

ABBREVIATED CV

Professor Bernard Slippers



Bernard Slippers is the Director of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) and Innovation Africa @UP. He is the founding Director of the Future Africa Institute and a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology at the University of Pretoria. 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 micro-organisms and insects that affect plant health, and the development of tools to mitigate their impact. He has received wide recognition for his research, including being listed as a Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Researcher and awarded the Christiaan Hendrik Persoon Gold Medal from the Southern African Society of Plant Pathology. He has published more than 330 papers, an edited book and a number of book chapters, which have been cited more than 18300 times (h-index = 67). He has supervised or is currently supervising or co-supervising 104 postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

Bernard is passionate about science development. He is a founding member of the Global Young Academy (GYA) and the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS). He has served in the leadership of these organizations, including as co-chair of the GYA. He has also initiated and led the Africa Science Leadership Programme. Bernard is an elected fellow of the Academy of Science of South Africa, the Royal Society of South Africa and the World Academy of Science.

Bernard is married to Dr Jana Slippers, and have two daughters, Yvonne and Mia.

Education

- BSc, BSc Hons and MSc, Microbiology, University of the Free State, South Africa
- PhD, 2003, Plant Pathology, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Postdoctoral Fellowship, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

Employment history and relevant appointments

- University of Pretoria, Senior Lecturer (09-2005 to 12-2008), Associate Professor (01-2009 to 12-2012), Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology (formerly Genetics) (01-2013 to present)
- University of Pretoria, Head of Boekenhout (now Tau) Residence (02-2008 to 08-2014) and TuksVillage Residence (02-2016 to 06-2018), including UP Residence Advisory Board and Chairman of Clubhouses (2008-2014)
- University of Pretoria, Project leader and Director: Future Africa Institute (04-2014 to 09-2019)
- University of Pretoria, Management Committee (2006-present) and Director of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) (01-2018 to present)
- Tree Protection Cooperative Programme: Management committee member (2005-present); Director (2018-present)
- Global Young Academy: the voice of young scientists around the world; Founding member, (2010), Executive Committee (2010-2011) and Co-chair (2011-2012)
- South African Young Academy of Science; Founding member and Executive Committee (2011-2012)

- Director: Africa Science Leadership Programme (2015-2021) and Tuks Young Research Leader Programme (2016-2019)
- Planned and oversaw building and establishment of the Quarantine Insect facility and the Biological Control research facility on the UP experimental farm (2008-present), and proposal for substantial expansion of the facilities (2015-2018)
- National Forest Research Forum, DAFF (2017-present), Deputy Chair (2018-present)
- Next Einstein Forum, Scientific Programs Committee; an initiative of AIMS and the Bosch foundation to develop a high profile, continent wide, general science advancement conference (2015-2020)
- Scientific and Strategic Steering Committee (SSSC) of the IRD-CNRS-Cirad (France) joint office in South Africa (2018-2019)
- University of Pretoria, Project leader and Director: Innovation Africa @UP (09-2019 to present)
- Board of Trustees: Africa Agricultural Technology Foundation (2021-2024)

Research output and related activities

- 332 papers in ISI rated, peer reviewed journals, including highly rated journals such as Science, Trends in Ecology and Evolution, Trends in Plant Science, Annual Review of Entomology, amongst others.
- 13 book chapters, and three edited books (two completed, one in press)
- 264 Conference papers and posters, including numerous invited and keynote addresses
- Broad collaborative networks across Africa, Europe, South America, Asia and Australasia
- Served on the editorial panel of several international peer-reviewed journals.
- Regularly reviews for top journals in the field, as well as national and international funding bodies.
- Active participation and leading organization of national and international academic conferences.

Teaching and Postgraduate Training

- Undergraduate teaching in Genetics and Microbiology and Plant Health at second, third and fourth year level, and well as general research process and philosophy teaching at BSc Hons level.
- Supervision and co-supervision of 37 MSc and 34 PhD completed, and 3 MSc and 17 PhD ongoing.
- Supervision of 19 completed 2 ongoing Postdoctoral/Senior Research Fellowships.

