



# REPORT

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## IRCHLBIII: The Third International HLB Research Conference

The IRCHLBIII was held in Orlando early in February, and as a scientific meeting, was a success. A large group of focused scientists met to exchange data, progress and ideas. This regular meeting (every two years) allows the HLB research community to stay abreast of each other's efforts and to discuss ways they can collaborate. This year for the first time, the grower portion of this event was scheduled for one month after the HLB Conference, to allow the preparation of summaries for the main areas covered at the meeting. These summaries were presented to a large audience of growers on Wednesday, March 6, at the University of Florida, IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred.

## Florida Citrus Grower and CRDF Board Member Jerry Newlin Is Recognized at the IRCHLBIII

Mr. Jerry Newlin of Orange-Co, LLC, gave a keynote address at the closing dinner of the HLB Research Conference in February, providing a grower perspective to the Conference and relating his thoughts on the evolution of research in response to Florida citrus diseases. Jerry, a long-time grower member of the citrus research community, described how the citrus industry organized around the Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council (FCPRAC) in the early 1990's to coordinate efforts between Florida's research institutions addressing citrus problems and the citrus industry, by making available small annual project funding support. The FCPRAC successfully guided citrus research across an array of topics, until in the late 1990's, citrus canker became a focus of FCPRAC research, as did the discovery of Asian citrus psyllid in Florida in 1998.



laid in Florida in 1998.

Jerry Newlin, a member of the FCPRAC, and the newly formed Florida Citrus Industry Research Coordinating Council, suggested that both growers and scientists needed to focus more effort at understanding the research in canker across the US and the world, as well as to develop a broader research plan. When HLB was detected in 2005, Mr. Newlin encouraged the industry to respond aggressively, and his earlier efforts to establish the Citrus Canker

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### MARCH, 2013

26	Comm. Prod. Dev. Meeting	CREC, Lake Alfred	9:30 a.m.
26	Board of Directors Meeting	CREC, Lake Alfred	1:00 p.m.

Task Force immediately led to formation of the HLB Task Force. These formative steps among the citrus industry, the FCPRAC, and the FCIRCC Task Force groups, allowed the industry to take the next big step. In 2006, with HLB beginning to show itself in South Florida groves, industry groups began to envision what would be needed to mount a much larger effort to find solutions to HLB, given that this disease did not have any well-defined solutions and a lot of unknown elements in its biology and epidemiology. Drawing on knowledgeable growers and scientists in Florida, and reaching out to experts beyond the state's borders, the plan to establish a much larger research budget and focus it almost entirely on HLB was hatched, and in association, the need to seek outside assistance in developing a multi-year research plan was noted.

Jerry commented that the expansion of scope to address all aspects of HLB research, and to invite proposals from any area that could provide progress to solutions, brought this effort to the level that we see today. He commented to the group that Florida, with other citrus producing areas, has developed "a world class team" to address this problem, including the growers, citrus industry partners and scientists.

He closed his comments challenging the audience of scientists from across the US and 22 countries that they were part of the "World Team" to solve HLB, and that there were expectations that came with being on the team. He encouraged the scientists to work as hard as they could, and to work closely together, to unravel the science that can lead to solutions to the disease. His plea to the group included the fact that time is not on the side of the industry, and that solutions were needed immediately.

Mr. Newlin's presentation was well-received and the importance of the work reported at the week's HLB Conference was grounded in many of his comments. Following his presentation, Jerry was presented with an Award of Appreciation from the US Department of Agriculture, on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the IRCHLB for his insight and leadership efforts to respond to HLB. The certificate stated the Award was presented "In Recognition of Sustained Leadership Resulting in Florida Citrus Grower Prioritization and Funding of Huanglongbing Research".

It is members of the citrus industry like Jerry Newlin who provide the vision, energy and focus which leads to the current level of effort to develop and deliver solutions to HLB. Those who commit a part of their day to pushing the industry toward solutions are to be congratulated. Great Job Jerry!

## CRDF APPROVES NEW ROUND OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

The CRDF approved a set of 33 projects at its February 26 Board meeting, following intensive technical and applicability evaluation of 63 proposals. These projects will commence over the next several months and by July 1, 2013, will join 88 active projects already underway. The new projects represent partnerships with about 10 institutions, with 2/3 of the projects being led by the University of Florida, IFAS. The 33 approved projects are listed here, and can also be reviewed on our website at [citrusrdf.org](http://citrusrdf.org).

