



COLOSS Update April 2012

This year over 160 leading honey bee researchers from around the world build on their past hard efforts to complete the COLOSS *BEEBOOK: standard methodologies for Apis mellifera research*. The manual, slated for publication by the end of 2012, will be available for free online or as a hardcopy for purchase, and will describe methods for studying and breeding honey bees and for understanding their pests and pathogens. A guest editorial written by COLOSS members Geoff Williams, Vincent Dietemann, Jamie Ellis, and Peter Neumann appeared in the April issue of the *Journal of Apicultural Research*. In it, they highlighted past achievements of the network and officially introduced the COLOSS *BEEBOOK* to the scientific community and general public. The article can be downloaded without cost from the website of the International Bee Research Association (www.ibra.org.uk)

Additionally, COLOSS members have continued to engage in Short-term Scientific Missions and workshops fostered by the network.

STSM in Graz, Austria

Late in 2011, Nurit Eliash from the Volcani Center in Bet Dagan, Israel visited the laboratory of Karl Crailsheim at the Karl-Franzens-University to learn the proper methods for artificial rearing of honey bee larvae. This method is crucial for understanding possible effects of pesticides on honey bees, as well as for studying development of viruses and rearing the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*.



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STSM in Wageningen The Netherlands

Anne-Claire Martel from ANSES in Sophia, Antipolis, France also performed an STSM in 2011. She visited Tjeerd Blacquiere and Sje van der Steen at the Plant Research Center to learn techniques for determining vitellogenin level in honey bees. This protein is an important marker for stress and vitality.



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