

PROGRAMME



29th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TREE PROTECTION CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME (TPCP) AND THE DST-NRF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN TREE HEALTH BIOTECHNOLOGY (CTHB)



MONDAY 14th to WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2018

FABI FACILITIES AND SANLAM AUDITORIUM – UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

MONDAY 14th MAY 2018

(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 – Bernard Slippers.**
- 09:15-09:45** Myrtle rust - impact on native Myrtaceae and associated plant communities in Australia. **Dr Geoff Pegg, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland, Australia.**
- 09:45-10:00** Genome-informed *Bradyrhizobium* taxonomy: Where to from here? **Juanita Avontuur, FABI.**
- 10:00-10:15** Olive endophyte ecology. **Nombuso Ngubane, University of Stellenbosch.**
- 10:15-10:30** Phylogenomic analysis: The whole is greater than its parts. **Marika Palmer, FABI.**
- 10:30-10:45** Fungal species of the *Botryosphaeriaceae* occurring on native and non-native *Anacardiaceae*. **Elelwani Ramabulana, University of Venda.**
- 10:45-11:15 COFFEE AND TEA (FABI Courtyard)**
- 11:15-11:45** Native pathogens affecting *Pinus* species in the southeastern United States. **Prof. Lori Eckhardt, Auburn University, Alabama, USA.**
- 11:45-12:00** Sex identifying Baobabs - The fruit disparity mystery solved. **Anastashia Chetty, University of the Witwatersrand.**
- 12:00-12:15** *Phytophthora* diversity in southern Afrotemperate forests. **Joey Hulbert, FABI.**
- 12:15-12:30** Fungal communities associated with malformation symptoms of native karee trees. **Mark Mqeku, University of the Free State.**
- 12:30-12:45** Towards a mechanistic understanding on fungal communities in *Eucalyptus*. **Mandy Messal, FABI.**
- 12:45-13:00** Nitrogen metabolism in the rhizosphere and roots of an indigenous legume tree. **Darryn Whisgary, Stellenbosch University.**
- 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, WITS and UV, and Core Team Members from FABI (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)

TUESDAY 15th MAY 2018

08:00-08:30 Coffee and Tea

- 08:30-08:45 Welcome. **Prof. Bernard Slippers.**
 08:45-09:15 An industry perspective on forestry research in South Africa. **Mr. Themba Vilane, General Manager: Land and Forestry, Mondi.**
 09:15-9:30 Changes in the research and research funding landscape in forestry in SA. **Dr. Ronald Heath, Forestry South Africa.**
 9:30-10:00 The 29th TPCP year in review. **Prof. Mike Wingfield and the TPCP/CTHB research team.**
 10:00-10:30 International movement of pest and pathogens of forests. **Dr. Sandy Liebhold, USDA Forest Service, USA.**

10:30-11:00 TEA

- 11:00-11:15 Myrtle rust: impact on native Myrtaceae and associated plant communities in Australia. **Dr. Geoff Pegg, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Queensland.**
 11:15-11:30 The sexual cycle of *Austropuccinia psidii*: Clones win the battle, recombination wins the war. **Dr. Alistair McTaggart, University of Queensland, Australia.**
 11:30-12:00 Insect pests in plantation forestry in South Africa and their biological control. **Prof. Brett Hurley.**
 12:00-12:15 Perspectives on the emerging *Eucalyptus* post-planting root disease syndrome. **Mr Wayne Jones, Sappi.**
 12:15-12:30 The value of the Chair in Fungal Genomics to forest health management. **Prof. Brenda Wingfield.**

12:30-13:00 Group photo

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

- 14:00-14:25 *Sirex* in Australia: What have we learned from 60 years of management? **Dr. Helen Nahrung, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia.**
 14:25-14:45 *Sirex* research at FABI. **Osmond Mlonyeni, Katrin Fitza and Prof. Bernard Slippers.**
 14:45-15:10 Tree health diagnostics and extension during 2017. **Izette Greyling, Darryl Herron, Prof. Brett Hurley and Prof. Wilhelm de Beer.**
 15:10-15:30 Pitch canker fungus research in South Africa. Student speed talks (5 minutes each)
 Pheromone communication and potential role in management of *Fusarium circinatum*. **Omotayo Adenigba.**
 Characterising pathogenicity genes and virulence in *Fusarium circinatum*. **Mmatshapho Phasha.**
 QTL analysis to understand key phenotypic traits in *Fusarium circinatum*. **Benedicta Swalarsk-Parry.**

15:30-16:00 TEA

- 16:00-16:30 Understanding human history to predict future pathogen invasions. **Prof. Alberto Santini, Italian National Research Council (CNR), Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection, Italy.**
 16:30-16:45 The genetics and genomics of tree-pathogen/pest interactions. **Prof. Sanushka Naidoo.**
 16:45-17:00 *Dothistroma* and other needle diseases of *Pinus*: a global perspective. **Dr. Irene Barnes.**
 17:00-17:30 Insects, climate change and tree resistance. **Prof. Diana Six, University of Montana, USA.**

18:00 Annual TPCP DINNER and “Hands Free Beer Slug” at **TUSCAN BARBEQUE**

WEDNESDAY 16th May, 2017

08:00-08:30 Tea and Coffee

- 08:30-08:45 Review and discussion. **Prof. Bernard Slippers.**
 08:45-08:55 Student speed talks (5 minutes each)
 The complex wasp community inside a *Leptocybe* gall. **Caitlin Gevers.**
 The importance of genomics to understand *Ceratocystis* pathogens. **Arista Fourie.**
 08:55-09:05 Forest Health Research in Canada, international collaboration and its growing link with FABI. **Dr. David Nanang, Canadian Forest Service, Canada.**

- 09:05-09:25 The growing collaboration between CFS and FABI on Applied Chemical Ecology. **Prof. Jeremy Alison, Canadian Forest Service, Canada.**
- 09:25-09:40 Developments in the growing Applied Chemical Ecology hub at FABI. **Dr. Marc Bouwer.**
- 09:40-09:55 Chemical interactions between trees, insects and microbes. **Dr. Almuth Hammerbacher.**
- 09:55-10:10 Progress towards diversifying the biological control program for the *Eucalyptus* snout beetle, *Gonipterus* sp.2. **Dr. Michelle Schröder.**
- 10:10-10:30 International collaboration to compare *Sirex* population ecology across four continents. **Flora Krivak-Tetley, Dartmouth University, USA.**

10:30-11:00 TEA

- 11:00-11:15 Sentinel trees to detect pest and pathogen invasions: a global project. **Dr. Trudy Paap.**
- 11:15-11:30 The growing threat to tree health from invasive ambrosia beetles. **Prof. Wilhelm de Beer.**
- 11:30-11:45 Distribution, diversity and prevalence of *Eucalyptus* insect pests in Africa. **Dr. Mesfin Gossa.**
- 11:45-12:00 *Phytophthora* spp. in forest plantations in South Africa. **Dr. Tanay Bose.**
- 12:00-12:30 **GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CLOSURE**

12:45 Finger lunch and meeting of the Board of the TPCP.

12:45 Satellite meetings and research discussions.

THURSDAY 17th May, 2017

Satellite TPCP and CTHB related meetings and field tour group departs.