1. Castells-Graells, R., Ribeiro, J., Domitrovic, T., Hesketh, E. L., Scarff, C. A., Johnson, J. E., Ranson, N. A., Lawson, D. M., & Lomonossoff, G. P. (2021). Plant-expressed virus-like particles reveal the intricate maturation process of a eukaryotic virus. Communications biology, 4(1), 619. https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-021-02134-w
- 2. Thuenemann, E. C., Byrne, M. J., Peyret, H., Saunders, K., Castells-Graells, R., Ferriol, I., Santoni, M., Steele, J., Ranson, N. A., Avesani, L., Lopez-Moya, J. J., & Lomonossoff, G. P. (2021). A replicating viral vector greatly enhances accumulation of helical virus-like particles in plants. Viruses, 13(5), 885. https://doi.org/10.3390/v13050885
- 3. Castells-Graells, R., & Lomonossoff, G. P. (2021). Plant-based production can result in covalent cross-linking of proteins. Plant biotechnology journal, 19(6), 1095–1097. https://doi.org/10.1111/pbi.13598
- 4. Schreier, T. B., Fahy, B., David, L. C., Siddiqui, H., **Castells-Graells, R.**, & Smith, A. M. (2021). Introduction of glucan synthase into the cytosol in wheat endosperm causes massive maltose accumulation and represses starch synthesis. The Plant Journal, 106(5), 1431–1442. https://doi.org/10.1111/tpj.15246
- Petre, B., Contreras, M. P., Bozkurt, T. O., Schattat, M. H., Sklenar, J., Schornack, S., Abd-El-Haliem, A., Castells-Graells, R., Lozano-Durán, R., Dagdas, Y. F., Menke, F., Jones, A., Vossen, J. H., Robatzek, S., Kamoun, S., & Win, J. (2021). Host-interactor screens of Phytophthora infestans RXLR proteins reveal vesicle trafficking as a major effector-targeted process. The Plant Cell, 33(5), 1447–1471. https://doi.org/10.1093/plcell/koab069
- 6. Johnson, J. E., Domitrovic, T., Matsui, T., **Castells-Graells, R.**, & Lomonossoff, G. (**2021**). Dynamics and stability in the maturation of a eukaryotic virus: a paradigm for chemically programmed large-scale macromolecular reorganization. Archives of virology, 166(6), 1547–1563. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00705-021-05007-z
- 7. Berardi, A., Castells-Graells, R., & Lomonossoff, G. P. (2020). High stability of plant-expressed virus-like particles of an insect virus in artificial gastric and intestinal fluids. European journal of pharmaceutics and biopharmaceutics, 155, 103–111. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpb.2020.08.012
- 8. Del Cerro, P., Ayala-García, P., Buzón, P., Castells-Graells, R., López-Baena, F. J., Ollero, F. J., & Pérez-Montaño, F. (2020). OnfD, an AraC-Type Transcriptional Regulator Encoded by Rhizobium tropici CIAT 899 and Involved in Nod Factor Synthesis and Symbiosis. Applied and environmental microbiology, 86(19), e01297-20. https://doi.org/10.1128/AEM.01297-20

- 9. Wu, C. H., Adachi, H., De la Concepcion, J. C., **Castells-Graells, R.**, Nekrasov, V., & Kamoun, S. (2020). NRC4 Gene Cluster Is Not Essential for Bacterial Flagellin-Triggered Immunity. Plant physiology, 182(1), 455–459. https://doi.org/10.1104/pp.19.00859
- 10. **Castells-Graells R.**, Lomonossoff G.P., Saunders K. (2018) Production of mosaic turnip crinkle virus-like particles derived by coinfiltration of wild-type and modified forms of virus coat protein in plants. Virus-Derived Nanoparticles for Advanced Technologies. Methods in Molecular Biology, pp 3-17. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4939-7808-3 1
- 11. Steele, J.F.C., Peyret, H., Saunders, K., Castells-Graells, R., Marsian, J., Meshcheriakova, Y., Lomonossoff, G.P. (2017). Synthetic plant virology for nanobiotechnology and nanomedicine. WIREs Nanomedicine & Nanobiotechnology. https://doi.org/10.1002/wnan.1447
- 12. Contreras, B., Vives, C., **Castells, R.**, Casacuberta, J.M. (**2015**). The impact of transposable elements in the evolution of plant genomes: From selfish elements to key players. Evolutionary biology: biodiversification from genotype to phenotype. Springer International Publishing, pp 93–105. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-19932-0_6

