

## PROGRAMME



# 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TREE PROTECTION CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME (TPCP) AND THE DSI NRF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN PLANT HEALTH BIOTECHNOLOGY (CPHB)



TUESDAY, 4 MAY 2021

08:00-08:15 **Sign-in and systems check**

08:15-08:30 **Welcome and setting the scene for the day**

**Prof. Anton Ströh**, Vice-Principle for Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Education, University of Pretoria

**Prof. Bernard Slippers**, Director of FABI, TPCP and Innovation Africa @UP, University of Pretoria

**Prof. Emma Steenkamp**, Director of the Centre of Excellence in Plant Health Biotechnology, FABI, University of Pretoria

**Session 1: Industries and Universities in partnerships for competitive forestry and agriculture sectors**

08:30-08:45 **Mr. Duane Roothman**, Vice President Forestry, Sappi Southern Africa

08:45-09:00 **Mr. Jannie de Villiers**, CEO of GrainSA

09:00-09:30 Panel discussion on Partnerships for Biosecurity (together with the opening speakers):

**Dr. Julian Jaftha**, Chief Director: Plant Production & Health, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

**Dr. Maneshree Jugmohan-Naidu**, Director: Biotechnology at Department of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Innovation

**Dr. Marinda Visser**, Director: Strategic Projects and Partnerships, Innovation Africa @UP

**Dr. Marianna Theyse**, CEO of PhytoSolutions Consultancy

**Prof. John Wilson**, SANBI and Centre of Invasion Biology, University of Stellenbosch

**Prof. Bernard Slippers**, Director of FABI and the TPCP, University of Pretoria

09:30 **ONLINE GROUP PHOTO AND COMFORT BREAK**

**Session 2: Fundamentals of tree health management and biosecurity**

09:45-10:00 **Opening talk: Bridgeheads and forest pest invasions**

**Prof. Ecki Brockerhoff**, Forest Health and Biotic Interactions', Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL

10:00-10:25 **5 minute speed talks**

**Mr. Christoff Joubert**: Influence of leaf chemistry on the feeding behaviour of *Gonipterus* sp. n. 2

**Dr. Andi Wilson**: CRISPR gene editing to understand gene function in tree pathogens

**Dr. Gudrun Dittrich-Schröder**: CRISPR and insect rearing as tools for tree pest management

**Ms. Benny Salwarsk-Parry and Ms. Mmatshopho Pasha**: Understanding virulence in *Fusarium circinatum*

**Dr. Janneke Aylward & Minette Havenga**: The importance of considering population genetics of tree pathogens: A *Teratosphaeria destructans* perspective

10:25-10:30 **Summary and perspective on the session**

**Prof. Irene Barnes and Prof. Brenda Wingfield**

10:30-10:45 **Question and Answer Panel**

Staff, Postdocs and Students whose work was covered, as well as external guests will answer questions from the participants about topics raised in the talks.

10:45-11:00 **COMFORT BREAK**

**Session 3: From basic research to application: 32 years of impact**

11:00-11:15 **Opening talk:** Forest Biosecurity: An industry perspective  
**Dr. Ronald Heath**, Forestry South Africa

11:15-11:40 **5 minute speed talks**

**Mr. Privilege Makunde:** Host preference of the invasive shell lerp psyllid

**Mr. Harmen Barten and Dr. Michelle Schroder:** Factors that influence biological control of *Gonipterus* sp. 2 in South Africa

**Ms. Agil Katumanyane:** Patterns and mechanisms of resistance of white grubs to entomopathogenic nematodes: potential for biological control

**Ms. Luki-Marie Scheepers and Mr. Quentin Guignard:** Pheromones for pest management in plantations: Progress and future prospects?

**Ms. Myriam Solis and Prof. Sanushka Naidoo:** Linking genes to phenotypes in the *Tetrasphaeria destructans* – *Eucalyptus* interaction

11:40-11:45 **Summary and perspective on the session**

**Prof. Brett Hurley and Prof. Almuth Hammerbacher**

11:45-12:00 **Question and Answer Panel**

Staff, Postdocs and Students whose work was covered, as well as external guests will answer questions from the participants about topics raised in the talks.

12:00-12:15 **COMFORT BREAK**

**Session 4: Connecting data points for future tree health management**

12:15-12:30 **Opening talk:** Launching a Satellite Lab in Remote Sensing of Plant Health  
**Prof. Wouter Maes**, University of Ghent

12:30-12:50 **5 minute speed talks**

**Dr. Lieschen de Vos and Dr. Quentin Santana:** Next generation diagnostics and the diagnostic clinic

**Dr. Tanay Bose:** Considering microbiomes and soil health in plantations

**Prof. Cobus Visagie and Dr. Neriman Yilmaz:** Reference collections, next generation taxonomy & digital data management tools

**Dr. Ilaria Germishuizen:** Integrating pest monitoring and weather data

**Prof. Bernard Slippers, Mr. Roedolf Niewenhuis and Mr. Arne Schreuder:** Surveillance tools and early warning systems

12:50-12:55 **Summary and perspective on the session**

**Prof. Martin Coetzee and Dr. Tuan Duong**

12:55-13:20 **Question and Answer Panel**

Staff, Postdocs and Students whose work was covered, as well as external guests will answer questions from the participants about topics raised in the talks.

13:20-14:00 **Conclusion & discussion**

**WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2021**

13:00-16:00 **TPCP Board meeting**