COLOSS and the EU FP7-funded research consortium BEE DOC (BÉes in Europe and the Decline Of Colonies; bee-doc.eu) work closely together to better understand honey bee health. Multiple members take part in both groups to organise workshops, perform research, and to provide advice to industry stakeholders. For example:

The wikiCOLOSS BEEBOOK
To meet the needs of the honey bee scientific community as new discoveries are made, COLOSS and BEE DOC have jointly developed a plan to dynamically preserve the relevance of the BEEBOOK between hard-copy editions by creating the wikiCOLOSS BEEBOOK. Once the BEEBOOK is published, this tool will allow the scientific community to dynamically comment on, and revise, the BEEBOOK in real-time on the COLOSS website (coloss.org/beebook).

Screen shot of the coloss.org web interface showing previous revisions made to the working copy of the BEEBOOK chapter relevant to the study of the mite Varroa destructor.

BeeDoctor: a versatile diagnostic tool for screening bee viruses
BEE DOC & COLOSS members from Belgium, Sweden, and Germany recently developed the ‘BeeDoctor’. Based on multiplex-ligation probe dependent amplification (MLPA) technology, the assay allows for a novel high throughput screening of 10 honey bee viruses simultaneously. This will enable rapid virus diagnosis in honey bee populations, and allow beekeepers to make more informed management decisions.

Development and use of the BeeDoctor was demonstrated in the scientific journal PLoS ONE in October.


Collaborations like the one demonstrated by COLOSS and BEE DOC more efficiently improve our understanding of the honey bee and the environment in which it lives. This move us forward together toward our goal of helping to ensure global food security by sustaining honey bees for pollination and other environmental services.