

**Name:**

Ahmed Hegazi

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Institute:

National Research Centre Egypt

Short biography:

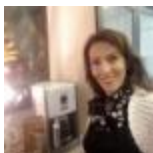
Ahmed Hegazi is currently a Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the National Research Centre; Egypt. Prof. Hegazi received his master's degree in 1979 and his PhD in 1981. Hegazi's research work has been focused lately on bee products and their therapeutic effects. Dr. Hegazi awards; First Class Decoration of Excellence; Egypt; 1995; The Senior Scientist Prize of National Research Center; Cairo; Egypt; 1996; The National Scientific Prize In Biological Sciences; Egypt; 1990; The Scientific Prize of The National Research Center; Cairo; Egypt; 1989; The Second Best Research Paper Award; International Congress of Propolis; Bones Aires; Argentina; 2000; Main Speaker Award; 10th Academic Conference; PRA and NAS (Nippon Apitherapy Soc.) Japan; 2006; 2 Bronze medals from The International Innovation Fair of the Middle East; Kuwait; 2007; Awarded of Ghazi Wad Allah Salon Prize; 2008. Awarded the Merit Award of Medical Sciences; The National Research Center; 2016. Dr. Hegazi contributed Chairman of the National Committee for Microbiological Sciences (NCMS) in Egypt; Academy of Science and Technology; Egypt; from 2018; Member of specialized Scientific Councils; Academy of Scientific Research & Technology; Being a member of the Committee of Apitherapy of APIMONDIA since 1998 up till now; Being a member of the Specialty Committee of Apitherapy of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (2023) and Membership of the Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (2023). Vice-President of the International Federation of Apitherapy (IFA); 2025 and being a regional coordinator to promote Apitherapy of Africa Hegazi organised and contributed to national and international research projects since 1977 and up till now; he has been the principal investigator on multiple research projects within the National Research Centre. He conducted training courses on Clinical Microbiology at; National Research Centre in 1979. He has 257 articles in national and international scientific journals; is an editor in 59 journals; a Referee in 115 International Journals; and an organiser of 246 International symposia and conferences. He has 9 books in English and 13 books in Arabic. As of 11/12/2017; he has patent No. 28335 and is registered for 7 others.

Motivation to stand in election:

Member from Africa Has Long Experience Increase the collaborations with the members all over the world Vice President of the International Federation of Apitherapy Member of Apitherapy Commission; APIMONDIA Chairman of the Standardisation Committee in the Ministry of Industry; Egypt

Current engagement with COLOSS:

Starting to recognition of your valuable group

**Name:**

Asli Ozkirim

Country:

Turkey

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Institute:

Hacettepe University; Department of Biology; Bee and Bee Products Application and Research Center; Microbeeotic Lab.

Short biography:

Aslı Özkirim is Senior Professor at Hacettepe University in Turkey. Her expertise areas are microbiology and parasitology. She has been working with honey bees for 26 years. She received “Award of Honour in BeeScience” from Turkish Ministry and Beekeeping Association in 2016. She is particularly focusing on beekeeping education and research. In addition to her expertise on various aspects of bee parasites and pathogens including Varroasis and Nosemosis; she has also scientific studies on beneficial microorganisms; microbiota and prebiotics. She has contributed to both academic literature and field studies. She is willing to provide expert guidance on *organic/ herbal/ soft and hard chemicals and home-made solutions against Varroa and their possible effects; **Regional Assessment to Beekeeping Techniques for Bee Welfare in Europe (Mediterranean part; North Europe; Central Europe; Macedonia and Balkans); ***Bee Health and Beekeeping Cultures in different Countries (Malpractices in Beekeeping directly depends on Beekeeping Culture and habits causes Bee diseases) She is also the president of Bee Health Scientific Committee of European Beekeeping Federation.

Motivation to stand in election:

I am an active member of COLOSS for 17 years. I have the all memories of COLOSS activities. I know very well the approach of COLOSS besides my experiences. I am the current Vice-president of COLOSS and coordinator of Best Student Poster Competition in COLOSS Conferences. COLOSS is a Global organisation consist of each continent and 127 countries. As an EC member from Turkey; the meeting point of Asia and Europe; I can contribute common and different approaches of the two continents for bee health...