Selected awards and recognition

- NRF President's Award, P-rating (2008-2014), B1 (2015-present)
- Andries Brink-Sasol Prize, S2A3 Billiton Bronze Medal, and Junior Captain Scott Medal for best M.Sc. dissertation in Microbiology and Life Sciences at UFS and South Africa (1999, 2000)
- Mellon Foundation Award (1999-2002), Skye Foundation Award (2003) and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (2003-2004) - Support for postgraduate and postdoctoral studies
- International Union of Forestry Research Organisation (IUFRO) Award for Outstanding Doctoral research (2005)
- University of Pretoria (2008, 2009, 2013), Exceptional Young Researcher award, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
- Annual meeting of the New Champions, World Economic Forum, Dalian, China (2009) and Young Scientist Mentor (2011)
- Academy of Science of the Developing World (TWAS) Young Affiliate (2009)
- Southern African Association for the Advancement of Science (S2A3) British Association Medal (Silver) for scientific excellence to a South African scientist under the age of 40 (2010)
- Inaugural AU TWAS Young Scientist national award (2011)
- Inaugural JE Vanderplank award from Southern African Society of Plant Pathology (2013)
- University of Pretoria Chancellors' medal, highest award for research excellence (2016)

- Highly Cited Researcher, top 1% cited researchers in the field of Plant & Animal Science, Clarivate Analytics (2018)
- South African Institute of Forestry, Continuous Service Excellence Award (2018)
- Havenga Prize for Life Sciences from the Academy for Science and Art (2020)
- Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa (2021)
- Christiaan Hendrik Persoon Gold Medal from the Southern African Society of Plant Pathology (2022)
- National Science and Technology Forum of South Africa (NSTF) – South32 Awards, Research and Innovation Management (2024)
- Nominated for an Alexander von Humboldt Research Award, Germany (2024; outcome pending)

Selected papers and commentaries

- Slippers B, Crous PW, Denman S, Coutinho TA, Wingfield BD, Wingfield MJ. 2004. Combined multiple gene genealogies and phenotypic characters differentiate several species previously identified as *Botryosphaeria dothidea*. *Mycologia* 96, 83-101.
- Slippers B. 2012. Small Science: View from Developing Nations. *Science* 338, 882.
- Slippers B. 2013. Young scientists: Public engagement should start early. *Nature* 498, 299-299.
- Slippers B, Boissin E, Phillips AJL, Groenewald JZ, Lombard L, Wingfield MJ, Postma A, Burgess T, Crous PW. 2013. Phylogenetic lineages in the Botryosphaerales: a systematic and evolutionary framework. *Studies in Mycology* 76, 31-49.
- Slippers B, Alisic E. 2015. Leadership training for African scientists. *Nature* 519, 414.
- Slippers B, Hurley BP, Wingfield MJ. 2015a. Sirex Woodwasp: A model for evolving management paradigms of invasive forest pests. *Annual Review of Entomology* 60, 601-619.
- Slippers B, Vogel C, Fioramonti L. 2015b. Global trends and opportunities for development of African research universities. *South African Journal of Science* 111, 01-04.
- Wingfield MJ, Brockerhoff EG, Wingfield BD, Slippers B. 2015. Planted forest health: The need for a global strategy. *Science* 349, 832-836.
- Vivas M, Kemler M, Mphahlele MM, Wingfield MJ, Slippers B. 2017. Maternal effects on phenotype, resistance and the structuring of fungal communities in *Eucalyptus grandis*. *Environmental and Experimental Botany* 140, 120-127.
- Slippers B. 2020. The Plant Disease Pyramid: The relevance of the original vision of plant pathology in 2020. *South African Journal of Science*, 116.
- Slippers B, Hurley BP, Allison J. 2020. Harnessing the potential of Precision Pest Management in plantation forests. *Southern Forests: A Journal of Forest Science* 82, 197–201.
- Messal M, Vivas M, Kemler M, Begerow D, Brachmann A, Witfeld F, Naidoo S, Slippers B. 2022. Fungal communities of *Eucalyptus grandis* leaves are influenced by the insect pest *Leptocybe invasa*. *Frontiers in Microbiology* 13, 841621.