

ABBRIDGED CURRICULUM VITAE – Brenda Wingfield
(Aug 2016)

Brenda Diana Wingfield was born in Livingstone, Zambia. Her family relocated to Zimbabwe just after she started school and she completed her primary and secondary education in this country. Brenda discovered a passion for Genetics in High School and chose to attend the University of Natal (South Africa), Pietermaritzburg campus for her Bachelors degree where she majored in Genetics and Biochemistry. After that she moved to Cape Town to obtain her Honours degree in Medical Biochemistry at the University of Cape Town. She worked briefly for the Medical Research Council's Institute for Electron Microscopy in 1980. She then enrolled for an M.Sc. degree in Biochemistry at the University of Minnesota (USA) in 1981 studying replication and transcription of the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus. On completing her M.Sc. she returned to South Africa and worked for two years in a research position in the Dept of Biochemistry at UCT. She subsequently joined the Microbiology Dept at the University of Stellenbosch as a Research Officer. Shortly there after she registered for her PhD, studying yet another virus system, this time in yeasts.

Brenda started her academic career when she accepted a position in the Dept of Microbiology at the University of the Orange Free State in 1989. During her stay in Bloemfontein she developed a research programme with a focus on the Molecular Phylogeny and Taxonomy of Tree Pathogenic fungi. It was at this stage that she joined forces with her husband Mike Wingfield who was already recognised internationally for his research in Mycology and Plant Pathology. The couple moved their collective research programmes to the University of Pretoria in 1998 where they started the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI). Brenda joined the Dept of Genetics in Pretoria and has continued to nurture her research programme which focuses on the Molecular Genetics and Genomics of Plant Pathogenic fungi. She and collaborators sequenced the first fungal genome in Africa.

Brenda has been a National Research Foundation (NRF) rated Scientist for many years and is internationally recognised as a research leader in her field. She has published more than 350 peer reviewed scientific articles and trained 46 Masters and 48 PhD students. She travels internationally on a regular basis and has active research collaborations with Scientists in her field all over the world. She has been the Secretary General of the International Society of Plant Pathology since 2013.

Brenda is a Research Leader of the DST - NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology and holds the DST/NRF SARCHI research chair in Fungal Genomics. Brenda is also very active in the scientific community promoting Science and Science Excellence at every level. She has served on a number of committees and panels nationally in this context. She was Chairman of the NSTF (National Science and Technology Forum) and the Vice Chairman of the board of Trustees of PlantBio one of the national Biotechnology Innovation centres. She is one of the vice-Presidents of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). She was Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Science for seven years at the University of Pretoria. During this period she also served as Acting Dean for 7 months.

Brenda is a wife and mother. She collaborates extensively with her husband Prof Mike Wingfield who is a Plant Pathologist and Founding Director of FABI. The couple have two children, Anthony (31) and Beverley (27) who provide occasional yet welcome reprieve from a life that is predominantly dedicated to Science.

SELECTED ITEMS IN POINT FORM

EDUCATION AND POSITION

1986-1989	University of Stellenbosch.	Ph.D. [Biotechnology/Microbiology]
1981-1984	University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.	M.Sc. [Biochemistry]
1979	University of Cape Town.	B.Sc. (Med) Hons. [Biochemistry]
1976-1978	University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.	B.Sc. [Genetics and Biochemistry]

EMPLOYMENT

1980	Research Assistant , Institute for Electron Microscopy, MRC.
1981-1983	Research Assistant , University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota
1984-1986	Research Officer , Department of Biochemistry, UCT.
1986-1989	Researcher , Institute for Biotechnology, University of Stellenbosch.
1989-1990	Lecturer/Researcher , Dept. Microbiology & Biochemistry, UOFS.
1991-1996	Senior Lecturer , Dept. Microbiology and Biochemistry, UOFS.
1996-1997	Associate Professor , Dept. Microbiology & Biochemistry, UOFS.
1994-2003	Director , Forest Molecular Biology Co-operative Programme (FMBC).
1997-Present	Professor , Dept. Genetics, University of Pretoria (UP).
2004-2009	Programme Manager , DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology
2004-Present	Research Leader , DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology
2009-2016	Deputy Dean , Faculty Natural & Agricultural Science, UP.
2014-2015	Acting Dean , Faculty Natural & Agricultural Science, UP.
2016-Present	DST/NRF SARChI Research Chair in Fungal Genomics

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS (among others)

- Author of more than 350 papers in international (ISI listed) peer review journals.
- Listed on ISI Essential Science Indicators, h-factor 46.
- Author or Co-author of more than 200 presentations at International Congresses.
- Author or Co-author of more than 250 presentations at National Congresses
- Advisor or Co-advisor of 51 Masters and 50 PhD students.
- Projects and research grants concerning genetics and genomics of tree pathogens supported by organisations worldwide.

SENIOR MEMBERSHIPS, APPOINTMENTS, AWARDS AND HONOURS (among others)

- Member of Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) council 2013 – present [current vice president]
- Member of Expert committee for Biotechnology Strategy (2001) for South Africa
- Member of the Board of Trustees of PlantBio (2004 – present) Current vice Chairperson
- Vice Chairman Board of Trustees of PlantBio (2007 – present)
- Chairman of the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF 2007-2014)
- Winner Dept. Water Affairs and Forestry Women in Water, Sanitation and Forestry Research Award 2007
- Winner Department of Science and Technology Distinguished Women in Science Award 2008
- Winner African Union Women in Science Regional (Southern) Award (2009)
- Panel for European Research Commission (ERC) LS9, Brussels 2016 and 2018
- Recipient of the Harry Oppenheimer Memorial Fellowship Award 2015