Preprints and unpublished work (Submitted/in preparation)

- Castells-Graells, R., Meador, K., Arbing, M.A., Sawaya, M.R., Gee, M., Cascio, D., Gleave, E., Debreczeni, J.É., Breed, J., Phillips, C., Yeates, T.O. (2022). Rigidified Scaffolds for 3 Angstrom Resolution Cryo-EM of Small Therapeutic Protein Targets. BioRxiv. https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.09.18.508009
- 14. **Castells-Graells, R.**, Hesketh, E.L, Matsui, T., Johnson, J.E., Ranson, N.A., Lawson, D., Lomonossoff, G.P. Decoding maturation of a eukaryotic, T=4, RNA virus with cryo-EM structures of five intermediates.
- 15. Castells-Graells, R., G.P. Lomonossoff. 3D printing in virology: tools for the lab and the classroom.
- 16. **Castells-Graells, R.,** Sawaya, M., Yeates, T.O. Deviations in overall length scale and model strain in structures by X-ray Crystallography and Cryo-Electron Microscopy.

Patent applications

- UC-2023-035-1-LA - DARPin Backbones and Rigidified Electron Microscopy Imaging Scaffolds.

Awards and recognitions

- 2022 **1st Prize Short Oral Presentation -** American Crystallographic Association Annual Meeting
- 2021 **2nd Prize from the Public -** "Tu investigación en 3 minutos" ("Your research in 3 minutes")
- 2021 **People's Choice award -** UCLA PDA 3-Minute Research Pitch Competition.
- 2020 **1st Prize Oral Presentation SCB Virology Meeting 2020.**
- 2019 **Best Oral Presentation Award** Early Career Researchers Conference (ECRC) 2019.
- 2019 **Best Talk Award** at the 2019 Student Annual Science Meeting in Norwich.
- 2018 John Innes Foundation Prize for Excellence in Science Communication.
- 2017 **GENius of the Month Team Award**. Awarded to our BiotecYES team.
- 2017 **Best Poster Award** V International Symposium SRUK/CERU.
- 2017 Best Talk Award V International Symposium SRUK/CERU.
- 2017 **Poster Prize** NanoBioMater Conference 2017.
- 2017 University of East Anglia Engagement Award 2016/17.

- 2017 **Poster Prize** Decoding and Recoding Biological Systems Meeting.
- Awarded an Open Plant Fund for the "Accessible 3D Models of Molecules" project to develop 3D printed models and tools for scientific and outreach purposes.
- 2016 **Bryan Harrison Prize** winner for the best student presentation at the Association of Applied Biologists International Advances in Plant Virology conference.

Fellowships and grants

2022	Pacific Northwest Center for	Cryo-EM (PNC)) - Research proposa	al awarded for microscope access
2022	i delile i tordivest center for	CI JO LIVI (I I VCC	, iteseaten proposi	ar awaraca for inference ope access

- 2022 Stanford SLAC Cryo-EM Center (S2C2) Research proposal awarded for microscope access
- 2022 ACA 2022 Meeting Travel Grant
- 2020 EMBL Fee Waiver Fellowship EMBO Workshop
- 2018 Biochemical Society General Travel Grant
- 2017 Open Plant Follow-up Funding Accessible 3D Models of Molecules Project
- 2017 EMBL Fee Waiver Fellowship Conference
- 2016 Open Plant Fund Grant Accessible 3D Models of Molecules Project
- 2015 John Innes Foundation PhD Fellowship (2015-2019)
- 2014 Amgen Scholars European Programme Fellowship LMU
- 2013 Biology Undergraduate Summer School Fellowship University of Zurich
- 2009 Youth and Science Programme Fellowship (2009-2011)

