

FABIAN THROUGH TO THE FAMELAB SOUTH AFRICA FINALS

PhD student Darryl Herron was selected the regional winner in the fourth heat of the South African leg of the FameLab competition at Science Forum South Africa, held at the CSIR, in December. Darryl will compete with other regional winners to earn a spot to represent South Africa at the Cheltenham Science Festival in the United Kingdom in 2018.

Darryl's talk aimed to show how easy it is to spread pests and pathogens through plants and their products. Using a travel bag and a bunch of bananas, Darryl showed how easily one could smuggle a diseased plant from one country to another. During his talk he spoke about panama disease and the devastation that it caused for the global banana industry. As he spoke, Darryl built a bomb to demonstrate the ticking time bomb some plants will be when infected with dangerous plant pathogens.



Darryl Herron

FameLab is one of the biggest and most exciting science communication competitions in the world; looking to find new voices in science, technology, engineering, maths and innovation (STEMI). The aim of the competition is to get young scientists to present and explain a scientific concept to a general audience in three minutes without slides.

FameLab is held in 25 countries with the winner in each country going on to represent their country and their science in an international final at the Times Cheltenham Science Festival in the United Kingdom.