

## NICOLE VAN VUUREN

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As a young scientist, enthusiastic about microorganisms, I have gained valuable experience in molecular and laboratory techniques, with a particular interest in fungi. I am currently a member of the Applied Mycology group at the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) at the University of Pretoria. I have just completed my MSc which focused on the fungal diversity associated with *Stipagrostis ciliata* fairy circles of the Namib desert, and I will be doing my PhD this year. Throughout my academic career so far, I have gained invaluable experience with microscopy which has allowed me to fulfil the role of the microscope administrator of FABI for two years. The role has allowed me to strengthen my communication and time management skills. Additionally, I have been selected as a co-chairperson for the post-graduate student committee of the Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology department at the University of Pretoria for the period 2022 to 2023. Moreover, I have continued to develop my leadership skills as a lab manager for the year 2023. I also strive to mentor and teach, thus I joined the CPHB Mentorship Program as a mentor.

### EDUCATION

University of Pretoria

#### **PhD Microbiology**

**2023-Present**

Thesis: A novel approach to assess *Penicillium* diversity in soils across South Africa

University of Pretoria

#### **MSc Microbiology**

**2020-2022**

Dissertation: Fungal diversity in Namibian *Stipagrostis* 'fairy circles' including the description of new *Curvularia* species

University of Pretoria

#### **BScHons Microbiology**

**2019**

Report: Characterization of *Paraburkholderia* isolates associated with indigenous legume hosts isolated in South Africa

University of Pretoria

**BSc Microbiology**

**2018**

Major in Microbiology and Biochemistry

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Demonstrator position held for the department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology, University of Pretoria as well as a teaching assistant position for the department.

**Demonstrator-MBY161**

**2019-2022**

Grading of tutorials, semester tests and exams online as well as the preparation and demonstration of practical work.

**Teaching assistant-JTC**

**2023**

Sequencing training and assistance

#### RELATED EXPERIENCE

University of Pretoria

**Tutor training**

**2020-2022**

Completion of an online tutoring course required for demonstration of modules.

University of Pretoria

**Field work**

**2020-2022**

Field trip experience in disease monitoring, pest collection and sample collection

University of Pretoria

**Community service experience**

**2020-2022**

Work study experience completed under the supervision of Dr Neriman Yimaz.

University of Pretoria

**Community service experience**

**2023-Present**

Work study experience completed under the supervision of Prof Cobus Visagie

**Next generation sequencing**

**2021**

Experience in next generation sequencing DNA extraction from environmental soil samples and analysis thereof.

LANGUAGES

English– native language

Afrikaans– native language

MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

**CPHB mentorship program**

CPHB Mentorship program student

**2018**

CPHB Mentor

**2023**

**Mycological Society of America**

**2020**

Member of the Mycological Society of America (MSA)

**South African Society for Plant Pathology**

**2022**

Member of the South African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP)

**Social Club**

**2020-2021, 2023**

Member of the FABI social club, performing administrative duties including meeting minutes and group leadership

**Post graduate student committee**

**2022-Present**

Member of the post graduate student committee of the department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

**Mycological Society of America**

**2020**

Submission of a graphical abstract and abstract

**South African Society for Plant Pathology**

**2022**

Submission of abstract and poster, top 12 for poster presentation

REFERENCES

**Dr Neriman Yilmaz (FABI, University of Pretoria)**

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**Prof Cobus Visagie (FABI, University of Pretoria)**

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**Prof Michael Wingfield (FABI, University of Pretoria)**

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