

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH – PROF MIKE WINGFIELD

Michael (Mike) Wingfield, Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota (1983), Harvard Business School AMP175, has conducted research on tree pests and pathogens especially concerning their global movement for more than thirty years. His highly cited research in this field, conducted in many different countries of the world has led to the discovery of some of the most important pathogens of trees grown commercially in plantations. It has also elucidated elements of the biology and global movement of many of the most important pests and pathogens of trees, substantially contributing to new management options and solutions to problems that have reduced losses to industry. Based on his research reputation, he has been a long term advisor of many major forestry corporations globally. Amongst his most important contributions to forestry has been the role that he has played as an advisor to more than 50 Ph.D. students, many of whom now hold very senior positions globally. He was responsible for establishing the Tree Protection Co-operative Programme (TPCP) in 1990 to minimise the impact of pests and pathogens threatening commercial forestry in South Africa and this has become the largest single tree health project in the world. It also formed the catalyst for the establishment in 1998 of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI; www.fabinet.up.ac.za) of which he was the founding director. FABI has rapidly gained substantial international recognition for research excellence and the post graduate education of large numbers of students, many from disadvantaged backgrounds. He has published widely on the topic of tree health in more than 600 research papers, five books and in numerous prestigious invited presentations globally. He has served in many distinguished positions and has received numerous awards and honours for contributions to education, research and industry, in South Africa and elsewhere in the world. Based on these contributions he has been elected as a fellow of scientific societies including the Royal Society of South Africa, Academy of Sciences of South Africa the Southern African Society for Plant Pathology and the American Phytopathological Society, is one of the few honorary members of the Mycological Society of America and will receive an honorary doctorate from the University of British Columbia, Canada in 2012.