

PROGRAMME



FABI 20 YEARS: THE ROAD TO RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



WEDNESDAY 24TH AND THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY 2018

Wednesday 24th January 2018, Aula Theatre

07:30-08:00 COFFEE AND TEA

08:00-08:15 Welcome - **Prof. Mike Wingfield**

08:15-08:30 Welcome to the University of Pretoria - **Prof. Cheryl de la Rey, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Pretoria**

08:30-08:50 Establishing FABI - **Dr Johan van Zyl, Chief Executive Officer, African Rainbow Capital, South Africa**

08:50-09:05 FABI in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences - **Prof. Jean Lubuma, Dean: Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (NAS), University of Pretoria**

09:05-09:25 FABI 20 years: The road to research excellence - **Prof. Mike Wingfield, Founding Director: Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**

09:25-09:45 A National Research Foundation perspective - **Prof. Molapo Qhobela, Chief Executive Officer, National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa**

09:45-10:05 Science policy, budgets and PhD studies: Why they matter - **Dr Ntsane Moleleki, Senior Specialist: Policy Investigations, The National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI), South Africa**

10:05-10:30 Musical interlude: organ recital - **Prof. Wim Viljoen, Head of Department of Music (2008-2016), University of Pretoria**

10:30-11:00 COFFEE AND TEA

11:00-11:20 Connecting the dots – The importance of global collaboration - **Mr Alexander Buck, Executive Director, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Vienna, Austria**

11:20-11:40 *Fabius defensoris* : A taxonomic history - **Mr Michael Peter, Executive Director, Forestry South Africa**

11:40-12:00 The tough and rewarding journey of academic leadership - **Prof. Corli Witthuhn, Vice-Rector: Research, University of the Free State, South Africa**

12:00-12:20 The future of Science - An evolution of theory - **Dr Len van Zyl, Chief Executive Officer, ArrayXpress Inc., North Carolina, USA**

12:20-12:40 Laurel wilt: An evolving pathosystem - **Prof. Randy Ploetz, Professor of Plant Pathology, University of Florida, USA**

12:40-13:40 LUNCH (Aula Theatre)

- 13:40-14:00 Touring the digital zoo: Taxonomy in public sequence databases - **Dr Conrad Schoch, Team Lead and Fungal curator, NCBI Taxonomy, National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), Bethesda, USA**
- 14:00-14:20 Stepping out of the comfort zone; from an academic environment to business - **Dr Oliver Preisig, Executive Director, Inqaba Biotechnical Industries (Pty) Ltd., South Africa**
- 14:20-14:40 No space, no money = foliar diseases - **Prof. Pedro Crous, Director: Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute, Utrecht, the Netherlands**
- 14:40-15:00 FABI-China: Good friendships, great achievements and a bright future! – **Prof. ShuaiFei Chen, Associate Professor, Research Leader of the Forest Protection Group, China Eucalypt Research Centre, Chinese Academy of Forestry, China; Extra-ordinary Lecturer, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- 15:00-15:20 Change - adjustment - resilience - endurance - convergence - future - innovation - **Dr Lehan Stemmet, Associate Dean: Faculty of Business and Information Technology, Manukau Institute of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand**
- 15:20-15:50 SPEED PRESENTATIONS (FABI Students)**
- Postgraduate confessions: A love affair with *Fusarium* - **Darryl Herron, Ph.D. candidate, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- Inspiring a new generation of plant health specialists in Africa - **Joey Hulbert, Ph.D. candidate, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- Evolution and development of wood in the land plants - **Danielle Roodt, Ph.D. candidate, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- Characterising variation in the *Sirex-Amylostereum-Deladenus* symbioses - **Osmond Mlonyeni, Ph.D. candidate, F Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- Sex: How the fungi do it - **Andi Wilson, Ph.D. candidate, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- Polygalacturonase: the "breakthrough" pathogenicity stars of *Phytophthora cinannmomi* - **Tsakani Miyambo, M.Sc. student, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- 15:50-16:20 TEA (Aula Theatre)**
- 16:20-16:40 Adaptation and symbiosis – Using nature’s toolkit to excel in Science (and everything else) - **Prof. Diana Six, Professor of Forest Entomology/Pathology, WA Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, Department of Ecosystem and Conservation Sciences, The University of Montana, USA**
- 16:40-17:00 The making of a career; a chance meeting that has led to 20 years of research collaboration and friendship - **Prof. Treena Burgess, Professor, School of Veterinary and Life Sciences, Murdoch University, Australia**
- 17:00-17:20 FABI: Looking forward - **Prof. Bernard Slippers, Director: Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- 17:20-17:50 TREE PLANTING CEREMONY**
- 18:30 GALA DINNER – (Rautenbach Hall, University of Pretoria); Guest speaker: Prof. Dr Ir. André Drenth, Theme Leader: Horticultural Crop Protection, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, Centre for Plant Science, The University of Queensland, Australia**