Current engagement with COLOSS:

B-RAP; Varroa; Beescholars

**Name:**

Aygün Schiesser

Country:

Turkey

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Institute:

Hacettepe University

Short biography:

I have been a research scientist at the Honey Bee Health Laboratory; Hacettepe University Department of Biology; since 2007. I earned my PhD in 2014 with a study on *Paenibacillus* larvae genotypes in Turkey and the antimicrobial activity of various propolis samples. My current research focuses on environmental stressors affecting bee health; bee-associated microbiota; and the therapeutic applications of bee products. I have been serving as a COLOSS Executive Committee member since 2022. I have organized national and international events; including COLOSS workshops in Türkiye; and served on the scientific board of Apimondia 2017. As co-chair of the BEEScholars Task Force; which I initiated in 2024 under COLOSS; I coordinate activities that foster the education; collaboration; and visibility of early-career scientists. I also actively engage in science communication to promote public understanding of bees and apicultural science; including providing bee education programs for children.

Motivation to stand in election:

COLOSS has been an inspiring scientific network throughout my academic career. Over the past three years; I have had the pleasure of serving on the Executive Committee and have taken on several responsibilities with commitment and enthusiasm. This experience has given me valuable insight into the structure and functioning of COLOSS; and I believe that in a second term; I can contribute even more actively and strategically. I am particularly motivated by the opportunity to support communication; inclusion; and meaningful collaboration across different regions and scientific disciplines. It gives me great satisfaction to serve the COLOSS network and contribute to its development. One example of this contribution is the initiation and co-chairing of the BEEScholars Task Force; which was officially established in 2024 to support education and collaboration among young scientists.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

I have been an active COLOSS member since 2009; contributing to several Task Forces and Core Projects. Over the years; I have participated in the Nosema studies of the Bee Health TF; CSI: Pollen; and the Nutrition TF workshops. I currently serve as the National Coordinator for Türkiye in the Monitoring CP and Nutrition TF. I regularly attend workshops and promote COLOSS activities through academic and professional networks in Türkiye. My long-term engagement has allowed me to understand the network's needs and the diversity of its members. In 2024; I initiated and now co-chair the BEEScholars Task Force; an initiative aimed at strengthening education and collaboration among early-career bee scientists. This task force has already launched several activities and continues to grow as a dynamic and inclusive platform within COLOSS.

**Name:**

Christian Pirk

Country:

South Africa

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Institute:

Social Insects Research Group (SIRG); Department of Zoology & Entomology; University of Pretoria

Short biography:

Christian Pirk; born in Berlin; is a behavioural and chemical ecologist in the Department of Zoology & Entomology at the University of Pretoria who is leading the Social Insects Research Group. Prof Pirk has published over 180 peer-reviewed articles several book chapters and the book "Honeybee Nests – Composition; Structure; Function". He was elected to the Academy of Science of South Africa and to the African Academy of Science. Pirk was the focal point for workshops on neonicotinoids in 2018 and 2019 which resulted in a report on neonicotinoids in Africa and a policy recommendation been published. He was elected to the management committee of the COLOSS Network in 2016; and since being re-elected every term. He was elected to the InterAcademy Partnership's policy advice committee in 2019 and he has been included in the list of top 2% scientists since 2020.

Motivation to stand in election:

Together; with my colleague Prof Yusuf; I am running one of the most active honey bee groups on the African continent. I have supervised more than 20 PhD student; most of them from Africa and most of them working on bee related topics. I have worked with African honeybees for the last 25 years and therefore can contribute my expertise to the MC of COLOSS; as I did in the past and continuing to promote COLOSS and its activities together with the regional coordinators in Africa.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

I am a MC member and regional coordinator for Africa. I am active in the nutrition and colony losses task force; and contribute towards the SHB and Global colony health ones.

