

REPORT



Foundation COO Announces Resignation

Dr. Dan Gunter has resigned as the COO of the Foundation effective on April 8. The Governance Committee has initiated a national search to fill the position. Dr. Tom Turpen, the Research Scientific Manager, will serve as the interim COO. In his letter of resignation, Dr. Gunter observed that the Foundation is in good order and well equipped to deal with the research portfolio and the commercial product development challenges. He complimented many individuals who have contributed to the success

of the Foundation and stressed that the National Academy of Science recommendations have largely been implemented. He also noted that the announcement by Senator Bill Nelson that the tariff funding legislation proposed by FCM would pass this year. The tariff funding will provide the lion's share of the resources needed by the Foundation. Implementation of the National Academies' recommendations and creation of long term research funding were two main goals of the Foundation.

Finance and Audit Committee Begins work on 2011/12 Budget

The Finance and Audit Committee has started work on the development of the 2011/12 budget which is to be completed by July. The early start on budget development is necessitated by the fact that the funding contract with the FDOC expires on June 30, 2011.

The Board approved the Finance and Audit Committee recommendation that the Foundation request an extension of the current FDOC contract for another year with \$10 million for support of research in FY 2011/12.

The requested funding of \$10 million is down from the \$13.3 million provided by the 2010/11 contract.

Failure to gain agreement on extension of the FDOC/Foundation contract will put the research program at risk, requiring that the Foundation exercise an early termination clause of the research agreement.

The Foundation has 116 research contracts currently in place, and is in the process of completing negotiations of twenty new research agreements.

In other action, the Board also approved a management recommendation that the Foundation request \$1.9 million in Block Grant funding from the FDACS. FDACS received \$4.3 million in Federal funds to support specialty crops research. These funds will become available in January 2012. This funding, if awarded, will be used to support, in part, twenty projects recently recommended by the Research Management Committee and approved by the Board. FDACS cannot fund research proposals that have been more highly scrutinized than the twenty recently approved projects. Each proposal has had a minimum of three peer reviews and was recommended by both the Scientific Advisory Board and the Research Management Committee of the Foundation. The peer reviewers and Scientific Advisory Board evaluate proposals on the basis of scientific merit and probability of practical application.

Commercial Product Development Committee Update

The Commercial Product Development Committee recommended that the members arrange a meeting with FDA, EPA and USDA to brief them on the HLB problem and the research activities. The overall purpose of the meeting is to better understand the regulatory requirements with some of the HLB solutions currently being researched.

In other action the Commercial Product Development Committee recommended that the Foundation request a proposal from Third Party Registration to support a label change on neonicotinoid products currently available for controlling ACP to allow for higher rates of application. The Commercial Product Development Committee expects to receive the proposal from Third Party Registration in April.

Solvers Propose Antibiotics and RNAi

On February 2, two contests were announced by InnoCentive™. These "new molecule challenge" contests are an alternative to the typical research sponsorship. One contest is to identify the top antibiotics that are most effective against the HLB bacteria. The second contest is to identify the top RNAi molecules most effective against spread of HLB by the Asian Citrus Psyllid. As of March 23, there are 369 "Solvers" register as participants in the two contests. Once the molecules are in hand, they will be evaluated by two separate labs.

Research sponsored by the industry has discovered antibiotics and RNAi molecules that are effective. The objective of the contest is to identify the most effective products before making an investment in obtaining regulatory approvals. The contests have generated a great deal of interest from individuals that had not previously been involved in research on HLB.

Researchers Post Additional Annual Reports

All CRDF research projects contracts require quarterly, annual and final progress reports. These are the annual reports received since the February 2011 posting; numerous quarterly reports posted can be found on our web site www.citrusrdf.org.

LINK TO REPORT	TITLE	RESEARCHER	HEADLINE
	Culturing <i>Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	Davis	Attempts to culture <i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i> continue
	Calibration of Low Volume Spray and Understanding Grove Weather Conditions to Maximize Application of Pesticides	Futch	Weather conditions are favorable for night applications utilizing low volume pesticide application equipment.
	Identification and Characterization of HLB Survivors	Gmitter	HLB-free trees and orchards in China
	Canker management in Florida citrus groves: chemical control on highly susceptible grapefruit and early orange varieties	Graham	Evaluation of chemicals for control of citrus canker
	Engineering Resistance Against Citrus Canker and Greening Using Candidate Genes	Song	Creation of citrus canker resistance by the citrus NPR1 gene
	Identification of psyllid attractants and development of highly effective trapping and attract-and-kill methods for improved psyllid control	Stelinski	Breakthrough achieved in identification of ACP attractants
	Development of Effective Guava-based Repellent to Control Asian Citrus Psyllid and Mitigate Huanglongbing Disease Incidence	Stelinski	Advanced formulations of SPLAT ACP Repel (DMDS) effective
	Is <i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i> , the pathogen responsible for Huanglongbing in Florida, sexually transmitted between adult psyllids?	Stelinski	Low sexual transmission of <i>Candidatus Liberibacter</i> in ACP
	Maintaining the effectiveness of our current and most important psyllid management tools (insecticides) by preventing insecticide resistance	Stelinski	Insecticide resistance in Florida ACP populations
	How does <i>Liberibacter</i> infection of psyllids affect the behavioral response of this vector to healthy versus HLB-infected citrus trees?	Stelinski	Psyllids initially prefer HLB plants, but finally settle on healthy
	Evaluation of Methyl Salicylate as a simultaneous repellent of Asian citrus psyllid and attractant for psyllid natural enemies	Stelinski	MeSA results inconclusive because of low psyllid populations
	Control of Citrus Huanglongbing by disruption of the transmission of citrus greening pathogen by psyllids	Wang	Identification of potential inhibitors against SecA of Las
	Genome sequencing of <i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	Wang	Characterization of the virulence mechanism of <i>Ca. L. asiaticus</i>
	Characterize the microbiomes associated with <i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i> infected citrus, psyllid, dodder, and periwinkle	Wang	Microbiome and beneficial bacteria associated with citrus
	Characterization of the virulence mechanism of the citrus Huanglongbing pathogen <i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	Wang	Host responses of different tissues to Las infection
	Identification and characterization of critical virulence and copper resistance genes of <i>Xanthomonas axonopodis</i> pv. <i>citri</i> & related species	Wang	genome sequence of <i>X. axonopodis</i> pv. <i>citrumelo</i> and <i>Xac Aw</i>