CONNECTED

Community Network for African Vector-Borne Plant Viruses

www.connectedvirus.net

Newsletter - Number 3 - May 2018

CONNECTED Africa Launch Conference

Our Africa Launch Conference took place in early May in Kampala, Uganda. Thank you to all who attended, presented and contributed so much to a successful event.

We are particularly grateful to all at NaCRRI and NARO for hosting the second day of the conference, and to Scriptoria for facilitating a two-day training workshop aimed at early career researchers, which concluded conference week.

Here's a report on the conference:

Conference confirms network's growing strength

A plant science conference in Uganda which drew together dozens of world-class researchers from across Sub-Saharan Africa and the UK this month has confirmed the growing strength of a network whose collaborations promise to deliver solutions to devastating crop diseases in the years ahead.

Delegates from 10 African countries joined counterparts from the UK at the CONNECTED Virus Network Africa Launch Conference, which took place in Kampala, Uganda, from 7-9 May. It was immediately followed by a two-day training workshop aimed at early career researchers looking to develop skills including research grant proposal writing.

Read more … you can find the full report of the conference using this link.

Pump-prime funding update

Applications for the CONNECTED Virus Network's first pump-prime funding call opened in March 2018 … and applications for the second call will become available later in 2018.

For the first round, a preliminary 'expression of interest' process concluded in early April, attracting dozens of funding proposals. Those selected to progress to the full application stage were given until 24 June to submit their full proposal.

Grants of up to £30,000 are being made available, though a small number of larger projects up to £90,000 may be funded. Projects should run for between three and 12 months and should lead to relevant and useful outputs for this field or produce pilot data that can be used in larger grant applications to national / international funders.

For more information on the next funding call go to the ‘funding’ page of the CONNECTED website. To receive the first news when the next call goes live, sign up to join the network: it's free and easy to do so.

Looking ahead to the rest of 2018

As we look to grow the CONNECTED network over the coming months, plans are in hand to:

- Open the second of our two pump-prime funding calls
- Kick-off an innovative Training Voucher scheme, with funding to enable visits to UK research institutions
- Put in place plans for a CONNECTED Development Programme, to be run in 2019
- Expand the resources available on the CONNECTED website, particularly those available to support network members
- Develop elements of the project to encourage people from other research areas to work with us, making it a truly interdisciplinary project

The best way to get involved in the development of this growing network is to join us, which you can do here.

Video interviews featuring delegates during Africa Launch Conference

During our Africa Launch Conference a series of video interviews took place, allowing a number of delegates to voice their thoughts about a range of issues including:
• The importance of the network in creating exciting new collaborations of researchers and scientists worldwide
• The emphasis the network is placing on supporting early-career researchers

Link to the CONNECTED website's video page

And finally … Our quarterly newsletters

The engagement and interest of members in our growing network is such that we are looking to change the way we provide newsletter updates. Starting in summer 2018 we plan to begin a monthly e-mail newsletter for all our network members. Watch this space for more information.

The best way to keep informed – and to receive these newsletters - is to join the network, which you can do here.

GCRF Global Challenges Research Fund   University of BRISTOL   Newcastle University   Funded by UK Government