**Name:**

Dany El-Obeid

Country:

Lebanon

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Institute:

Lebanese University

Short biography:

I am a Lebanese agricultural engineer and beekeeping expert with more than a decade of experience in the apicultural sector across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. I currently serve as a university professor at the Lebanese University and work as an independent consultant and trainer; supporting beekeepers; agricultural institutions; and international organizations. At the regional level; I have led and contributed to various capacity-building initiatives; feasibility studies; and policy dialogues on sustainable beekeeping practices; honey quality; and pollinator health. My work bridges the gap between traditional apiculture and scientific approaches; with a strong focus on climate change adaptation; beekeeping education; and empowering women in the apicultural value chain. I have collaborated with organizations such as FAO; ICARDA; and several regional NGOs; and have organized and participated in conferences; training workshops; and policy meetings across Lebanon; Jordan; Oman; Tunisia; and Egypt. My approach emphasizes both scientific rigor and field-based application; tailored to the environmental and socio-economic realities of the region.

Motivation to stand in election:

My decision to stand for the Executive Committee election stems from a strong belief that regional voices and field experiences must be better represented and connected at the global level. After years of dedicated work in the MENA region—supporting beekeepers; engaging in regional networks; and contributing to knowledge transfer—I feel it is time to channel this experience into a broader; more impactful role. The challenges faced by beekeepers in our region—climate stress; pesticide exposure; poor forage conditions; and market instability—are often shared globally but remain underrepresented in international discussions. I wish to contribute to a more inclusive and responsive global beekeeping agenda; one that takes into account regional diversity while fostering collaboration across continents. Standing for this position is my way of extending my commitment and ensuring that regional knowledge; especially from underrepresented areas; becomes an active part of shaping collective priorities and scientific action plans.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

At present; I am not formally engaged with any COLOSS Core Projects or Task Forces. However; I remain actively informed and involved in related fields through national and regional research initiatives. I am open and eager to contribute to CPs and TFs in the near future; particularly those dealing with colony losses; climate adaptation; and socio-economic dimensions of beekeeping. My background in applied research; regional training; and policy outreach will allow me to support these efforts constructively and bring new insights from the field.

**Name:**

Dr H R Bhargava

Country:

India

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Institute:

Garden City University

Short biography:

I am a professor in the Department of Life Sciences at Garden City University; Bangalore; with over twenty years of experience in genetics and apiculture (apitherapy and bee pathology). I am actively involved in R&D; with 173 Google Scholar citations; an h-index of 7; and an i10-index of 7. I hold a Ph.D. in Apiculture from Bangalore University and an M.Sc. in Zoology. I have developed certificate and postgraduate diploma courses in apiculture. I have attended apiculture conferences organized worldwide from 2007 to date. I have received awards such as the Senior Scientist Award at Apiexpo 2014 and travel grants from UGC and DST-SERB. The Chancellor's Excellence Award 2024 was received for exemplary contribution in entrepreneurial skills. Being an entrepreneur; I do beekeeping and sell bee colonies and bee products across the country. I am a master trainer for the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC); a Government of India enterprise in promotion of beekeeping and training across India.

Motivation to stand in election:

I am standing for a role in the COLOSS Executive; because I want to help promoting a lively and collaborative setting in the honeybee health research. As a long-time active member, I have witnessed the importance of the work of COLOSS in connecting scientists and sharing vital information. My inspiration is to contribute to this goal more directly. I feel that my involvement with Bee Pathology will enable me to effectively assist the EC with their work. I look forward to assisting in growing COLOSS; increasing member participation and helping to continue providing valuable services to the community. I will be able to help and save the "Bee Population" by making our mutual efforts stronger to protect the honeybee population worldwide. SAVE BEES; SAVE EARTH!!!

Current engagement with COLOSS:

As an enthusiast researcher; I have been participating in several COLOSS CPs and TFs; to serve the beekeeping community worldwide. Most of my activities have been activities of the Colony Loss Monitoring Core Project which I have represented on a national level for India; Recently there is a scare in the loss of bee colonies due to small hive beetle infestation and not many measures are happening in India. This is a critical factor in understanding regional die-off trends. I will join the Varroa destructor Control Task Force; partake in their teleconferences; present my research on small hive beetle infestations. I am a great believer in standardization and use the BEE-BOOK to ensure my methods adhere to the best practice recommendations of COLOSS."

