



The University of Pretoria's Biodiscovery Centre and the African Centre for Gene Technologies (ACGT) will be hosting the natural products specialist

Professor Ian Tietjen



Theme: African natural product and medicinal plant leads against HIV and SARS-CoV-2

Prof. Ian Tietjen will give a seminar on: "**African natural product and medicinal plant leads against HIV and SARS-CoV-2**". The seminar will describe their progress in collaborating with traditional healers and documenting medicinal plants traditionally used for HIV/AIDS management in Southern Africa. Prof. Tietjen will further describe the characterisation of latency reversal agents' (LRAs) properties of these plants and identification of their active chemical compounds. The presentation will review their ongoing progress to investigate these plants at the molecular level as well as characterise their antiviral chemical constituents.



Date: 14 August 2023

Arrival and registration: 09:30-10:00

Presentation: 10:00-11:00

Discussion: 11:00-11:30

Networking: 11:30-12:00

Venue: Library Auditorium, Merensky 2 Building, University of Pretoria, Hatfield

Prof. Ian Tietjen joined the Wistar Institute in 2020 in Philadelphia, USA as a Research Assistant Professor and as Head of Wistar's Small Molecule Discovery and Pharmacognosy Group. His research focuses on mechanisms of viral pathogenesis and antiviral development, particularly from natural product and traditional medicine sources, and with a focus on HIV, SARS-CoV-2, yellow fever virus, and influenza. He also engages with local communities, medicinal plant healers, and other knowledge keepers to collaboratively and sustainably document and elucidate the bioactivities of traditional medicines used in Sub-Saharan Africa, Canada, and elsewhere.

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