

# FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT



52<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the  
*Southern African Society for  
Plant Pathology*

**1 - 3 AUGUST 2022**

**Future Africa, University of Pretoria**



*The 52<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP) will be held at the Future Africa campus of the University of Pretoria from 1 – 3 August 2022.*

The theme of the congress is “The Future of Plant Health” with Prof Sophien Kamoun as the first confirmed keynote speaker.

Prof Kamoun is a senior scientist at the Sainsbury Laboratory and professor of biology at the University of East Anglia (UEA) and is known for contributions to our understanding of plant diseases and plant immunity.<sup>[6]</sup>

He used genomics and molecular biology methods to obtain insights into the biology and evolution of eukaryotic plant pathogens.<sup>[5]</sup> He discovered virulence effector families from plant pathogens and showed how they can modulate plant immunity.<sup>[5]</sup> He demonstrated how antagonistic coevolution with host plants has impacted the architecture of pathogen genomes, accelerated the evolution of effector genes, and drove the emergence of immune receptor networks.<sup>[5]</sup>

After his PhD, Kamoun worked at the National Science Foundation (NSF) Center for Engineering Plants for Resistance Against Pathogens at the University of California, Davis,<sup>[8]</sup> and at the Department of Phytopathology (Wageningen University, Netherlands). He was on the faculty of the Department of Plant Pathology (Ohio State University, Wooster campus) from 1998 to 2007, before joining The Sainsbury Laboratory in 2007. He served as Head of The Sainsbury Laboratory from 2009 to 2014 and also holds the rank of professor of biology at the University of East Anglia. Kamoun served as president of the International Society for Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions from 2012-2014.<sup>[9]</sup>

## **Theme and Abstract submissions:**

*The congress theme will include six sub-themes:*

- Molecular Biology
- Genomics
- Applied Pathology
- Climate Change
- Host- pathogen/insect interactions
- Digital Technology in Plant Pathology

**Abstracts of 350 words are invited to be submitted via the online platform [here](#)**

## **Key dates:**

**15 March 2022:**  
*Submission deadline for oral and poster abstracts*

**18 April 2022:**  
*Notification of Acceptance/Rejection*

**18 April 2022:**  
*Online registration opens*

**30 April 2022:**  
*Provisional Programme available*

**3 June 2022:**  
*Early bird registration closes*

**18 July 2022:**  
*Online registration closes*

**1 – 3 August 2022:**  
*Congress dates*

**[www.saspp2022.carlamani.com](http://www.saspp2022.carlamani.com)**

For scientific and technical enquiries

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