**Name:**

Geoff Williams

Country:

United States

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Institute:

Auburn University

Short biography:

I am an Associate Professor at Auburn University; where I am also the Director of its Bee Center. I received my undergraduate degree at the University of Alberta (Canada) and studied *Nosema ceranae* biology and management for my Ph.D. at Dalhousie University (Canada). I then jumped across the Atlantic to work on honey bee pesticide-parasite interactions and *tropilaelaps* mites at the University of Bern (Switzerland) and Chiang Mai University (Thailand) for six years as a research scientist. I joined Auburn in late 2016. I am currently a Vice President of COLOSS and an apiculture subject editor for the Journal of Economic Entomology.

Motivation to stand in election:

I am especially interested to continue as an EC member because I am a firm believer in the mission of COLOSS; especially concerning its goal to improve collaboration among scientists and to provide development opportunities for early-stage researchers. I believe my experiences as a past EC member will provide stability for COLOSS; especially concerning fundraising; budget development; and conference organization; as we continue to grow our network both within Europe and further afield.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

I am currently an EC member; as well as a Vice President; of COLOSS. I participate in regular EC meetings where I contribute to collaborative decision making and play an important role in fundraising for COLOSS. In the past I have also coordinated COLOSS Conferences. Moving forward; I plan to initiate a task force concerning *Tropilaelaps*; so, I am especially excited to continue to be an EC member; but also, a TF leader; because I believe connections between different levels in COLOSS' organization is important to facilitate high quality products as a result of good communication channels.

**Name:**

Huoqing Zheng

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China

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Institute:

Zhejiang University

Short biography:

I am leading a group working on honeybee diseases at Zhejiang University; China. I received PhD in 2009 at Zhejiang University; with part of the project done at University of Pretoria during the visiting from 2007 to 2008. From 2012 to 2013; I worked at USDA-ARS Bee Research Lab; Beltsville; Maryland; as a visiting scientist. I serve as an EC member of COLOSS and one of the regional coordinators in Asia. Taking advantage of the presence of both *Apis cerana* and *Apis mellifera* in the area; I am particularly interested in the host shift of honeybee parasites and pathogens; e.g. *Varroa destructor* and viruses; between the two honeybee species. I am a duty scientist of National Beekeeping Industry Technology System in China and the Secretary-General of Apicultural Science Association of Zhejiang Province; where half of royal jelly of the world is produced.

Motivation to stand in election:

Among the nine honeybee species; only *Apis mellifera* has been extensively examined; while others were much less studied due to their distribution limited in Asia. Of the five honeybee species native in China; *A. cerana* is widely managed. It is uncertain if the sister species holds the keys to prevent colony losses of *A. mellifera*; but I believe that “learning from each other” is important to improve the health status of both the honeybee species. I hope to build a bridge between the eastern (honeybees) and the western (honeybees). I think one of the best routes to achieve this is to be a COLOSS EC member.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

I serve as an EC member of COLOSS and one of the regional coordinators in Asia. I have been engaging the organizing of COLOSS Asia meeting since 2021. This year; I will host COLOSS Asia 2025 in Hangzhou; China.

**Name:**

Jaber Amin Abraham

Country:

Austria

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jabraebrahim@gmail.com

Institute:

Ph.D. Candidate; Department of Animal Sciences and Husbandry; Cukurova University; Adana; Turkey

Short biography:

I am a Sudanese Ph.D. candidate at Cukurova University specializing in bee breeding and genetics; with a strong background in plant protection and applied entomology. My academic journey includes a B.Sc. and M.Sc. from Sudan University of Science and Technology and over three years of teaching and research experience across Sudan and Turkey. I have contributed to international conferences and published on topics such as honeybee genetics and the application of artificial intelligence in apiculture. My leadership roles in academic and student associations reflect my commitment to scientific collaboration and community engagement.

