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Working Group Bioprospecting

1	Name(s) of coordinator(s), including title, proposing the working group																
	David Katerere, Dr Dejan Stojkovic Antifungal (Phytoalexins) Bioprospecting Group																
2	Coordinator(s) full contact information, including voice/fax numbers																
	<table><tr><td>Dr David Katerere</td><td>Dejan Stojković</td></tr><tr><td>PROMECC Unit</td><td>Mycological laboratory</td></tr><tr><td>Medical Research Council</td><td>Department of Plant Physiology</td></tr><tr><td>P.O. Box 19070</td><td>Institute for Biological Research "Sinisa Stankovic"</td></tr><tr><td>Tygerberg 7505</td><td>Bulevar Despota Stefana 142,</td></tr><tr><td>Cape Town, RSA.</td><td>11000 Belgrade, Serbia</td></tr><tr><td>Tel - +27219380298</td><td>Tel: +381112078419</td></tr><tr><td>Fax - +27219380260</td><td>mrjs@ibiss.bg.ac.yu</td></tr></table>	Dr David Katerere	Dejan Stojković	PROMECC Unit	Mycological laboratory	Medical Research Council	Department of Plant Physiology	P.O. Box 19070	Institute for Biological Research "Sinisa Stankovic"	Tygerberg 7505	Bulevar Despota Stefana 142,	Cape Town, RSA.	11000 Belgrade, Serbia	Tel - +27219380298	Tel: +381112078419	Fax - +27219380260	mrjs@ibiss.bg.ac.yu
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3	Names and contact information of working group members																
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Please provide a brief description (500-1000 words) of the working group, including its objectives and expected outcomes, with a timeline as to when the outcomes will be met

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Working Group Bioprospecting

Eighty percent of the world's population relies exclusively on traditional herbal medicines, and there is renewed interest in bioprospecting for lead compounds from natural products. Phytoalexins are compounds produced by plants as defense against microbial invasion and these are the main focal point for the WG.

The WG aims to bring together and build a network of multidisciplinary scientists from mycologists, microbiologists to ethnobotanists and pharmaceutical / organic chemists in order to work together and exchange ideas and materials in the bioprospecting of phytoalexins. The WG will also explore the use and validation of in vitro and in vivo biological assays for anti-fungal activity testing and facilitate exchange of cultures, compounds and personnel.

The projects around which collaboration will be built will involve research into the biological properties of secondary metabolites from plants and their application in human health and environmental problems caused by fungi. Owing to the continuing development of microbial resistance in medicine and agriculture, discovery of new antimicrobial substances is an important, if not urgent, research objective. In addition, the desire for safer chemicals with less environmental and mammalian toxicity is a major concern.

Particularly desirable is the discovery of novel prototype chemotherapeutic agents representing new chemical classes that operate by different modes of action than existing agents and, consequently, lack cross-resistance to chemicals currently used.

This WG aims to bring together multi-disciplinary collaboration and allow for capacity development and inter-country co-operation.

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5	<p>Expected duration of the working group's operations:</p> <p>Exchange of students and staff across regions</p> <p>Exchange information and materials (fungal cultures, test compounds etc)</p> <p>Build collaborations world-wide in the area of bioprospecting</p>
6	<p>If you are applying for ISHAM funds, could you please provide the names and contact information of professional societies, commercial vendors, private foundations, governmental organizations, etc., from which you have also requested funding for your working groups.</p> <p>N / A at this stage.</p>
7	<p>If requesting financial support from ISHAM, please provide a preliminary budget including the initial sum requested and justification for each of the items listed</p>
8	<p>If ISHAM does provide funding, to whom should the support be directed, e.g., coordinators' internal funds management organization – NOTE – Funds will NOT be transferred to any individual.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To coordinators