NO.	PI	PROPOSAL TITLE	INSTITUTION
701	Allan	Exploitation of Visual Simuli for Better Monitoring and Management of ACP in Young Citrus Plantings	USDA
702	Baldwin	Investigate effect of nutritional sprays on healthy and HLB-diseased orange fruit and resulting juice quality	USDA-ARS-USHRL
710	Brodersen	Identification of potential pathways for the spread of HLB through citrus vascular systems	UF-CREC
707	Brodersen	Are there declines in hydraulic conductivity and drought tolerance associated with HLB?	UF-CREC
711	Chougule	Identification of Bacillus thuringiensis endo-toxins active against Adult Asian Citrus Psyllid	Iowa State University
712	Dandekar	Rapid testing of next generation chimeric antimicrobial protein components for broad spectrum citrus disease control	UC Davis
715	Dewdney	The leaf litter cycle of citrus black spot and improvements to current management practices	UF-CREC
716	Dewdney	Improved fungicide control measures for pre- and post-harvest management of citrus black spot	UF-CREC
717	Duan	Control citrus HLB by blocking the functions of two critical effectors encoded by 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus'	USDA-ARS-USHRL
720	Duncan	Beyond BioVector: Can cold-tolerant nematodes effectively manage Diaprepes root weevil in advanced citrus production systems?	UF-CREC
723	Gabriel	Exploiting the Las phage for potential control of HLB: year 2	UF-CREC
724	Gmitter	Accelerating Citrus Gene Discovery for HLB Tolerance/Resistance	UF-CREC
726	Gonzalez	A Bacterial Virus Based Method for Biocontrol of Citrus Canker	Texas AgriLife Research
728	Gowda	RNAi-mediated gene knock-down of selected members of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' induced citrus transcriptome with CTV based silencing vector to prevent HLB infection of young citrus	UF-CREC
730	Graham	Monitoring streptomycin resistance in Xanthomonas citri in support of FireWall registration for canker	University of Florida
731	Graham	Calcium carbonate may reduce root health and exacerbate HLB expression	UF-CREC
732	Graham	Understanding and reducing early root loss in HLB affected trees	UF-CREC
733	Grishin	Molecular basis of Citrus Greening and related diseases gleaned from genome analyses of hosts and pathogens	HHMI/UT Southwestern
736	Gruber	Expedited Indian River Evaluation of Tetrazyg Rootstocks Surviving the HLB-Gauntlet	UF-IRREC
749	Li	Development of Technologies Important for Creation and Commercialization of Transgenic HLB Resistant Citrus	University of Connecticut
750	Ma	Identification of key components in HLB using effectors as probes	UC Riverside
752	Moore	Cell Penetrating Peptides for Citrus Genetic Improvement and Disease Resistance	UF-CREC
754	Mou	Application of a natural inducer of systemic acquired resistance and engineering non-host resistance in citrus for controlling citrus canker	University of Florida
771	Moudgil	Soft nanoparticle development and tree uptake to deliver potential HLB bactericides	UF-CREC
758	Ramadugu	Further characterization of HLB resistant clones of selected citrus varieties	UF-CREC
759	Santra	Fixed-Quat: A novel alternative to Cu fungicide/bactericide for preventing citrus canker	Univ. of Central Florida
760	Setamou	Development of a novel system for dissemination of a pathogenic fungus to manage Asian citrus psyllid in abandoned citrus groves	TAMUK Citrus Center
763	Stansly	Optimizing Spatial Distribution of Pheromone Traps for Monitoring Citrus Leafminer and Related Species	UF-CREC
765	Stelinski	Continuation of insecticide resistance monitoring and management for sustainable control of Asian citrus psyllid	UF-CREC
766	Stelinski	Biotic and abiotic factors that cause Asian citrus psyllids to accept hosts: potential implications for young plantings and pathogen transmission.	UF-CREC
767	Triplett	Rapid identification of antibiotics useful in the control of citrus greening disease	UF-CREC
769	Triplett	A team approach to culturing Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	University of Florida
773	Wang	Control HLB by developing antimicrobial compounds against Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus	UF-CREC