Motivation to stand in election:

My motivation to join the Executive Committee stems from a passion to advance collaborative research and knowledge exchange within the COLOSS network. I aim to represent early-career researchers and contribute to the development of innovative strategies addressing honeybee health and breeding challenges. My international experience and multidisciplinary background equip me to foster inclusive dialogue and drive impactful initiatives that align with COLOSS's mission.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

Currently; I actively participate in the COLOSS Bee Breeding and Genetics Core Project; contributing to discussions on genetic diversity and sustainable breeding practices. I am also involved in the Bee Losses Monitoring Task Force; assisting with data collection and analysis related to colony losses in diverse climatic regions. My engagement includes attending COLOSS workshops; sharing research findings; and collaborating on joint publications to support evidence-based improvements in apiculture.

**Name:**

Linde Morawetz

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Austria

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Institute:

Department for Apiculture and Bee Protection; AGES - Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety

Short biography:

I did my Master and PhD both at the University of Vienna working about the sensory biology of bees (Master: stingless bees; PhD: honeybees and bumble bees). After my PhD I worked as a postdoc at the University of Wuerzburg with focus on the visual system of the honeybee (2013-2014). Since 2014; I work at the department for Apiculture and Bee Protection of the AGES (since 2020 as deputy lead of the department). Among others my tasks involve conducting projects concerning bee health; teaching courses for bee keepers and disseminating our research results. Since 2016 I am member of the COLOSS Velutina task force; as I am the AGES-contact person for this topic. Since the beginning of 2019 I am co-chair of the B-RAP group. In my understanding the message is only as good as the way it is told. Thus, we researchers need to have the skills and tools to allow the beekeepers to understand our research outcomes. Further areas of interests are: bee viruses; small hive beetle; solitary bees and bumblebees; citizen science

Motivation to stand in election:

COLOSS is a fascinating research association with its successfully working bottom-up approach and the openness of its members. I was EC member during the last three years and would love to use my experiences of the last years to help developing COLOSS further. As a co-chair in the Core Group B-RAP; I aim to represent B-RAP in the EC. As B-RAP is all about improving the scientific communication; a good connection with other task-forces is essential to work efficiently towards a better beekeeper knowledge.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

member of the COLOSS EC; co-chair of B-RAP; active member of Vespid Task Force

**Name:**

Maria Bouga

Country:

Greece

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mbouga@aua.gr

Institute:

Agricultural University of Athens; Laboratory of Agricultural Zoology & Entomology

Short biography:

Dr. Maria Bouga received her PhD in Biology; specialized in genetics of honey bees. She is collaborating with the Laboratory of Agricultural Zoology & Entomology of the Agricultural University of Athens; Greece; and she is responsible for the Molecular Unit. Her research and teaching activities cover aspects of Molecular Taxonomy; Genetics; and Apiculture focused on the genetics of honey bee; honey dew insects and Varroa destructor. She is involving also on the conservation of native bee populations. She has been actively involved in COLOSS since 2008 and has been a member of the Executive Committee since 2014. She is currently the Senior Editor of the Journal of Apicultural Research. She is author of many publications in peer reviewed journals and in many contributions to International; European; National Conferences; books; Workshops and reports.

Motivation to stand in election:

Dr. Maria Bouga is a member of the EC since 2014; she has obtained great experience supporting the EC activities. As the Senior Editor of the Journal of Apicultural Research; supports the COLOSS BEEBOOK Editorial Board for the publication of the BEEBOOK articles to the Journal of Apicultural Research.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

Dr. Maria Bouga is a member of RNSBB Task Force; Vice Chair of the World Honey Bee Health Task Force and involving in the BEEBOOK Core Project.