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

2020 – Present	Mantarad undargraduate and	graduate students - University	Lot Colifornia Los Angolas
2020 – Frescht	Michigica unacigiaduate and	graduate students - Oniversity	of Camolina Los Angeles

2019 Mentored Youth and Science Programme Students

Summer 2019 Teacher at the Youth and Science Summer Programme

Course: Molecular biology: from genetic engineering to nanomachines

2018 Mentored Youth and Science Programme Students

Summer 2018 Teacher at the Youth and Science Summer Programme

Course: Molecular biology: from genetic engineering to nanomachines

2018 Teaching assistant at University of East Anglia

BIO-4002B - Evolution Behaviour and Ecology

2017 Teaching assistant at University of East Anglia

BIO-4002B - Evolution Behaviour and Ecology

Structural biology courses

- M230B and M230D Structural Molecular Biology Courses. University of California Los Angeles, January February 2022.
- EMBO Workshop: In situ Structural Biology. Virtual, 6th-8th December 2020.
- Instruct Course on Model Building and Refinement for High Resolution EM Maps (4th Icknield Workshop). Harwell, Oxford, UK, 1st-4th May 2018.
- EMBO Practical Course: Image processing for cryo-electron microscopy. London, UK, Sept. 2017.

Participation in conferences and meetings (highlights)

Selected oral presentations

- Castells-Graells R. (2022). A designed imaging scaffold breaks the barrier to high-resolution structure determination of small proteins by cryo-EM. *MBI meeting*, 7th September 2022, Los Angeles, USA.
- Castells-Graells R. (2022). Novel designed rigidified imaging scaffolds for high-resolution structure determination of small proteins with cryo-EM. *ACA annual meeting*, 30th August 2022, Portland, USA.
- Castells-Graells R. (2022). Designing novel imaging scaffolds for cryo-EM structure determination in vitro and in situ: modular tools for structural biology. *DOE-MBI meeting*, 7th April 2022, University of California Los Angeles, USA.
- Castells-Graells R. (2021). Studying virus maturation with cryo-electron microscopy. CNB XXIX Workshop Advances in Molecular Biology by Young Researchers Abroad, 22nd December 2021, virtual.
- Castells-Graells R., Lomonossoff G. P. (2021). Studying viral dynamics: the trouble with plants. 4th ISPMF Conference, 28th September 2021, virtual.
- Castells-Graells R., Yeates T.O. (2021). Designing novel imaging scaffolds for cryo-EM structure determination in vitro and in situ. *UCLA-DOE Science Mixer*, 29th July 2021, University of California Los Angeles, USA.
- Castells-Graells R. (2021). Designing molecular Legos: imaging scaffolds for small proteins. *DOE-MBI meeting*, 3rd June 2021, University of California Los Angeles, USA.
- Castells-Graells R., Domitrovic T., Matsui T., Scarff C.A., Hesketh E.L., Ranson N.A., Lawson, D.M., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G. P. (2020). Viruses in motion: a close look at virus maturation through cryo-electron microscopy. *SCB Virology meeting 2020, 29th October 2020, virtual*.
- Castells-Graells R. (2020). Viruses in motion: exploring virus maturation stages with an insect virus, plants, and cryo-electron microscopy. *Invited external seminar*, 7th *January 2020*, *CRAG*, *Spain*.
- Castells-Graells R. (2019). Viruses in motion: a close look at virus maturation through cryo-electron microscopy. *Early Career Researchers Conference*, 11th-13th November 2019, Spain.
- Castells-Graells R. (2019). Movie premiere of "Viruses in Motion": Virus maturation revealed by cryo-electron microscopy. *Annual Science Meeting*, 9th-11th October 2019, Norwich, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R. (2019). Viruses in motion: a close look at virus maturation through cryo-electron microscopy. *OpenPlant Forum*, 29th-31st July 2019, Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R., Domitrovic T., Matsui T., Scarff C.A., Hesketh E.L., Ranson N.A., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G.P. (2019). Viruses in Motion: Studying the Maturation Stages of an Animal Virus. Gordon Research Seminar in Physical Virology, 19th-20th January 2019, Ventura, USA.
- Castells-Graells R., Domitrovic T., Matsui T., Scarff C.A., Hesketh E.L., Ranson N.A., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G.P. (2018). Studying virus maturation stages with an insect virus. *Ninth International Virus Assembly Symposium*, 6th-10th May 2018, Madeira, Portugal.

