

RESUMÉ

Prof Melané Vivier (Professor in Grapevine Biotechnology)

Tel. 021-8083773; E-mail: mav@sun.ac.za

Vision statement: To establish and promote the grapevine molecular biology and biotechnology programme of our institute, creating new knowledge in our chosen areas of study, developing and optimising technologies, and delivering academic outputs of a high standard. Furthermore, to attract students to take part in research in our environment, providing guidance and opportunities to enable them to launch their own scientific, academic or industry careers. To do all of this in a stimulating and forward-looking environment (IWBT/DVO, US, industry and community) and to play a role in establishing and supporting such an environment. To contribute to positive leadership to our environment and to enjoy what I do.



PERSONAL INFORMATION

41 years

Married with two children

QUALIFICATIONS

- BSc (Microbiology and Botany), Stellenbosch University, 1987.
- HonsBSc (Microbiology), *cum laude*, Stellenbosch University, 1988.
- MSc (Microbiology), *cum laude*, Stellenbosch University, 1992. "Characterisation of races of *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *malvacearum* with SDS-PAGE and DNA restriction fragment analysis".
- PhD (Microbiology), Stellenbosch University, 1997. "Transcriptional and translational initiation of the glucoamylase and mucin genes in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*."

NRF RATING

- Y1, 2002.

WORKING EXPERIENCE

Academic experience: ca. 18 years

- Agricultural Researcher, Tobacco and Cotton Research Institute, Rustenburg, 1989 – 1991.
- Temporary Lecturer/Project leader – Wine Biotechnology, Institute for Wine Biotechnology (IWBT), Stellenbosch University, 1997 – 1998.
- Senior Lecturer/Project leader – Grapevine Biotechnology, Department of Viticulture and Oenology (DVO) and IWBT, SU, 1998 – 2002.
- Associate Professor/Project leader – Grapevine Biotechnology, DVO and IWBT, SU, 2003 – November 2006.
- Professor/Project leader – Grapevine Biotechnology, DVO and IWBT, SU, since December 2006.
- Chair: IWBT, since 2003.
- Chair: DVO and IWBT, since 2004.

TRAINING COURSES ATTENDED

- Orientation course for new lecturing staff, SOL, 1999.

AWARDS, BURSARIES/SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships

- Stipend from Tobacco and Cotton Council, 1985 – 1988.
- Award for best Botany student, 1987.

- Stipend from the Foundation for Research Development, 1992 - 1994.
- Stipend from the Harry Crossley Foundation for study abroad, 1993-1994.
- Senior Research Fellowship, 1995 – 1997.
- Highest scoring Research Niche Area (RNA) in the developed RNA category award by the Institutional Research Development Programme (IRDP), 2007.

TEACHING

Undergraduate teaching courses

- Lectures in Plant Improvement in Viticulture/Oenology 244 and Viticulture 344

Postgraduate teaching courses

- Molecular biology of core aspects of grapevine growth and metabolism – Hons. level course for Viticulture students (Vit 712).
- Grapevine molecular biology and biotechnology (WBT 743 – Hons. level course for postgraduate students in the IWBT)

Postgraduate supervision

- Graduates: 19
 - Supervisor for D-degrees 5
 - Co-supervisor for D-degrees 0
 - Supervisor for M-degrees 13
 - Co-supervisor for M-degree 1
- Registered students: 7
 - Supervisor for D-students 2
 - Co-supervisor for D-student 1
 - Supervisor for M-students 3
 - Co-supervisor for M-student 1

RESEARCH

Research programme

- Established research programme with the focus on grapevine molecular biology and biotechnology, and with 8 running projects for the wine industry, deciduous fruit industry, NRF and THRIP. One of these projects are within the NRF Wine Science Research Niche Area.
- Leader of the Wine Science Research Niche Area of the NRF.

Research collaborators

- University of La Sapienza, Italy (Profs Cervone and De Lorenzo). Student/scientific visits, scientific exchange.

