



**Sidney L. Stürmer**

**Candidate for Vice-President**

Professor

Universidade Regional de Blumenau, Brazil

Founder, International Culture Collection of  
Glomeromycota (CICG)



## Candidate statement

I have studied mycorrhizal symbiosis since my second year of undergraduate studies at Santa Catarina Federal University in Brazil. I began my research in a project led by Dr. Margarida Mendonça, focusing on the interaction between arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) and fruit crops. This experience introduced me to fundamental mycorrhizal research and confirmed my passion for studying AMF. My interest in taxonomy and ecology grew as I investigated AMF seasonal variation in sand dunes for my undergraduate thesis in Biological Science. For my Ph.D. at West Virginia University, under the supervision of Dr. Joseph Morton, I specialized in AMF taxonomy, systematics, ecology, and physiology. Currently, I am a full-time professor at Universidade Regional de Blumenau, where I teach and mentor students in Mycology and Botany for Biology majors and graduate students in the Programs of Biodiversity and Environmental Sciences. My research group focuses on AMF taxonomy, systematics, ecology, biogeography, and life-history traits. I established the International Culture Collection of Glomeromycota (CICG) in 2011 to preserve AMF from tropical soils and serve as a reference center for mycorrhizal research. My administrative experience includes serving as Head of the Natural Sciences Department, Head of the University Research Office, and Coordinator of the Graduate Program in Environmental Engineering and Biodiversity. My candidacy for vice president of IMS is driven by a commitment to advancing the Society's development and global engagement by supporting international collaboration, increasing participation from underrepresented regions, and creating opportunities for early-career scientists. I also aim to help organize meetings and programs that promote scientific excellence and diversity. I believe my experience, collaborative approach, and dedication to mycorrhizal research will help strengthen the IMS.