

PROGRAMME



32nd 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**

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

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

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

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

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

Prof. Irene Barnes and Prof. Brenda Wingfield



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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: Developing surveillance systems to support pest and disease management

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**