GROWER RESEARCH REPORT

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Board Approves Funding for 20 New Research Proposals

The Board of Directors approved funding for 20 new research proposals at their meeting on February 22. The approved research projects were selected from the 104 CATP10 preproposals describing research to combat citrus disease that were recently submitted to the Citrus Research and Development Foundation. Of those preproposals, 41 researchers were invited to submit full proposals. Thirty-nine full proposals were received on December 1st and sent out for peer review. At the invitation of the Scientific Program Manager, some 36 individual expert reviewers volunteered to submit a written critique of the proposals. Evaluations are focused on the scientific merit and likely impact on production practices. Each of these outside reviewers supplied between 1 and 5 independent reviews, depending on their area of expertise and enthusiasm for working through the holidays. This gave the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the Foundation at least three independent opinions of each proposal.

The SAB met for three days, Feb. 7-9 to evaluate the full proposals, over 100 progress reports for currently funded work, and the reviews of each proposal. The progress reports provided a context for the existing funded work and the outside reviews a good starting point for in depth discussion of new ideas and in some cases the detailed examination of objectives and budgets.

Dr. George Bruening, UC Davis, SAB Chairman, reported on the review of the proposals and their evaluations to the Research Management Committee of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation on February 17. Of the 39 original proposals received the Board approved projects from two universities, two USDA-ARS labs and one foreign institution. The approved projects are listed on page 2.

The approved funding totaled $3 million for the multi year period covered in the proposals representing a year one cost of $1.5 million.

The Research Management Committee at its meeting on February 17 approved tabling three "nutritional" research proposals and commissioned the Scientific Advisory Board to evaluate the research progress to date in this area, confirm distribution of the results to growers and develop specific recommendations on additional work that should be funded.

We are very fortunate to have the participation of so many quality individuals in both the research and the peer review process. Peer review is an essential step in the process and insures that the Foundation funds projects with high scientific merit and that are likely to impact production practices. The research review process is rigorous and sometimes time consuming, but the process insures objectivity as the Research Management Committee and Board of Directors make difficult resource allocation decisions.

Please see the chart on page 2 for a listing of the proposals.

Board Approves 2011 Committee Assignments

The 2011 Committee assignments approved at the February 22 meeting of the Board of Directors are as follows:

Executive
- Tom Jerkins, Chairman
- Ricke Kress
- Dr. Joseph C. Joyce
- Dr. Mark R. McLellan

Audit and Finance
- Hugh Thompson, Chairman
- Joe L. Davis, Jr.
- Dr. Joseph C. Joyce
- Marty McKenna

Governance
- Bob Stambaugh, Chairman
- Ricke Kress
- Jerry Newlin

Research Management
- Bobby Barben, Chairman
- Tom Jerkins
- Wayne Simmons

Non-Board Members:
- Bill Barber
- Charles Counter
- Larry Davis
- Steve Farr
- Peter McClure
- John Merritt
- Andrew Pike
- Jim Snively
- George Walker

Commercial Product Development
- Ben McLean III, Chairman
- Ricke Kress
- Hugh Thompson
- Jerry Newlin
- Shannon Shepp
- Bob Stambaugh
- Ben McLean III

Non-Board Members:
- Dr. Tim A. Anglea
- Mark Colbert
- Peter McClure
- Anderson H. (Andy) Rackley

Shannon Shepp Seated on CRDF Board

The CRDF Board of Directors welcomed Shannon Shepp, Acting Deputy Commissioner of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to the Board. Ms. Shepp was recently appointed by Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture and replaces Craig A. Meyer as the FDACS representative on the Foundation Board.

CRDF Challenge for Solutions

The CRDF is currently sponsoring contests to identify antibiotic and RNAi solutions for HLB. The contests were announced through the InnoCentive system on February 2 and will remain open to potential solvers for three months. As of February 22 there had been 236 solvers express an interest in participation in the contest which means they have an antibiotic or RNAi molecule that they feel might be effective against CLas and psyllids. The InnoCentive contest has proven to be an excellent tool for attracting additional interest from the scientific community to find a solution for greening.

