

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release



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NAPPC Awards Research Grants to Improve Honey Bee Health

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) has awarded six new research grants related to honey bee health issues which have been funded by a combination of a **USDA APHIS** grant, sponsorship from **JAFRA Cosmetics**, and donations from **Pollinator Partnership's (P2)** generous donors. Each project will explore one or more identified priority areas that will investigate the stressors impacting honey bees in North America.



The NAPPC Honey Bee Health Task Force, co-chaired by **Dr. Olav Rueppell, University of Alberta** and **Mr. Mike Studer, State Apiarist for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture**, solicits proposals each January from University professors, researchers, and graduate students who are at the forefront of bee health issues including pesticide exposure, pests and disease, and climate effects, among other areas. Research topics are diverse and aim to support bees and beekeepers, and to educate policymakers and land managers.

This spring, the **NAPPC Honey Bee Health Task Force** convened an expert panel to review the proposals, which included **Jay Evans, Ph.D., Gloria Degrandi-Hoffman, Ph.D., Lora Morandin, Ph.D., Olav Rueppell, Ph.D., Mike Studer, and Billy Synk**. The committee funded 6 outstanding research proposals that will strengthen the science supporting practical applications in honey bee management and conservation. The following projects have been chosen from many incredible submissions and will report their progress at the annual NAPPC International Conference, hosted October 18-20, 2022:

- **Juliana Rengel, Ph.D.** with **Jordan F. Twombly Ellis** at **Texas A&M** are *Determining the drivers of precocious honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) self-removal behavior*
- **Allison Malay** with **Ken Fedorka Ph.D.** at the **University of Central Florida** are investigating the *Environment and Pollinator Community Impact on Honeybee Viral Infections Health*
- **David Tarpy Ph.D.** and **Rodrigo Ivo Santos Ph.D.** at **North Carolina State University** are *Developing a novel system to study bee viruses*
- **Esmail Amiri Ph.D.** at **Mississippi State University** is exploring *Dynamics of viruses among Varroa mite populations*
- **Ernesto Guzman-Novoa** with **Alvaro De la Mora Pena** at the **University of Guelph** will investigate *Breeding for Low Varroa Growth in Ontario Honey Bee Colonies*
- **Alberto Prado** and **Ulises Olivares-Pinto** of **Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)**, and **Cedric Alaux** and **Yves Le Conte** of **Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)** are exploring *Using honeybee flight activity data as a toxicovigilance tool*

Many donors contributed to the funding of the 2022 Honey Bee Health grants, with the largest funding resulting from a long-standing partnership with the **U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** and a new generous sponsorship from **JAFRA Cosmetics**. Honey

Bee Health Grants have been distributed annually for the past 15 years, totaling more than \$700,000 in research support for 80 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 when sending a donation via mail. You may contact **Reed Lievers** of Pollinator Partnership at reed@pollinator.org or at 415.362.1137 to learn more about the program.

The request for proposals for 2023 research projects will be distributed in November 2022. Visit www.pollinator.org/honeybee-health for more information.

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ABOUT THE NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (NAPPC)

For over 22 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.