

People and Projects



By Rick Dantzer, CRDF chief operating officer

It has been a busy time at the Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF). Three board members (Ned Hancock, Pat Ouimet and Josh Snively) termed out at the end of the year, and two new members, George Hamner and Deeley Hunt, were nominated. A third new member, Chris Gunter, head of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Horticulture Department, took the place of Rob Gilbert, UF/IFAS dean of research.

Rob Atchley took over as president, succeeding David Howard, and Morgan McKenna became vice president. John Updike stays as secretary and will chair the Research Management Committee. Ron Mahan remains as treasurer. It requires a lot of time to be an effective board member for CRDF, so I thank those who have served and appreciate those who are beginning.

These projects terminated in the last year:

- Dutt, Manjul: Investigating the role of transgenic rootstock-mediated protection of non-transgenic scion
- Gmitter, Fred: Part A - The UF/CREC core citrus improvement program
- Jones, Jeffrey B.: Using a multipronged approach to engineer citrus for canker resistance
- Mou, Zhonglin: Establish early-stage field trials for new HLB-tolerant canker-resistant transgenic scions
- Santra, Swadeshmakul: Novel multi-metal systemic bactericide for HLB control
- Stover, Ed: Delivery of verified HLB-resistant transgenic citrus cultivars
- Triplett, Eric W.: Foliar phosphate fertilization: A simple, inexpensive and unregulated approach to control HLB
- Wang, Nian: Control citrus huanglongbing by exploiting the interactions between *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas) and citrus
- Albrecht, Ute: Evaluation of citrus rootstock response to HLB in large-scale existing field trials using conventional and automated procedures
- Alferez, Fernando: Preventing young trees from psyllids and infection with CLas through use of protective netting
- Grosser, Jude W.: Part B - The UF/CREC citrus improvement program's field trial evaluations
- Kadyampakeni, Davie: Development of root nutrient and fertilization guidelines for HLB-affected orange and grapefruit
- Qureshi, Jawwad: Sustainable management of Asian citrus psyllid and citrus production
- Qureshi, Jawwad: Optimizing benefits of UV reflective mulch in solid block citrus plantings
- Vashisth, Tripti: Evaluating sustainability of yield and fruit quality of sweet oranges with use of controlled-release fertilizer and micronutrients
- Orbovic, Vladimir: Support role of the Citrus Core Transformation Facility remains crucial for research leading to production of citrus plants that may be tolerant or resistant to diseases
- Zale, Janice: Continued funding for the Mature Citrus Facility to produce disease-tolerant, transgenic citrus
- Stelinski, Lukasz: Why spray if you don't need to? Putting the integrated pest management (IPM) back into citrus IPM by ground truthing spray thresholds
- Johnson, Evan: Whole tree vs. rootstock or scion tolerance to HLB
- Wang, Yu: Near-term approaches of using alternative HLB-tolerant cultivars for increased production and improved juice quality
- Albrecht, Ute: Large-scale testing of the endophytic bacterium *Frateuria defendens*, a potential biocontrol agent of HLB
- Ferrarezi, Rhuano/Rossi, Lorenzo: Fertilization of high-density plantings

Quarterly and final reports for these projects may be found on the CRDF website (citrusrdf.org).

As you can see, CRDF is running down every rabbit trail in our quest to whip HLB.



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