

## FABIANS PRESENT RESEARCH AT WORKSHOP ON GENETICS OF TREE-PARASITE INTERACTIONS IN FRANCE

Two PhD students, Ronishree Mangwanda and Caryn Oates, postdoctoral fellow María Vivas, and a senior lecturer, Irene Barnes, attended and presented their research findings at the 5th International Workshop on the Genetics of Tree-Parasite Interactions. The Workshop was held from 23-28 August in the city of Orléans in France, and brought together phytopathologists, entomologists, geneticists, evolutionary biologists, breeders and managers.

The main topics of the Workshop were:

- Resistance / tolerance and virulence / aggressiveness mechanisms
- Breeding and management strategies for durable resistance in a changing environment
- Host-parasite co-evolution
- Novel host-parasite interactions due to emerging or non-native pests and pathogens
- Population genetics of pests, pathogens and vectors.
- New frontiers in tree-parasite interactions: from genes to landscape and communities

The FABlans also visited public and a private forests, where they had the opportunity to have a closer look at pine red band needle blight, poplar rust and oak dieback.

The titles of their presentations were:

Caryn Oates, Myburg A, Slippers B, Naidoo S, Denby K. A preliminary view of *Leptocybe invasa*-induced gall development and host transcriptional responses in a susceptible *Eucalyptus grandis* hybrid clone.

Ronishree Mangwanda, Van der Merwe A, Myburg A, Naidoo S. Transcriptional profiling of *Eucalyptus grandis* and *Chrysosporthe austroafricana* elucidates host defence mechanisms and putative pathogenicity strategies.

María Vivas, Kemler M, Slippers B. Environmental maternal effects on the early phenotype and resistance of *Eucalyptus grandis* and the structuring of fungal endophytic communities.

Irene Barnes, Rodas CA, Granados GM, Wingfield MJ. A population genetics approach yields and enhanced understanding of the *Dothistroma* needle blight invasion in Colombia.



**Left to right: Ronishree Mangwanda, Irene Barnes, Caryn Oates and Maria Vivas**