



**WELCOME TO THE  
2026 MEETING ON  
TREE-FUNGUS  
SPECIES  
INTERACTIONS**

UMBS, Michigan

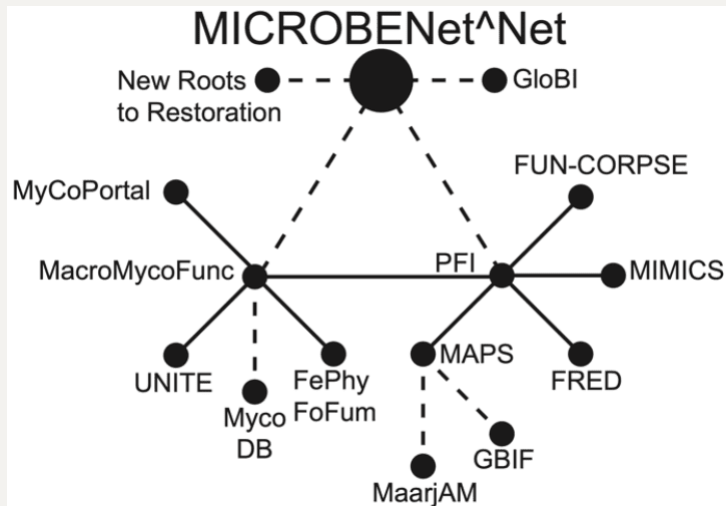
June 17-21, 2026

# HOW IT STARTED



- **Dmitry Schigel, Ph. D.**
  - Wood ecology: beetles and wood-decaying fungi
  - Beetle fungivory, biodiversity of dead wood, education and outreach
  - GBIF lead scientific officer: global biodiversity data
- **Maria Shumskaya, Ph. D.**
  - Biochemistry of plants and fungi
  - Secondary metabolism
  - Dead wood fungi, metabolism of tree-fungus interactions
- **MicrobeNet<sup>^</sup>Net**
  - Collaborative solutions to plant-microbial ecosystem challenges
  - NSF funding for networking (University of Kansas)

# MICROBENET^NET



- “Network of networks” that connects and amplifies the work of microbial ecologists worldwide
- Acceleration of scientific discovery and advancement of our understanding of plant-fungal interactions
- Drs. Benjamin Sikes (PI), Amy Zanne, Aimée Classen, and Stephanie Kivlin
- NSF AccelNet grant # 2412561 award in 2024, University of Kansas

# GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY (GBIF.ORG)



- Free and open access to biodiversity data
- International network and data infrastructure funded by the world's governments and aimed at providing anyone, anywhere, open access to data about all types of life on Earth
- Secretariat in Copenhagen

**ABOUT THE  
MEETING**



# PURPOSE AND CONTEXT OF THE 2026 MEETING

## **Focus on Tree-Fungus Interactions**

The meeting advances understanding of fungi and tree interactions from molecular to ecosystem scales.

## **MicrobeNet<sup>^</sup>Net Initiative**

Part of MicrobeNet, the meeting fosters global scientific networks in microbial ecology and biodiversity.

## **Scientific Exchange and Collaboration**

The meeting creates a space to share findings, identify gaps, and promote collaborative research efforts. Emphasis is on early-career researchers.

# **PARTICIPANTS AND THEMES**



## NATURAL HISTORY OF DEAD WOOD

# Dmitry Schigel,

*Denmark, GBIF*

**06/18, 9.30 am – 10:30 am**

- Drivers in saproxylic research
- Dead wood dynamics and ecosystem
- Tree-fungi interactions
- Dead wood research and outreach and education in Eurasia



## DEAD WOOD AND OUTREACH

# Maria Shumskaya

*Kean University, New Jersey, USA*

**10:30 am – 11.00 am**

- How to blend teaching and research in academia
- Outreach or what to do to support public interest



**NATURAL HISTORY  
OF DEAD WOOD**

# **Baptiste Wijas**

*University of New South Wales, Australia*

**06/18, 8.00 pm – 9.00 pm (remotely)**

- Carbon and nutrient cycling
- Tree-fungi interactions
- Deadwood decay process and measurements



**SAPROXYLIC  
INSECTS IN TREE-  
FUNGI  
INTERACTIONS**

## **Clayton Traylor**

*Temple University, Pennsylvania, USA*

**06/18, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm (field)**

**06/19, 10.00 am – 11.00 am (presentation)**

- Insects as dispersals of fungal spores
- Response of saproxylic beetles to land use changes
- Role in biodiversity



**CHEMISTRY  
BETWEEN TREES  
AND FUNGI!**

# Adam Negrin

*Kean University, New Jersey, USA*

**06/20, 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm**

- Metabolomics of polypore fungi and trees
- Chemical diversity of different cogeneric species and geographic origins
- Source of bioactive compounds



**MYCORRHIZAL  
FUNGI**

## **Victoria Vignale**

*Instituto de Biología Subtropical (IBS),  
Puerto Iguazú (CONICET-UNAM),  
Argentina*

**06/20, 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm**

- Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi
- Role in plant performance and ecosystem processes



## **DATABASES AND GBIF**

# **Dmitry Schigel**

**06/20, 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm**

- Principles of data publishing
- GBIF as a platform for data discovery

# STUDENTS

Kean University, New Jersey, USA

- Shahzaib Tahir
- Aahana Shani

# NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

## **Plant-Biotic interactions program**

Support from NSF and NIFA (USDA)

NSF Award 2447179

NIFA Award 2026-67039-45932

to Shumskaya, Kean University, New Jersey, USA

**UNIVERSITY OF  
MICHIGAN  
BIOLOGICAL STATION  
(UMBS)**

# THANK YOU FOR HOSTING!



- **Aimee Classen (Director)**
  - 06/18, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, campus tour
- **Adam Schubel (Station biologist) and Jason Tallant (Data manager)**
  - 06/18, 3:30 – 5:30 pm, field trip
  - Other field work
- Want to use a boat? Complete a form.  
Swim? Make sure somebody is aware.