**Name:**

Norman Carreck

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United Kingdom

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Institute:

Carreck Consultancy Limited

Short biography:**Motivation to stand in election:**

I have been keeping bees since the age of 15. I studied Agricultural Science at Nottingham University and joined Rothamsted Research in 1987 where I was involved in research on pollination ecology; bee behaviour; bee pathology and forage for bees. Since 2008 I have carried out research at the University of Sussex on bee breeding and pesticides and bees. I was Senior Editor of the Journal of Apicultural Research (2007-18) and Science Director of the International Bee Research Association (2009-2018). I am a Trustee of the C B Dennis British Beekeepers Research Trust; Examinations Moderator for the UK National Diploma in Beekeeping; and Independent Science Advisor to the “Bee Health Advisory Forum” for the Defra “Healthy Bees Plan”. I am Joint Editor of the Beekeepers Quarterly; a director of Carreck Consultancy Ltd and Bee Publishing Ltd and an Associate Fellow of the University of Sussex. Google Scholar ResearchGate

Current engagement with COLOSS:

I hope to continue to serve COLOSS on the EC for the next term. Although much has been achieved in COLOSS since 2008; honey bee colony losses continue to be a problem; currently especially in the USA; but also, in parts of Europe. We need to better understand why; despite the vast amount of useful research that has taken place since 2008; beekeepers continue to lose colonies; often due to reasons that can be classified as “bad beekeeping”; in particular the failure to control varroa. This is the role of B-RAP. We also need to better prepare governments and international bodies for the continuing spread of Asian hornets; the arrival of trophielaps mites in Europe; and the continuing presence of small hive beetles.

**Name:**

Peter Neumann

Country:

Switzerland

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Institute:

Institute of Bee Health; Vetsuisse Faculty; University of Bern

Short biography:

Positions: Professor of Bee Health (since 1.01.2013); President of COLOSS (elected 31.09.2013; re-elected: 2016; 2019; 2022); Action Chair COLOSS FA0803 (21.11.2008-31.09.2013); various other prior positions; Research: Behavioral; evolutionary & molecular ecology of social insects with focus on honey bee pathology; Current group: 1 associated researcher; 1 lecturer; 5 post docs; 3 technical staff; 7 PhD students; 5 MSc students; External funding: 88 projects with CHF >13 Mio (as PI: 49 with CHF >10 Mio); Publications: N=300 articles in international peer-reviewed journals (26520 citations; h-index: 75; i10-index: 236; most cited author in the Journal of Apicultural Research ([link](#)) [30.04.2025]

Motivation to stand in election:

I believe that my 17 years of experience in running COLOSS will be valuable for the new EC. Further; the strong current links of COLOSS with Swiss law and tax system as well as the administration of the University of Bern create demand for at least one local EC member.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

I am the President of COLOSS. Further; I am Co-Chair of the TF Small Hive beetle. Finally; I am involved as a board member of the CP BEEBOOK.

**Name:**

Robert Brodschneider

Country:

Austria

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Institute:

Department of Biology; University of Graz

Short biography:

Dr. Robert Brodschneider; born 1976 in Austria; is a researcher and lecturer at the Institute of Biology; University of Graz; Austria; specializing in honey bee biology; nutrition; and colony health. As a long-standing COLOSS member and EC member; he has contributed to international monitoring of colony losses and led efforts in Austria to analyze and mitigate honey bee mortality. His impactful research on nutrition and environmental stressors; widely cited publications; and leadership as Austria's COLOSS coordinator highlight his commitment to sustainable beekeeping. Dr. Brodschneider actively fosters international collaboration; knowledge transfer; and education to address global challenges in honey bee health and support beekeeping communities worldwide.

Motivation to stand in election:

I am deeply committed to fostering collaboration within the scientific community of COLOSS to address the complex challenges faced by honey bees. I feel committed to strengthening COLOSS's global impact and promoting evidence-based strategies to improve hive management and resilient beekeeping.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

I have played an active role in COLOSS research since 2009; such as the CP monitoring; CP B-Rap; TF CSI Pollen and others. I attended and organized workshops. I have authored and co-authored scientific papers under COLOSS's initiatives that have been well-received by the broader research community. These publications underscore my commitment to producing high-impact research that benefits our association; its members; and beekeepers worldwide. I have represented COLOSS in various international conferences; promoting the association's objectives and disseminating key findings on the state of pollinators and the importance of sustaining healthy colonies. These efforts have strengthened COLOSS's presence and influence in the global community.

