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ONLINE WORKSHOP
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Tropilaelaps Mites

SPEAKERS



Maggie Gill
PHIRA-Science
UK

Maggie Gill is the founder and lead researcher of PHIRA-Science, a non-profit organization undertaking practical, evidence-based research to address challenges facing beekeepers and pollinators. With over 20 years of beekeeping experience and a background in entomology, she has worked with universities, government agencies and research institutes across Europe, North America and Asia. Her research focuses on honey bee health, emerging pests and diseases, and practical approaches to detection and control. In recent years, she has specialised in *Tropilaelaps* mites, investigating their biology and developing improved methods for surveillance and management to support international preparedness. Maggie combines scientific research with extensive field experience, with a particular emphasis on translating evidence into practical solutions for beekeepers.



Bajaree Chuttong
Chiang Mai University
Thailand

Dr. Bajaree “Bomb” Chuttong is a lecturer in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, where she leads the Meliponini and Apini Research Laboratory (MARL). In Thailand, Tropilaelaps mites are part of everyday beekeeping, and her work brings research into the apiaries of Thai beekeepers who keep Apis mellifera. Since 2024, she has worked with colleagues in the USA and UK on field studies of Tropilaelaps detection, monitoring and control, including combined cultural and chemical methods, and on mapping the mite’s global range.
Beyond mites, she has studied Thailand’s native bees since 2010, including stingless bees and their honey and the native honey bees Apis cerana, A. dorsata and A. florea. She also works on honey bee nutrition, the quality and safety of bee products, and honey bee brood as a sustainable food. She has published about 70 peer-reviewed articles and collaborates with researchers in Asia, Europe and the Americas. She earned her Ph.D. from Chiang Mai University and was a visiting fellow at the Oregon State University Honey Bee Lab.



Dan Aurell
Auburn University
USA

Dr. Dan Aurell is a postdoctoral researcher at the Auburn University Bee Center (Alabama, USA). His research focuses on managing parasitic mites (*Varroa* and *Tropilaelaps*). While at Auburn, he has tested practical techniques for *Varroa* management and has worked in South Korea and Thailand on *Tropilaelaps* detection, biology, and management. Dan grew up in New Brunswick and started beekeeping on a commercial bee farm in Nova Scotia.



Irakli Janashia
Agricultural University of Georgia (in Tbilisi)
Georgia

Dr. Irakli Janashia is a Georgian researcher with a background in veterinary medicine and over three decades of hands-on beekeeping experience. His research focuses on honey bee health, particularly the biology, infestation dynamics, and impacts of parasitic mites, including Tropilaelaps mercedesae and Varroa destructor. Combining scientific research with extensive field experience, his work explores the challenges these parasites pose to honey bee colonies and beekeeping practices.



Olav Rueppell
University of Alberta
Canada

Dr. Olav Rueppell is the Professor of Honey Bee Biology and Health at the University of Alberta, where leads studies of fundamental aspects of honey bee behavior and life history and applied research on parasitic mites and viruses to help improve the sustainability of the apicultural industry. His group, established in 2020, has now grown to about 15 bee researchers, ranging from the undergraduate student to senior scientist level. Olav Rueppell received his PhD in 2000 from the University of Wuerzburg in Germany before moving to California for postdoctoral training until 2003. At that point, he was hired as Assistant Professor by the University of North Carolina Greensboro to establish his independent research program. Since then, he has been promoted to full professor, supported his research continuously with grants from public and private agencies, authored over 130 scientific publications, and mentored over 130 trainees. He is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Sciences, received multiple research and mentoring awards, and is dedicated to working with the apicultural industry, which was recognized by a James I. Hambleton Memorial Award from the Eastern Apicultural Society of North America.



Heather Broccard-Bell
NOD Apiary Products Ltd
Canada

Dr. Heather Broccard-Bell has degrees in animal behaviour and neuroscience from the University of Lethbridge (Alberta, Canada). She began studying honey bees, focusing on communication and how pesticides and pathogens affect learning and memory, as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California San Diego in 2014. During the same period, Dr. Broccard-Bell was an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of San Diego, and taught numerous courses in psychology, biology, and neuroscience. In 2021, she returned to her native Canada to take a position as Honey Bee Health Researcher at NOD Apiary Products Ltd. Her current role as Principal Scientist and Global Research Manager involves field and laboratory research, product development and testing, education, and a lot of beekeeping.



