

## THIRTEEN STUDENTS JOIN THE CTHB UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME IN 2019



Thirteen undergraduate students will get their first taste of life as researchers as mentees in the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology's undergraduate mentorship programme. The students met their mentors – postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows – at a lunch in the FABI courtyard on 4 March. The incumbents go through a vigorous selection process to get into the programme, which runs from March until November every year. The students learn about basic lab etiquette as well as techniques that are central to postgraduate scientific research, preparing them for when they conduct their individual research studies from Honours until PhD level.



Professor Brenda Wingfield welcomed the 13 mentees and congratulated them for successfully going through the selection process of the programme, which she said had “become incredibly competitive” over the years. She encouraged them to put in “energy and effort” into their partnerships with their mentors and to enjoy the excitement of

doing research that “no one has done before”. Programme co-ordinator Benedicta Swalarsk-Parry gave the mentees their welcome packs, which included lab coats and lab books.

**The mentors and their mentees are listed below:**

Dr Vuyiswa Bushula-Njah and Luka van Wyk

Firehiwot Eshetu and Micaela Schagen

Dr Mesfin Gossa and Lesego Malekana

Ginna Granados and Melandre van Lili

Darryl Herron and Nhlanhla Simelane

Angel Maduke and Sheldon Viviers

Dr Esther Muema and Damian vaz de Soussa

Mohamad Sayari and Jireh Janse van Rensburg

Dr Michelle Schroder and Marizanne Jones

Carol-Ann Segal and Sizwe Tshabalala

Hannes Strydom and Jade Tulloch

Benedicta Swalarsk-Parry and Ropafadzai Jawa

Dr Markus Wilken, Frances Lane and Nomaswazi Maseko will mentor Deanne du Plessis