**Name:**

Selina Bruckner

Country:

United States

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Institute:

Auburn University

Short biography:

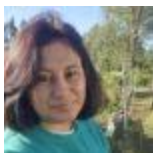
As an idealistic undergraduate student; I joined the Institute for Bee Health (Bern; Switzerland) to work on honey bees and save the natural world. While I did not quite save the natural world; I am still working on honey bees; ten years later. Throughout my career; my research has focused on the effects of agrochemicals and parasites on honey bee health; best beekeeping management practices and beekeeper education. As a Ph.D. and Postdoc in the U.S.; I developed a passion for Extension which bridges the gap between research and practice. Thus; I am excited to be in my current position as an Assistant Extension Professor and Apiculture specialist at Auburn University (Alabama; USA). My job allows me to conduct applied honey bee research and relate the results to beekeepers via presentations and workshops.

Motivation to stand in election:

The beekeeping industry faces similar problems across the world. Thus; I appreciate that COLOSS fosters an international network of apiculture professionals to tackle these problems jointly; rather than individually. I want to be part of the Executive Committee to strengthen collaborations across country-borders and enable the creation of new task forces targeting problems that are applicable to beekeepers across the world. As an Extension specialist; I regularly interact with beekeepers and my Extension colleagues across the United States. Through these interactions; I have a good sense of the major problems beekeepers have with colony management and what research they deem relevant. Sharing these insights with the EC could inform future priorities of COLOSS. Finally; I believe it is important that COLOSS is represented by a diversity of individuals. As a female and early career professional; I believe I can add a valuable perspective to the decision-making process of the EC.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

My current engagement with COLOSS Core Projects and Task Forces is limited; partially due to living in different time zones. When possible; I attend online meetings for the BRAP core project as its mission perfectly aligns with my passion and job description. In the future; I am hoping to be more involved in this core project and actively participate. Since much of my applied research and Extension education focuses on pests and parasites of honey bees; I am following the activities of the Varroa and Small Hive Beetle Task Forces.

**Name:**

M. Shantal Rodriguez-Flores

Country:

Spain

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Institute:

University of Vigo

Short biography:

My research focuses on the authenticity and enhancement of bee products; as well as the ecological impact of the invasive species *Vespa velutina*; which has direct implications for beekeeping. I completed my PhD at the University of Vigo; specialising in Castanea and Honeydew honeys. I completed international stays and received an international mention; an extraordinary award; and a Cum Laude qualification. I contributed to authenticate bee products and contributed to the recognition of honeydew honey under the IXP 'Mel de Galicia' in Spain. During my seven-year postdoctoral stage; I developed hypotheses and designs on semiochemicals and the life cycle of *V. velutina*; integrating analytical and molecular techniques. I am currently leading national and international projects with active funding and have an independent research profile. I also have extensive experience in scientific collaboration; knowledge transfer and the training of young researchers; as well as participating in networks such as COLOSS.

Motivation to stand in election:

I am deeply motivated to run for the Executive Committee of COLOSS; a network with which I fully share its mission to promote bee health through collaborative; rigorous and impactful research. My background; focused on bee products and comprehensively addressing the threat of *Vespa velutina*; connects directly with the objectives of COLOSS; especially in relation to invasive species; bee biotechnology; product authenticity and knowledge transfer to the beekeeping sector. I have established experience in international projects; multidisciplinary collaboration and team leadership. In addition; I am committed to the training of young researchers and constant interaction with the primary sector; from an applied; sustainable and evidence-based perspective. I firmly believe that COLOSS should continue to be a global; open and dynamic reference; and I would like to contribute my energy; knowledge and commitment to the strategic development of the network.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

I am an active member of the COLOSS Vespidae Working Group; having joined in 2023. My main contributions have focused on preparing several chapters for the COLOSS Bee Book on Vespids. In this role; I have collaborated on developing and harmonising methodologies related to the ecology; biology; and monitoring of invasive vespid species; particularly *Vespa velutina*. Within the working group; I contribute scientific knowledge and experimental experience in basic and applied research; particularly in colony monitoring and the structural description of vespid nests. I regularly attend online meetings; contribute to the planning of new joint initiatives; and maintain active communication with other members to support coordination and content review. This involvement has strengthened my collaborative links within the COLOSS network and reinforced my commitment to providing standardised tools for the scientific and beekeeping communities in the face of invasive vespids.