- AIPlanta, Neustadt an de Weinstrasse, Germany (Dr Reustle). SA-German-Bilateral agreement, 2001 – 2006.
- CSIRO Division of Horticulture, Adelaide, Australia (Dr Thomas). Scientific exchange and co-publication.
- Volcani Centre, Israel (Prof Perl). Collaborator on tissue culture systems.
- Wageningen University Plant Sciences, The Netherlands (Prof Van Kan). Scientific exchange and co-publication.
- Dept. of Genetics, SU (Prof Burger). Contract grapevine transformations for his programme.
- DVO, SU (Prof Goussard). Collaboration on rootstock transformations and field trials of transgenic grapevines.
- Istituto Agrario San Michele all'Adige, Italy (Dr Velasco). SA-Italy-Bilateral Agreement. 2005 – 2007.
- Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, University of Georgia, Athens, USA (Dr Bergmann). Student/scientific exchange and co-publication.
- Plant Sciences Department, University of California, Davis, USA. Scientific exchange (Dr Powell and Labawitch).

Research grants

- Establishing grant from the University of Stellenbosch for young researchers, 1998.
- Research grants for projects funded by Mondi Forests, 2001 – 2002.
- Research grants for projects funded by Winetech, the Deciduous Fruit Producers Trust and THRIP (approximately R13 million over the period), 1998 – 2006.
- Research Niche Area (RNA) on Wine Science (with co-applicants), 2006, funding started in 2007.

Research outputs (since 1995)

▪ Papers in refereed scientific journals 16
▪ Chapters in books 1
▪ Popular scientific articles 3
▪ Published conference proceedings 1
▪ Abstracts of papers at conferences	.. 104
- international	61
- national	43

SERVICES

Managerial services for DVO and IWBT management teams

- Chair, DVO and IWBT Management Committees, since 2004.
- Principal Investigator in SunBio, a pre-startup biotechnology company of the IWBT, since 2005.
- Research Niche Area Leader of the Wine RNA, since 2006.
- Project leader of grapevine molecular biology and biotechnology research group.
- Supervisor for 9 academic, 2 administrative and 5 technical staff members.

Membership of SU's committees/boards

- Member, Faculty Board for AgriSciences, since 1998.
- Member, Senate, since 2003.
- Member of Programme Advisory Committee, since 2003
- Co-opted member of numerous appointment committees of senate for the appointment of academic positions (continuous)

Membership of professional societies and committees

- Member, South African Society for Microbiology (SASM), since 1989.
- Member, South African Society for Plant Pathology (SAPP), 1989 - 1992.
- Member, South African Society for Enology and Viticulture (SASEV), since 1997.
- Member, South African Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SASBM), since 1998.
- Member, Experimental Biology Group (EBG), since 1996.
- Member, Organizing Committee for the Eighteenth International Congress on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology; 1996-1997.
- Member, Winetech's Industry Committee, since 2001.
- Member, Winetech's peer-review panel on Biotechnology, since 1999.
- Member, Deciduous Fruit Board Producers Trust's peer-review panels on Biotechnology and Table Grape Production, respectively, since 1999.
- Member, strategic workgroup of the National Biotechnology Strategy for Plant Biotechnology, 2002.
- Member of the organizing committee of the 14th International *Botrytis* Symposium, Cape Town 2007; Chair of the scientific committee.

Other professional services

- Internal examiner, 8 theses/dissertations, Stellenbosch University.
- External examiner, 4 theses/dissertations from other universities.
- Reviewer of scientific journal articles for Plant Molecular Microbe Interactions, Transgenic Research and South African Journal of Viticulture and Oenology.
- Reviewer for research proposals for the National Research Foundation (NRF), continuous.
- Member, Editorial board of the *South African Journal for Enology and Viticulture*, which is published by SASEV, specifically for Plant Biotechnology articles.

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