- Castells-Graells R. (2018). The private "life" of viruses Using plants to crack virus secret codes and build nanomachines. *Accessible Science Seminar*, 25th April 2018, John Innes Centre, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R. (2018). Viruses in motion: Studying viral dynamics using an insect virus and cryo- electron microscopy. *Biological Chemistry Departmental Seminar*, 6th March 2018, John Innes Centre, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R. (2018). Building nanostructures with plant factories: From viruses to nanomachines. *Bitesize PhD seminar*, 14th February 2018, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R. (2017). Studying the dynamics of a virus-like particle and developing potential biotechnological applications. *Invited seminar at the Instituto de Microbiologia*, 31st October 2017, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Castells-Graells R., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G. P. (2017). Studying viral dynamics with an insect virus. Student talk at the EMBO Practical Course: Image Processing for Cryo-EM, 5th-15th September 2017, Birkbeck, University of London, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R. (2017). Generating virus-like particles for bionanotechnological applications. *OpenPlant Forum Flashtalk*, 24th-26th July 2017, Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R., Lomonossoff G. P. (2017). Generating virus-like particles for potential bionanotechnological applications. *V International Symposium SRUK/CERU*, 7th-9th July 2017, London, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G. P. (2017). Studying dynamic virus-like particles for potential bionanotechnological applications. Student talk at *NanoBioMater 2017 International Conference University of Stuttgart*, 28th-30th June 2017, Bad Herrenalb, Germany.
- Castells-Graells R., Saunders K., Lomonossoff G. P. (2016). The generation of modified plant viruslike particles for potential bionanotechnological applications. *Taming Plant Viruses - Fundamental Biology to Bionanotechnology*, 8th-10th November 2016, Pitlochry, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R., Saunders K., Lomonossoff G. P. (2016). The generation of modified plant viruslike particles by transient expression for potential bionanotechnological applications. *International* Advances in Plant Virology conference, 7th-9th September 2016, Association of Applied Biologists, University of Greenwich, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R., Saunders K., Lomonossoff G. P. (2016). The production of mosaic virus-like particles in plants. 8th European Plant Science Retreat, 20th-23rd June 2016, Barcelona, Spain.

Panel presentations and posters

- Castells-Graells R., Meador K., Gee, M., Yeates T.O. (2022). Novel designed rigidified imaging scaffolds for high-resolution structure determination of small proteins with cryo-EM. *Gordon Research Conference 3DEM, June 2022, Castelldefels, Spain.*
- Castells-Graells R., Richards L., Saha A., Agdanowski M., Meador K., Eisenberg D., Rodriguez J.A., Yeates T.O. (2022). Enabling structure determination of challenging samples with new cryoelectron microscopy methods. *DOE Bioimaging Science Program Meeting*. 1st March 2022, virtual.
- Meador K., Agdanowski M., Castells-Graells R., Arbing M., Yeates T.O. (2021). Designing Protein Scaffolds for Frontier Cryo-EM Problems. *UCLA-DOE IGP meeting, 21st September 2021, virtual.*
- Castells-Graells R., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G. P. (2019). Viruses in Motion: Studying the Maturation Stages of an Animal Virus. *Gordon Research Conference in Physical Virology*, 20th-25th January 2019. Ventura, USA.
- Castells-Graells R., Johnson J.E, Lomonossoff G. P. (2018). Exploring virus maturation stages with an insect virus, plants and cryo-electron microscopy. *JIC/TSL Annual Science Meeting*, 10th-12th October 2018, Norwich, United Kingdom.

