# Professor Bernard Slippers

A person wearing glasses

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[Bernard Slippers](http://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/bslippers) is the Director of the [Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI)](http://www.fabinet.up.ac.za) and [Innovation Africa@UP](http://www.ia.up.ac.za/). He is the founding Director of the [Future Africa](http://www.futureafrica.science) Institute and a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology at the [University of Pretoria](http://www.up.ac.za/). He leads the Tree Protection Co-operative Programme and is a core team member Centre of Excellence in Plant Health Biotechnology in FABI.

Bernard’s research focuses on the ecology and evolution of insects and micro-organisms that affect plant health, and the development of tools to mitigate their impact. He has received wide recognition for his research, including as a Highly Cited Researcher (Clarivate Analytics) and the Christiaan Hendrik Persoon Gold Medal for Plant Pathology. He has published more than 300 papers, an edited book and a number of book chapters, which have been cited more than 16500 times (h-index = 65).

Bernard is passionate about science development. He is a founding member of the [Global Young Academy](http://www.globalyoungacademy.net) (GYA) and the [South African Young Academy of Science](http://www.sayas.org.za/) (SAYAS). He has served in the leadership of these organizations, including as co-chair of the GYA. He has also initiated and lead the Africa Science Leadership Programme. Bernard is an elected fellow of the [Academy of Science of South Africa](https://www.assaf.org.za/) and the [Royal Society of South Africa](https://www.royalsocietysa.org.za/).