



## FANNY HESSE



Angelina Fanny Hesse, in the 1880s, was the first person to suggest that agar should be used as a media for growing and isolating bacteria. Hesse was a scientific illustrator and technical assistant for her husband, who was a member of Robert Koch's lab. She learned of agar from a neighbor when she was a child living in New York. Agar works best for bacterial cultures because it doesn't melt when the plates are incubated at higher temperatures, which are required to grow some bacteria. After observing this, her husband brought the idea to Koch. Although her discovery was crucial, neither she nor her husband were credited for this discovery.

This is a page from *Bacteria and Me*, a microbiology coloring book by Aedan Gardill and Tiffany Harris, and is funded by the Marie Christine Kohler fellowship.

To learn more information about the project and access free downloads of the coloring book pages, visit:

[kohlerfellows.illuminatingdiscovery.wisc.edu/projects/bacteria-and-me/](http://kohlerfellows.illuminatingdiscovery.wisc.edu/projects/bacteria-and-me/)