- Castells-Graells R., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G. P. (2017). Viruses in motion: Studying viral dynamics using an insect virus and cryo-electron microscopy. *Virus-like particle & nano-particle vaccines conference*, 29th-30th November 1st December 2017, Biopolis, Singapore.
- Castells-Graells R., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G. P. (2017). Viruses in slow motion: studying viral dynamics with an insect virus and cryo-EM. *EMBL Conference on Revolutions in Structural Biology*, 16th-17th November 2017, Heidelberg, Germany.
- Castells-Graells R., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G. P. (2017). Studying viral dynamics with an insect virus. Student poster at *EMBO Practical Course: Image Processing for Cryo-EM*, 5th-15th September 2017, Birkbeck, University of London, United Kingdom.
- Castells-Graells R., Lomonossoff G. P. (2017). Generating virus-like particles for potential bionanotechnological applications. *V International Symposium SRUK/CERU, 7th-9th July 2017, London, United Kingdom*.
- Castells-Graells R., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G. P. (2017). Studying dynamic virus-like particles for potential bionanotechnological applications. Student poster at *NanoBioMater 2017 International Conference University of Stuttgart, 28-30 June 2017, Bad Herrenalb, Germany.*
- Castells-Graells R., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G. P. (2017). Studying viral dynamics with an insect virus. *Physical Virology Gordon Research Conference*, 29th January 2017 2nd February 2017, Lucca, Italy.
- Castells-Graells R., Johnson J. E., Lomonossoff G. P. (2017). Studying viral dynamics with an insect virus. *Physical Virology Gordon Research Seminar*, 28th-29th January 2017, Lucca, Italy.
- Castells-Graells R., Saunders K., Lomonossoff G. P. (2016). Generating virus-like particles for bionanotechnological applications. *JIC/TSL Annual Science Meeting*, 12th-14th October 2016, Norwich, United Kingdom.
- Saunders K., Castells-Graells R., Lomonossoff G. (2016). The generation of modified plants virus-like particles by transient expression for potential bionanotechnological applications. *International Society for Plant Molecular farming Conference*. 25th-27th May 2016, VIB, University of Ghent, Belgium.

Outreach and academic citizenship (highlights)

- Exploring Your Universe. Booth leader at the UCLA science fair. November 2022, US.
- "Your research in 3 minutes" outreach video contest (in Spanish). August 2021, virtual.
- UCLA PDA Research Pitch Competition communicating science to the public. June 2021, virtual.
- Science Km0: Educational video about research for students (in Catalan). November 2020, virtual.
- Presented a **science communication workshop** for graduate students and staff at the Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics (CRAG). January **2020, Spain.**
- Science mentor for 3 research projects from high school students. September 2019 January 2020.
- Presented four **science communication workshops** for high school students at the Barcelona International Youth Science Challenge (BIYSC). July **2019, Spain.**
- Science teacher at the Youth and Science Summer Programme, June-July 2019, Spain.
- Invited speaker at the Pint of Science Festival in Norwich. May 2017 and May 2019, UK.
- Science mentor for 4 research projects from high school students. September 2018 January 2019.
- Science teacher at the Youth and Science Summer Programme, June-July 2018, Spain.
- Science educational video about the production of virus-like particles in plants, June 2018, virtual.
- Invited speaker for Accessible Science Seminars, John Innes Centre. April and October 2018, UK.
- Amgen Biotech Experience School Talk (Ormiston Victory Academy Norwich). February 2018, UK.
- Presented five **science communication workshops** for high school students at the Barcelona International Youth Science Challenge (BIYSC). July **2017**, **Spain**.
- Organizer of outreach activities for the John Innes Centre Open Day. September 2017, UK.

- Amgen Scholars Programme Students Mentor. Summer 2017, UK.
- Public engagement for Pint of Science with Future Radio Norwich (107.8 FM). April 2017, UK.
- STEM (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Ambassador. March 2017, UK.
- Volunteer and co-organizer of an outreach activity at the Norwich Science Festival. Oct. 2016, UK.
- Founder of "WhatIf" (www.whatifnet.science), educational project that aims to bring science to students. October 2014 Present, virtual.

Society memberships

- American Crystallographic Association (ACA)
- Association of Spanish Scientists in USA (ECUSA)
- Catalan Society of Biology (SCB)
- Catalan Association for Science Communication (ACCC)