Research Proposals Approved for Funding at February Meeting

Researcher	Affiliation	Title	Requested Amount	Yrs rec.	RMC Recommendation	RMC Recommendation Yr 1
Belknap	USDA-ARS	Acquisition and Assembly of the Genomic Sequence of the Citrus Rootstock Variety Carrizo	$55,550	1	$55,000	$55,000
Brlansky-2	University of Florida, CREC	Transmission of the Emerging Citrus Pathogen Cytoplasmic Citrus Leprosis Virus by Endemic Brevipalpus mites	$232,394	3	$232,394	$77,465
Davis	University of Florida, CREC	Culturing Liberibacter asiaticus	$65,000	1	$65,000	$65,000
Dewdney	University of Florida, CREC	Understanding potential inoculum sources of Guignardia citricarpa, the causal agent of citrus black spot	$227,439	3	$227,439	$75,813
Dollet	CIRAD, France	Attempts to in vitro culture Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus isolates in order to fulfil Koch's postulates	$88,520	1	$88,520	$88,520
Folimonova	University of Florida, CREC	How the efficiency of HLB transmission by psyllids varies depending on the stage of infection and plant development	$237,328	2	$237,328	$118,664
Gonzalez	University of Florida	Identification of small molecules that disrupt pathogenicity determinants of Liberibacter asiaticus	$433,155	1	$144,385	$144,385
Graham-2	University of Florida, CREC	Evaluation of foliar Zinc and Manganese application for control of Huanglongbing or associated symptom development	$120,000	2	$120,000	$60,000
Graham-3	University of Florida, CREC	Novel formulations and application methods for bactericides to control systemic HLB infection	$188,109	2	$126,033	$63,017
Hilf	USDA-ARS	Analysis of the colonization of citrus seed coats by the causal agent of citrus Huanglongbing 'Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus' and their use as a concentrated, pure source of bacteria for research	$175,000	2	$175,000	$87,500
LaPointe	USDA-ARS	Automated application of semiochemicals for control of citrus leafminer and citrus canker disease with application for control of Asian citrus psyllid and HLB.	$300,000	3	$300,000	$100,000
Lee	University of Florida	Sensing system for symptomatic citrus greening infected leaves using polarized light	$100,413	2	$100,413	$50,207
McNellis	Penn State University	Functional disruption of the NodT outer membrane protein of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus for rootstock-mediated resistance to citrus greening using a phloem-directed, single-chain antibody	$45,000	3	$45,000	$15,000
Morgan	University of Florida	Effect of application rate, tree size and irrigation scheduling on leaf Imidacloprid concentration, psyllid populations and soil leaching.	$200,000	2	$200,000	$100,000
Pelz-Stelinski	University of Florida, CREC	Insecticidal peptides for management of the Asian citrus psyllid using a citrus tristeza virus delivery system	$132,885	1	$70,084	$70,084
Stansly-2	University of Florida, SWFREC	Mass rearing and release of parasitic wasps to augment biological control of the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP)	$374,100	3	$374,100	$124,700
Stelinski-2	University of Florida, CREC	How does infection of Asian citrus psylid (ACP) with Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus (Ca Las) affect the behavioral response of the vector to healthy versus diseased citrus trees?	$97,857	2	$97,857	$48,929
Stelinski-3	University of Florida, CREC	Testing of existing botanical insecticides for activity against Asian citrus psyllid to identify potential new tools for psyllid management.	$167,176	3	$167,176	$55,725
Stelinski-5	University of Florida, CREC	Improving psyllid management by optimizing 1) adjuvants for low volume sprays, 2) targeted border-row treatments, and 3) location of spray applications	$47,876	1	$47,876	$47,876
Wang-4	University of Florida, CREC	Characterization of critical genes involved in spread of citrus canker pathogen Xanthomonas axonopodis pv. citri	$145,471	2	$145,471	$72,736
TOTAL					$3,019,076	$1,520,620