

## FINAL PROGRAMME



# 28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TREE PROTECTION CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME (TPCP) AND THE DST-NRF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN TREE HEALTH BIOTECHNOLOGY (CTHB)



MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> to WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017

FABI FACILITIES AND SANLAM AUDITORIUM – UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

### MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017

(Unless otherwise indicated, all activities on **Monday** take place in the **FABI Courtyard and FABI Auditorium, University of Pretoria**)

- 08:00-08:45** REGISTRATION, COFFEE AND TEA (FABI Courtyard)
- 08:30-09:00** Welcome - Mike Wingfield
- 09:15-10:00** **Rytas Vilgalys (Duke University)**: Communication and coevolution between forest trees with their symbiotic fungi.
- 10:00-10:15** **Robert Mueller (Western Sydney University)**: Fungal farming in the eusocial ambrosia beetle *Austroplatypus incompertus* attacking Eucalypts in Australia.
- 10:15-10:30** **Nombuso Ngubane (University of Stellenbosch)**: Population genetics of the *Sporothrix splendens* complex in South Africa.
- 10:30-10:45** **Janneke Aylward (University of Stellenbosch)**: Contrasting carbon metabolism in saprotrophic and pathogenic Microascalean fungi from *Protea* trees.
- 10:45-11:00** **Aquillah Kanzi (FABI)**: Decoding the mating systems of *Chrysoporthe* species.
- 11:00-11:30** COFFEE AND TEA (FABI Courtyard)
- 11:30-11:45** **Zander Human (FABI)**: The bacterial diversity in the infructescences of *Protea repens* and the surrounding environment.
- 11:45-12:00** **Anastashia Chetty (University of the Witwatersrand)**: Difference in fruit production between poor producers and producers in Baobabs (*Adansonia digitata* L.): exploring pollen flow, stigma characteristics and nectar volume affecting pollinators.
- 12:00-12:15** **Elsie Cruywagen (FABI)**: Population structure and diversity of *Lasiodiplodia mahajangana* from baobab trees in Africa and Australia.
- 12:15-12:30** **Elelwani Ramabulana (University of Venda)**: Diversity and overlap of Botryosphaeriaceae on some Anacardiaceae in agricultural and natural ecosystems.
- 12:30-12:45** **Marieka Gryzenhout (University of the Free State)**: Studies on deformation-type diseases of native South African trees.
- 12:45-13:00** **Zama Ndovela (University of Stellenbosch)**: Do bacterial partners affect growth and C allocation of legume trees during P stress?
- 13:00** CLOSURE
- 13:15-14:00** LUNCH (FABI courtyard)

- 14:00-15:00** Closed Meeting of the CTHB Core Team Members from the US, UFS, RU, WITS and UV, as well as the CTHB Director, Deputy Director and Administrative Officer (FABI Auditorium)
- 14:00-16:00** Tour of the FABI Biocontrol Facilities & Nursery on the UP Experimental Farm (for visitors who indicated that they wish to go)
- 16:00-18:00** Closed meeting of the CTHB Steering Committee (FABI Board room)
- 18:30-21:00** DINNER (Braai/barbecue at Uitspan on the LC de Villiers Sports Grounds, for all members of the CTHB Steering Committee, visitors to FABI, CTHB Core Team Members, students and chaperones)

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| <b>TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017</b> |
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**08:00-08:30** Coffee and Tea

08:30-08:45 Welcome. **Prof. Mike Wingfield.**

08:45-09:15 An ICFR perspective on forestry research in South Africa. **Prof. Colin Dyer, Director, Institute for Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR).**

09:15-10:00 The 28<sup>th</sup> TPCP year in review. **Prof. Mike Wingfield and the TPCP/CTHB research team.**

10:00-10:30 Managing the growing threat of insect pests to plantation forests. **Dr. Eckehard Brockerhoff, ScionResearch, New Zealand.**

**10:30-11:00** TEA

11:00-11:30 *Sirex*: understanding diversity and biological control of invasive forest pests. **Prof. Bernard Slippers.**