Thursday 25th January 2018, Aula Theatre

Science Research Symposium

07:45-08:15 Coffee and Tea

- 08:15-08:30 Welcome and introduction - **Prof. Brenda Wingfield, SARChI Chair in Fungal Genomics, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- 08:30-08:50 Novel insights into symbiotic paths to sustainable insect fungiculture - **Dr Michael Thomas-Poulsen, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Section for Ecology and Evolution, University of Copenhagen, Denmark**
- 08:50-09:10 Reading, editing and writing forest tree genomes - **Prof. Zander Myburg, Chair in Forest Genomics and Biotechnology, Department of Genetics, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- 09:10-09:30 Unraveling intricate multi-organism interactions in a global biodiversity hotspot - **Dr Francois Roets, Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa**
- 09:30-09:50 The Chemistry of defensive symbiosis - the tale of two natural product discoveries! - **Dr Christine Beemelmans, Junior Research Group Leader, Chemical Biology of Microbe-Host Interactions, Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology e.V., Hans-Knöll-Institute (HKI), Germany**
- 09:50-10:10 Genomes of host and pathogen in the globally important grey leaf spot disease of maize - **Prof. Dave Berger, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- 10:10-10:30 Rotten roots to genes to genomes: Tackling the challenges of one of Europe's most serious tree pathogens - **Prof. Jan Stenlid, Professor of Forest Pathology, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology; Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden**

10:30-11:00 COFFEE AND TEA (Aula Theatre)

- 11:00-11:20 Applied plant pathology in the Genomics Era – **Prof. Jim Correll, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Arkansas, USA**
- 11:20-11:40 20 years of Mycology in FABI - **Prof. Wilhelm de Beer, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria**
- 11:40-12:00 The 'too-much-talent effect' in fungi - **Prof. Duur Aanen, Associate Professor in Evolutionary Biology, Wageningen University, the Netherlands**
- 12:00-12:20 Mycorrhizal fungi of Australian orchids – **Prof. Celeste Linde, Associate Professor: Ecology and Evolution, Research School of Biology, College of Science, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia**
- 12:20-12:40 *Pectobacterium brasiliensis*: an emerging, economically important bacterial pathogen of potato plants - **Prof. Lucy Moleleki, Associate Professor and Acting Head of Department: Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology, University of Pretoria**
- 12:40-13:00 Yellowhorn plantation intensification using biotechnology in China - **Prof. Xudong Xhou, Head of Research and Development, FuturaGene Biotechnology (Shanghai) Company, Shanghai, China**

13:00-14:00 FINGER LUNCH (FABI Courtyard)

- 14:00-17:00 See FABI and Meet the FABIans**
Visit FABI, FABI Square and the FABI Biocontrol Facility.

Visit the FABI Exhibition of Tree and Wood Art - In an exciting venture where Arts and Sciences will join forces, the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) at the University of Pretoria (UP) is hosting an art exhibition as part of its 20th anniversary celebrations in January 2018. The exhibition of Tree and Wood Art, curated by the Department of UP Arts, includes works from the permanent collection of the University of Pretoria that depict trees, are made of wood, or where wood has been used in the creation of the pieces. Works on display will include those of well-known South African artists such as Lucky Sibiyi, Hendrik Pierneef and Gregoire Boonzaaier. The exhibition also includes work by a group of San artists, as well as more recently acquired works that include a magnificent painted wood carving of Lebohang Kganye, winner of the 2017 Sasol New Signatures Art Competition.

The works will be on display in the foyers and passages of FABI main building and FABI Square on the main campus of the University of Pretoria during the course of the 20th anniversary celebrations on 24 and 25 January. The exhibition is 'self-guided' with a 'floor plan' and facilitated by a brochure with background on the artworks.