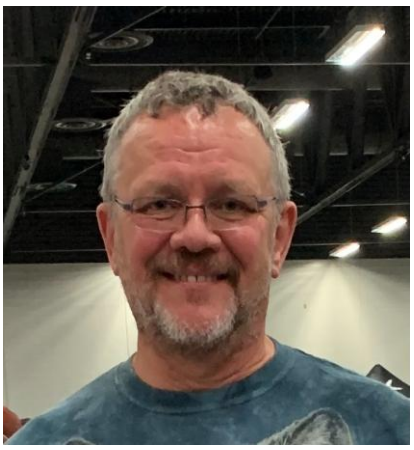
Martine Bernier
CRSAD
Canada

Martine Bernier is an agronomist and project manager in the apicultural team at CRSAD, Quebec. Her work focuses on knowledge transfer and training for beekeepers and professional of the sector. She has broad expertise, including honeybee biology, colony management, pest and disease management (particularly varroa and small hive beetle), as well as nucleus production.



Rassol Bahreini
University of Alberta
Canada

Dr. Rassol Bahreini is a Senior Research Associate in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta, Canada. He has over 35 years of experience in honey bee research and holds an MSc in Entomology from the University of Ahvaz, Iran, and a PhD in Entomology from the University of Manitoba, Canada. Previously, he worked as an Apiculture Research Scientist in Iran and Alberta. His research expertise includes honey bee biology, acarology, integrated pest management (IPM), bee breeding, toxicology, and the evaluation of acaricides and antibiotics. He has also contributed to graduate and undergraduate education and beekeeper extension programs, promoting effective IPM strategies for honey bee health. His recent research focuses on miticide resistance in *Varroa* mite and developing and optimizing synthetic and organic compounds and innovative delivery technologies to improve mite control and support sustainable honey bee health management.

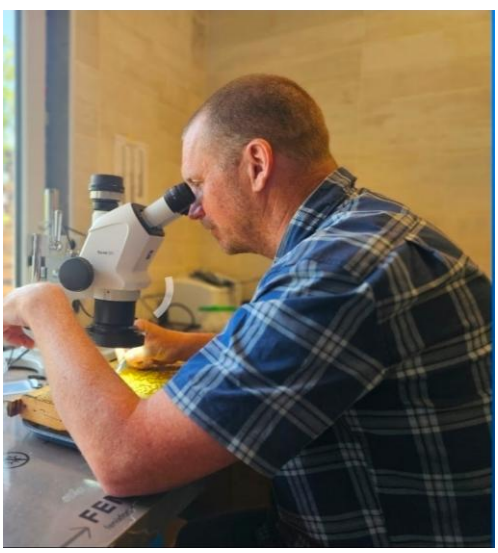


Rod Scarlett

Canadian Honey Council

Canada

Prior to joining the Canadian Honey Council as the Executive Director in January of 2011, Rod Scarlett was the Executive Director of Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, Alberta's general farm organization, for fourteen years and concurrently, the General Manager of the Canadian Young Farmers Forum for six years. After obtaining his MA in Canadian Studies from Carleton University, Rod worked for eight years with the Government of Alberta where he was Executive Assistant to three different Cabinet Ministers. He has served on the executive of the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association and the Pest Management Advisory Council. He currently sits on the Board of the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council, Co-Chair of AAFC's Horticulture Sector Engagement Table and was Co-Chair of AAFC's Canadian Bee Health Roundtable. He sits an ex-officio board member of the US based Honey Bee Health Coalition and is also a member of the international Apimondia Honey Fraud working group.



Goeff Wilson

Government of Saskatchewan

Canada

Geoff Wilson is Saskatchewan Agriculture's Provincial Special, Apiculture. Geoff grew up in Ontario and got his first colonies of bees at the age of 15. He worked for a commercial beekeeper in southern western Ontario to help put him through his undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph. Geoff worked for the Ontario Beekeepers Association's Tech Transfer Program as a research technician immediately after completing his B.Sc. The work focused on a combination or applied research and extension, which turned into an opportunity to obtain a M.Sc. at the University of Guelph. Geoff briefly ran 500 colonies of bees in eastern Ontario before accepting the position of Provincial Specialist in Saskatchewan in 2009. Geoff's current position allows him to work with beekeepers to maintain health bee colonies through biosecurity, mite management and improving best management practices and has worked with Tropilaelaps in Thailand, Georgia and other regions of Asia. Geoff runs some honey bees of his own, allowing him to keep current and test management options to ensure that they work.
