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**Contact:** Jennifer Tsang  
**Email:** [jt@pollinator.org](mailto:jt@pollinator.org)  
**Telephone:** 415-362-1137

### **CAUSE OF HONEY BEE LOSSES STILL ELUSIVE**

#### ***Swanson Foundation and NAPPC Award New Honey Bee Health Research Grants***

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – In a quest of long-term solutions, the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) today announced five grants totaling \$30,000 for university and government-based scientists to study different, likely causes for Colony Collapse Disorder among honey bees. The grants are key to NAPPC's ongoing tri-national campaign to identify a cause for the disorder now decimating bee populations vital to crop production through a variety of approaches.

"We must secure the long-term health of honey bee populations vital to pollinating key food crops here and in Canada and Mexico," said Laurie Davies Adams, Executive Director of the [Pollinator Partnership](http://pollinator.org), the 501(c)3 managing organization for NAPPC. "The Swanson Foundation is proud to support the health of all pollinators through NAPPC. Honey bees, especially, are under so much stress that we want to help with research that will bring better understanding of the issues," said Judy Swanson, CEO of the Swanson Foundation.

Approaching the CCD problem strategically, the five one-year NAPPC grants, funded by the Swanson Foundation, support specific scientific studies in the areas of bee disease, parasites, pesticide exposure, and nutrition. The studies include:

- Ramesh Sagili, Ph.D., Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR: *Evaluating effects of pollen quality on honey bee physiology, colony growth and behavior.*
- Josephine Johnson, Ph.D. candidate, USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory Beltsville, MD: *A survey to determine imidacloprid contamination in water sources used by honey bees.*
- Jose Villa, Ph.D., USDA-ARS Honey Bee Breeding Laboratory, Baton Rouge, LA: *Selection of honey bees for resistance to *Nosema ceranae**
- James Nieh, Ph.D., University of California San Diego: *CCD and the empty-colony syndrome: effect of the pesticide imidacloprid on honey bee distance estimation*
- Mark Carroll, Ph.D., USDA-ARS-PWA Carl Hayden Bee Research Center, La Jolla, CA: *Development of novel *Varroa mite* control methods from attractant and arrestants isolated from brood host volatiles*

Progress made as a result of each research project will be reported at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual NAPPC International Summit, October 20-22, to be hosted this year by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC.

The Pollinator Partnership is committed to dedicating every dollar donated for vital research to seek viable solutions to insure the health of honey bees. Donations are needed and most welcome. [Click Here](#) to learn how donations can be made to support honey bee research and to protect and sustain pollinators critical for plant reproduction.

NAPPC's Honey Bee Health Improvement Project (HHIP) task force is co-chaired by Danny Weaver, JD, former President of the American Beekeeping Federation, and Christina Grozinger, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, and includes respected researchers from across North America.

NAPPC is a collaborative campaign including more than 130 environmental groups, government representatives, scientists, and corporate and private supporters from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. The Pollinator Partnership (P2) is a nonprofit organization headquartered in San Francisco, California. P2's mission is to catalyze stewardship of biodiversity. P2 places a high priority on efforts to protect and enhance animal pollinators (*invertebrates, birds and mammals*) and their habitats in both working and wild lands. P2 ([www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org)) administers NAPPC and its programs to encourage awareness and understanding of pollinators and to promote projects and initiatives to enhance pollinator conservation.

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