11:30-11:45 Progress in understanding the infection biology of the Acacia rust pathogen *Uromycladium acaciae*. **Dr. Stuart Fraser.**

11:45-12:15 Investigating the gall community of the invasive gall wasp, *Leptocybe invasa*: Distribution and roles. **Dr. Brett Hurley.**

12:15-12:30 Selection of nematode strains for *Sirex* biological control. The power of international collaborations in FABI. **Katrin Fitza.**

**12:30-13:00** Group photo

**13:00-14:00** Lunch for speakers and visitors, SANLAM entertainment area

14:00-14:30 Mycorrhizae matter. **Prof. Tom Bruns, University of California, Berkeley, USA.**

14:30-14:45 The rise of *Ceratocystis*: Threats to global forests and forestry. **Dr. Irene Barnes.**

14:45-15:00 Tree health diagnostics and extension during 2016. **Izette Greyling, Darryl Herron and Prof. Jolanda Roux.**

15:00-15:15 The hidden *Phytophthora* spp.: Threats to the future of plantation forestry in South Africa. **Tanay Bose.**

15:15-15:30 Chemical ecology collaborations in FABI. Growing opportunities for forest pest management. **Dr. Jeremy Alison, Canadian Forest Service, Canada.**

**15:30-16:00** TEA

16:00-16:30 Update on pitch canker fungus research in South Africa. **Prof. Emma Steenkamp.**

16:15-16:30 The plant side of the tree pest/pathogen interaction. **Dr. Sanushka Naidoo.**

16:30-16:45 Host utilisation by the *Sirex* woodwasp. **Ludwig Eksteen.**

- 16:45-17:00 Perspectives on the emerging *Eucalyptus* post-planting root disease syndrome. **Prof. Jolanda Roux.**
- 17:00-17:30 Are the trees telling us something? Using genetics and tree ring analysis to detect climate adaptation and insect resistance. **Prof. Diana Six, University of Montana, USA.**
- 18:00** Annual TPCP DINNER and “Hands Free Beer Slug” at **TUSCAN BARBEQUE**

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| <b>WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017</b> |
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**08:00-08:30 Tea and Coffee**

- 08:15-08:30 Review and commentary: **Prof. Mike Wingfield.**
- 08:30-09:00 A tree pathogen invades Europe: Lessons from our past. **Prof. Paolo Gonthier, University of Torino, Italy.**
- 09:00-09:15 Progress towards improved management of the Eucalyptus snout beetle, *Gonipterus* sp.2. **Dr. Michelle Schröder.**
- 09:15-9:30 Rust never sleeps: Rust research at FABI. **Dr. Alistair McTaggart.**
- 09:30-09:45 Developing a Forest Pest Insect Molecular Database at FABI. **Dr. Gudrun Dittrich-Schröder.**
- 09:45-10:00 What's in a name? The importance of accurate taxonomy in forest pathology. **Prof. Wilhelm de Beer.**
- 10:00-10:30 Delving deep into Dothistroma needle blight. **Prof. Rosie Bradshaw, Massey University New Zealand**

**10:30-11:00 TEA**

- 11:00-11:15 Progress in building BiCEP (Biological Control of *Eucalyptus* Pests). **Dr. Simon Lawson, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia.**
- 11:15-11:30 Urban Forests: Sources of invasion for plantations. **Dr. Trudy Paap.**
- 11:30-12:00 Interactions between pine health and forest management practices: Examples from the southeastern USA. **Prof. Kamal Gandhi, University of Georgia, USA.**
- 12:00-12:10 The upcoming Forest Science Symposium. **Sally Upfold, ICFR.**
- 12h10-12:30 **GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CLOSURE**

**12h45-14h00 Lunch (FABI Courtyard)**

- 12:45** Finger lunch and meeting of the Board of the TPCP.
- 12:45** Satellite meetings and research discussions.
- 14h00-16h00** Tour of the FABI Biocontrol Facilities & Nursery on the UP Experimental Farm (for visitors who indicated that they wish to go)

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| <b>THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2017</b> |
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Satellite TPCP and CTHB related meetings and field tour group departs.