

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH - MICHAEL WINGFIELD - 2006

Michael Wingfield was born in South Africa where he obtained his early education. In 1983, he completed Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota, specialising in forest pathology and forest entomology. He returned to South Africa to establish the first formal, forest pathology programme in the country, required to serve a rapidly expanding plantation industry. In 1988 he became a full professor and member of Senate at the University of the Free State and together with industrial partners, established the Tree Protection Co-operative Programme (TPCP). This is now one of the best-recognised tree protection groups in the world. In 1998, he joined the University of Pretoria a Professor and member of Senate and became the founder director of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute, FABI. This Institute now houses the TPCP and other internationally, recognised plant biotechnology programmes (<http://fabinet.up.ac.za>). He is passionately committed to the study of tree diseases, particularly those of importance to plantation forestry. He has published widely on this topic in journals (in excess of 400 papers in peer reviewed journals), congress proceedings and in three books (see abridged *curriculum vitae* on web site), is a committed teacher and has been advisor or co-advisor of in excess of 35 Ph.D. students, many now independently recognised scientists. He has served in many distinguished positions and received numerous awards and honours for contributions to education and industry, in South Africa and elsewhere in the world. Some include the chancellors award of the University of Pretoria (2002), the Persoon Medal of the Southern African Society for plant pathology (awarded for times in 43 years), the Scientific Achievement Award of the International Union for Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO) in 2000, the distinguished alumnus award of the University of Minnesota; he was the first recipient of the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) national award for contributions to Science and Technology, received the Laureate Award of the University of Pretoria Alumni Association (2005) and the gold medal of the Southern African Association for the Advancement of Science (2005). In 2004, his research programme was selected by the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa to become one of the first six, Government endorsed and funded Centres of Excellence, of which he is the director. He is fellow of scientific societies such as the Royal Society of South Africa and the Southern African Society for Plant Pathology, a member of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa (ASSA), honorary member of the Mycological Society of America; serves on the scientific advisory committee (WeCo) of the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Holland, the board of the International Union of Forestry Research Organisations, was appointed to the board of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) by the minister of Trade and Industry, South Africa and serves on the Research Committee of the Hans Merensky foundation. He enjoys lecturing on tree pathology topics and does so internationally, where he also acts as an advisor to significant forestry organisations, universities and institutes. Although mycology is his primary hobby, Mike enjoys gardening, bird watching and long distance running. He is married to Brenda who is a professor of genetics and with whom he also collaborates scientifically. They have two children, Anthony (20) and Beverley (16) who add a very different and non-scientific dimension to their lives.

SELECTED ITEMS IN POINT FORM

EDUCATION AND POSITION

Born and early education in South Africa

Ph.D. (Plant Pathology/ Entomology), University of Minnesota (1983)

Professor and member of Senate of the University of Pretoria (1998)

Founder Director, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) est. 1998

Founder Director, Tree Protection Co-operative Programme (TPCP)- est. 1989

Director, Dept Science and Technology Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotech – one of six selected competitively in South. Est. 2003.

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS (among others)

Author of more than 400 papers in peer review journals

Author/ editor of three books and many proceedings chapters and presentations.

Advisor of more than 40 Ph.D. students, many now internationally recognised.

Projects and research grants concerning tree diseases supported by organisations worldwide.

SENIOR MEMBERSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS (among others)

Past president, Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP) (1990-1993)

Fellow of the Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (1995)

Senior Captain Scott Medal, Academy of Art and Science, South Africa (1995)

Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa (1998)

Member of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa (1998)

Member of the Board of the International Union for Forestry Research Organisations (IUFRO) and management Committee (2005-2010)

Member of the Board of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) (2003- 2005; 2006-2008)

CBS Scientific Committee (2003-2007)

AWARDS (among others)

Christian Hendrik Persoon Medal of SASPP- awarded 4 times in 44 yrs (1996)

Havenga gold medal, South African Academy for Science and Art (1998)

Highest award of National Science and Technology Forum, SA (1998)

Univ. Minnesota Distinguished Alumnus Award (2000)

Scientific achievement award Int. Union of Forestry Res. Orgs (IUFRO) 2000

University of Pretoria Chancellors award (2001)

Laureate Award, Univ. Pretoria Alumni Association (2005)

South African Association for the Advancement of Science Gold medal (2005)

Elected MSA honorary member (2006)