

# MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release



Reed Lievers [reed@pollinator.org](mailto:reed@pollinator.org) 415.362.1137

## NAPPC Supports Critical Honey Bee Health Research

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) has awarded five new research grants addressing issues related to honey bee health issues. The grants have been funded by a combination of a **USDA APHIS** grant and donations from **Pollinator Partnership's (P2)** generous donors. Each project will explore one or more identified priority areas that will investigate the stressors negatively impacting honey bees across 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**, releases a request for proposals each January from University professors, researchers, and graduate students who are on the cutting edge 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.

In 2023, 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., Dewey Caron, Ph.D., Mike Studer, Elizabeth Walsh, and Danielle Downey**. The committee funded 5 high caliber research proposals that will contribute to the science supporting advancements in honey bee management and conservation. The following projects have been chosen from many outstanding submissions:

- **Juliana Rangel, Ph.D** with **Taylor Reams** at **Texas A&M** are investigating *Genetic diversity and populations structure of Varroa destructor across the U.S., and potential implications for Amitraz-resistant mites*
- **M. Sydney Miller** at **University of Vermont** will be looking at *Improving honey bee breeding stock: Unhealthy Brood Odor (UBO) hygienic behavior and its interaction with Nosema spp.*
- **Julia Fine, Ph.D** with **Eliza M. Litsey** at **University of California, Davis** are *Developing a Novel Queen Treatment to Augment Colony Reproduction*
- **Olav Rueppell** with **Prabashi Wickramasinghe** at the **University of Alberta** will be analyzing *The Effects of Maternal IAPV Vaccination on Apis mellifera Offspring*
- **Margarita Orlova, Ph.D.** at **SUNY Polytechnic University** will explore the *Effect of toxic, pathogenic and nutritional stressors on queen-worker interactions and chemical signal content in the honeybee*

This program was made possible by many generous individual Pollinator Partnership donors, with the largest funding resulting from a long-standing partnership with the **U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS)**. The NAPPC Honey Bee Health Grants have been distributed annually for the past 16 years, totaling more than \$750,000 in research support for 86 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](http://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](mailto:reed@pollinator.org) or at 415.362.1137 to learn more about the program.

The request for proposals for 2024 research projects will be distributed in November 2023. Visit [www.pollinator.org/honeybee-health](http://www.pollinator.org/honeybee-health) for more information.

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### **ABOUT THE NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR PROTECTION CAMPAIGN (NAPPC)**

For over 23 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.napcc.org](http://www.napcc.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](http://www.pollinator.org).