

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release



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NAPPC Funds Research Projects to Improve Honey Bee Health As Part of Its 20th Anniversary Campaign

Five new research projects related to honey bee health issues have been funded by a combination of a **USDA APHIS** grant, **J.M. Smucker Company** sponsorship, and donations from **Pollinator Partnership's (P2)** generous supporters. Each project will explore one or more identified priority areas that will elucidate the issues faced by honey bees in North America and provide insight for management.

The Honey Bee Health Task Force of the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), co-chaired by **Dr. Olav Rueppell, University of North Carolina-Greensboro**, and **Dr. Barry Thompson, Estate and Orchard Bee Keeping, LLC**, solicits proposals each January from University professors, researchers, and graduate students who provide the latest findings in honey bee pesticide exposure, pests and disease, and climate effects among other areas. Research topics are diverse and aim to support bees and beekeepers.



This spring, the **NAPPC** Honey Bee Health Task Force convened an expert panel to review the proposals, which included **Laurie Adams, Jay Evans, Ph.D., Danielle Downey, MS, Gloria Degrandi-Hoffman, Ph.D., Lora Morandin, Ph.D., Olav Rueppell, Ph. D., and Barry Thompson, Ph.D.** The committee funded 5 outstanding research projects that will advance the science supporting practical applications in honey bee management and conservation. The following projects have been chosen from many high quality submissions to the NAPPC Task Force and will report their progress at the annual NAPPC International Conference in Washington D.C, October 20-22, 2020:

- **Dr. Meghan Bennett** at the **USDA-ARS Carl Hayden Bee Research Center** is investigating the effectiveness of using nutrition to combat the biggest threat to honey bee survival, *Varroa destructor*.
- **Dr. James Nieh** at the **University of California San Diego** is exploring the role of feral honey bees in pathogen dynamics in pollinator communities of southern California.
- **Dr. Mauricio Quesada** at the **Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México** is researching the effects of landscape and floral resources on population density, honey composition, nutritional stress and prevalence of parasites and pathogens in *Apis mellifera* in Mexico.
- **Dr. Juliana Rangel** at **Texas A&M University** is elucidating whether we can alter the macronutrient ratios within artificial diets to bolster honey bee pathogen defense.
- **Dr. Kirsten Traynor** at **Arizona State University** is quantifying the impact of varroa on social cohesion and longevity of a colony.



More than 30 donors contributed to the funding of the 2020 Honey Bee Health grants, with the largest funding resulting from a research partnership with the **U.S. Department of Agriculture** and **APHIS**. Honey Bee Health Grants have been distributed for the past 13 years, totaling more than \$600,000 in research support for 69 research programs in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Individuals are encouraged to make tax-deductible donations of any amount to help fund these grants by choosing the “Honey Bee Health Research” option at www.pollinator.org/donate or by designating donations for honey bee research.

Alternatively, you may contact **Kelly Rourke** of Pollinator Partnership at kr@pollinator.org or at 415.362.1137 to become a supporter of the program.

The request for proposals for 2021 research projects will be distributed in November 2020. Visit www.pollinator.org/honeybee-health for more information.



ABOUT THE NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (NAPPC)

For over 15 years, NAPPC has brought together stakeholders from all sectors of the pollinator issue in a collaborative partnership to support pollinator health across the North American continent. More than any other single organization, the collective effort of these 180 plus organizations has made pollinator health a feature in conservation landscape management. From its many Task Forces, NAPPC affects change and moves solid science into real progress on the ground. Managed by the Pollinator Partnership, more can be found about NAPPC at www.nappc.org.

ABOUT POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP (P2)

Established in 1997, Pollinator Partnership is the largest 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to the health, protection, and conservation of all pollinating animals. Pollinator Partnership's actions for pollinators include education, conservation, restoration, policy, and research. P2's financial support comes through grants, gifts, memberships and donations from any interested party. Its policies are science-based, set by its board of directors, and never influenced by any donor. To make a donation or for information on events during Pollinator Week, visit www.pollinator.org.