

## VITA

Leen Verbiest was born on August 11, 1972 in Eeklo, Belgium. She graduated from the University of Ghent with a B.S. degree in Bioengineering in 1995. From August 1995 to May 1996, she worked as an exchange student in the Laboratory of Microbiology from the University of Montpellier, France. In July 1996, she started working in the Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, at the University of Ghent. She came to the U.S. in August 1998 and began her graduate study in the Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology and Weed Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, to pursue a M.S. degree in Plant Physiology with specialty in plant biotechnology. She was under the direction of Dr. Carole Cramer, and worked in her laboratory located in Fralin Biotechnology Center.

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