

## SIP2022 TO GO VIRTUAL

Dear friends and colleagues

In 2019 in Valencia, South Africa's bid to host the 2021 SIP meeting was successful. This was understandably postponed to 2022, due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. We have thus been planning this meeting (the International Congress of Invertebrate Pathology and Microbial Control and the 54th Annual Meeting of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology) for a long time and looking forward to hosting Africa's first ever SIP meeting in Nelson Mandela Bay.

In our initial welcoming letter on our website (<https://sip2022.com/#>), we stated "If we do not get sufficient registrations by the end of the early bird period, we may be compelled to change to a virtual meeting". Unfortunately, we have been unable to get sufficient registrations to justify an on-site in-person meeting. It appears that just too many people are still reluctant to, or even restricted from travelling internationally. We have thus been forced to change the meeting to a virtual format.

It is a great pity that we will yet again, for the third year running, be unable to meet in person. However, we trust that this change of format will now make participation in the meeting easily accessible to everyone. Please note that the registration fees will now be dramatically reduced, being pegged at an amount purely to cover costs incurred. Those who have already registered and paid, will be reimbursed the overpaid amount. The new fees will be announced on the website shortly.

Furthermore, in order to facilitate those who are wanting to participate, but were unable to register and submit an abstract, due to travel concerns and restrictions, the abstract submission deadline has been extended to 15 May.

Although disappointing that we cannot meet in person, we now look forward to holding a successful virtual format SIP2022 meeting, with many participants.

Please check the website for developments in the scientific programme thus far.

Please do contact us if you have any queries or needs.

Sincerely

Sean Moore (LOC Chair)

On behalf of the local organising committee

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