**Name:**

Victoria Soroker

Country:

Israel

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Institute:

Agricultural Research Organization; the Volcani Center;

Short biography:

I am a senior researcher (emeritus since mid-2024) specializing in chemical ecologist; physiology and integrated pest management and a COLOSS member since 2008; EC member since 2013 and a lecturer at Hebrew University. My research aims at developing an integrated approach to Varroa management including methods directed at reduction of Varroa fitness as well as at promoting honeybee individual and social resistance via breeding. I guided Master PHD students and postdocs from different countries. I led several international projects; co-authored more than 120 reviewed research manuscripts; reviews and several book chapters focusing on honeybee pheromones; Varroa chemo sensing and its disruption as well as colony losses as well as others. In particular; I co-authored three chapters in the Beebook and chapter in a book about Asian beekeeping in 21st century. Much of my research is done with COLOSS members from Monitoring Core project; Varroa; RNSBB and World honey bee health.

Motivation to stand in election:

I strongly believe in international collaboration to address global challenges; especially those affecting honey bees. Given their vital role in ecosystems and food security; promoting honey bee research is essential for a better future. I fully support the aims of COLOSS and its mission to advance honey bee welfare through global cooperation. My motivation stems from the belief that our association can make a meaningful impact by fostering collaboration; sharing knowledge; and supporting young researchers; particularly from developing countries. Since 2013; I have served as a member of the COLOSS Executive Committee (EC); and since 2019; as a co-leader of the Varroa Task Force. In these roles; I actively contribute to decision-making; meeting organization; and other initiatives. As an EC member; I am committed to furthering the development and visibility of COLOSS and strengthening its role as a global leader in honey bee health.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

I am an active participant particularly in four groups: Monitoring Core project; Varroa; RNSBB and World Honey Bee Health. Task forces. Since 2019 I act as one of the Varroa TF leaders. Within these groups I am continuously participating meetings; common experiments and initiatives; writing common articles and book chapters. Over the years I participated in organization of a number of COLOSS annual meetings. Moreover; I have hosted Varroa control and RNSBB spring meeting in ARO; and participated in organization of six more spring meetings of the Varroa control task force that took place at various destinations. Within the World Honey Bee Health TF, I serve as coordinator for Russia and Israel.

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Short biography:

I am a veterinarian, Dipl. ECVP and the Director of the National Reference Centre for Beekeeping at the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe) in Italy. With over 30 years of experience in animal health and disease surveillance, I have led national and international projects on honey bee health, epidemiology, and diagnostics. I have represented Italy in several EU working groups on bee health and contributed to the development of WOA and EFSA guidance on apiculture. I have a strong background in veterinary public health and a long-standing commitment to bridging science, field practice, and policy.

Motivation to stand in election:

I believe COLOSS plays a crucial role in promoting collaborative and evidence-based approaches to bee health. I am motivated to contribute my experience in veterinary medicine, public health, and institutional coordination to support the goals of the network. As a member of the Executive Committee, I would work to strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation, promote applied research, and ensure that veterinary perspectives continue to be well represented in decision-making and strategic planning. I am committed to enhancing the visibility and policy impact of COLOSS, particularly in the context of global bee health challenges.

Current engagement with COLOSS:

I have actively contributed to COLOSS activities for over a decade, particularly in the Monitoring and BEEBOOK core projects and other Task Forces such as Bee Health. I collaborate regularly with other COLOSS members on training activities, publications, and the promotion of best practices in bee disease prevention and control. I am also supporting the establishment of the COLOSS Veterinary Working Group to promote the role of veterinarians in apiculture.