

21 September 2009

Dear Colleague

We would like to invite you once again to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Rodent Biology and Management, held from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

We also wish to announce the Calls for Registration, Abstracts, and Funding for Students and Persons from Developing Countries, Important Dates and refer to other important information with regards to ICRBM4.

### **Program**

The ICRBM4 meeting will bring together scientists from all over the world that study the wide variety of rodent species, populations and communities, across the various scientific disciplines. This wide variety of topics (see Call for Abstracts, below) will be addressed through a series of oral and poster presentations. Six plenary lectures will be given by world-renowned scientists in their fields. More detail on both the academic and social programs will be available on the website <http://www.icrbm.org/> from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

### **Registration**

Registration opens on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 and will be done online (<http://www.icrbm.org/>). For those who require assistance with this process, registration forms will also be available from the Conference Secretary ([Ralle.stg@ufs.ac.za](mailto:Ralle.stg@ufs.ac.za)) and can be submitted by e-mail or fax.

**Registration fees** (for conversion from South African Rand see <http://www.gocurrency.com/>)

Registration fees include the following: attendance to all symposia and plenaries, conference bag with program and abstract book, the welcoming cocktail function, the mid-week tour and braai ("barbecue"), all coffees, teas and lunches, pickup to and from the airport (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday-morning 17<sup>th</sup> April, respectively).

Full registration: R2 500

Late registration (after 10 February 2010): R2 800

Full-time Students: R1 800

Late registration (after 10 February 2010): R1 900

Day registration: R600

Late registration (after 10 February 2010): R650

Accompanying persons: R1 000 - includes admission to the welcoming cocktail function, mid-week tour and braai, pickup from and return to the airport (at the specific days mentioned above), and free transport to specially planned venues and historical sites during times when the academic program is in session. No teas, coffees or lunches are included.

## Call for Abstracts

The submission of abstracts opens 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009. While participants are invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations within the following eight symposia, submissions on the following topics will be considered:

- Diversity, Taxonomy and Genetics;
- Population dynamics;
- Ecology and Behaviour;
- Physiology;
- Sociology/cultural aspects and Economics;
- Diseases and Host-disease interactions;
- Management: Agriculture, Urban, Rodenticides;
- Conservation and Management of invasive rodents.

Abstracts can be submitted online or via e-mail to either Nico Avenant [navenant@nasmus.co.za](mailto:navenant@nasmus.co.za) or Lyn Hinds [Lyn.Hinds@csiro.au](mailto:Lyn.Hinds@csiro.au).

The details required are as follows:

Title (in bold capital letters; not more than 25 words; Center alignment).

Authors (list all authors; underline the name of the presenting author; Center alignment)

Institutions (in italics, list the institutions of all authors; Justify alignment)

E-mail address of the presenting author (in italics)

Abstract (not more than 300 words)

Font: Arial, letter size 11

E.g.

### **MATING SYSTEM OF THE MULTIMAMMATE MOUSE *MASTOMYS NATALENSIS***

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<sup>3</sup>*Resource Ecology Group, Wageningen University and Research Centre, Bornsesteeg 69, 6708 PD Wageningen, The Netherlands*

<sup>4</sup>*Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, N1G 2W1*

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The multimammate mouse, *Mastomys natalensis*, occurs in grasslands throughout sub-Saharan Africa and is a known agriculture and health pest. In Tanzania, the species exhibits irregular outbreaks leading to heavy crop damage. Much of the species' ecology is well known from field and laboratory studies but the mating system in the field remains unknown due to its cryptic behaviour. We conducted two microsatellite studies on the mating system of *M. natalensis* in fallow fields in Morogoro, Tanzania. The first study involved monthly Capture-Mark-Recapture (CMR) in two fenced areas of 0.5 ha each. During the CMR study, all animals were marked by toe clipping and toe clippings were kept for molecular analysis.

NB: Maximum of two orals per presenter will be considered, however the number of posters is unlimited.

### **Call for Funding**

Contributing students and scientists from Developing Countries may apply for financial assistance to attend ICRBM4. Applicants will have to motivate their attendance, while applicants with partial funding will be at an advantage. An Application form will be available on the website as well as from Duncan MacFadyen [Duncan.MacFadyen@eoson.co.za](mailto:Duncan.MacFadyen@eoson.co.za).

The application process starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009, with the deadline on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

### **Venue:**

The conference will be held at the C.R Swart Auditorium, University of the Free State campus, Bloemfontein, South Africa. For more information and maps please see our website.

### **Accommodation:**

A list of 32 hotels and guest houses in the immediate vicinity of the UFS campus has been compiled and will be presented on the website. Although most delegates will be able to walk the distance between the conference venue and their accommodation with ease, transfers to and from the conference venue will, along a specific route, be available at a nominal amount. Costs for single rooms vary between R250 and c.R1 000 per night (average c.R380, breakfast included). Almost all accommodation is within easy walking distance from shopping malls and/or the Bloemfontein Waterfront.

### **Important Dates:**

Registration opens: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009

Deadline for early registration: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Abstracts open: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009

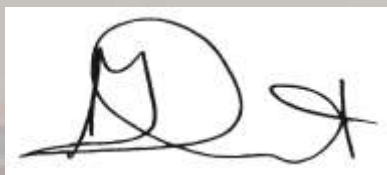
Deadline for abstract submission: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Application for funding opens (students and scientists from Developing countries): 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009

Deadline for Application for funding: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### **Official Invitation Letter**

Official invitation letters are available on request. Please see website or send your request to Nico Avenant [navenant@nasmus.co.za](mailto:navenant@nasmus.co.za).



**N.L. Avenant**  
**Chair: ICRBM4 Local Organising Committee**