

MEMORANDUM

December 6, 2016

TO: UF/IFAS Faculty  
FROM: Jackie K. Burns  
SUBJECT: 2017 Early Career Scientist Seed Fund - Announcement of Awardees

The future of IFAS and UF is driven by the early career faculty that join us to build their careers and impact our world through their research, teaching, and extension efforts. This year the UF/IFAS Dean for Research office, in partnership with the Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Vice President for Research, has once again implemented an Early Career Scientist Seed Fund program to facilitate development of new faculty research, jumpstart their research programs, and to provide a platform for their future success.

This year's competition was highly competitive, with 25 early career scientists presenting excellent proposals. After a rigorous review by a panel of UF/IFAS scientists, I am pleased to announce 15 awards. The research projects represented by these awards demonstrate the breadth of UF/IFAS research programs.

Please join me in congratulating this year's awardees!

**The awarded 2017 Early Career Seed Funding Proposals are:**

**Author: Dr. Brian Bahder**

Unit: Entomology & Nematology/Ft. Lauderdale REC

Title: Potential insect vectors and genetic diversity of palm-infecting phytoplasmas in the Caribbean basin

Research Funding: \$50,000

**Author: Dr. Mathieu Basille**

Unit: Wildlife Ecology & Conservation/Ft. Lauderdale REC

Title: Ecological flows in human-dominated landscapes: individuals, genes, and pathogens

Research Funding: \$50,000

**Author: Dr. Alan Chambers**

Unit: Horticultural Sciences/Tropical REC

Title: Innovating Tropical Fruit Improvement Through Consumer-Friendly Biotechnology

Research Funding: \$50,000

**Author: Dr. Adam Dale**

Unit: Entomology & Nematology

Title: The effects of turfgrass diversity on arthropod pests and biological control in urban landscapes

Research Funding: \$50,000

**Author: Dr. Young Gu Her**

Unit: Agricultural & Biological Engineering/Tropical REC

Title: Development of a Simulation Tool for Holistic Assessment of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Impacts on South Florida's Agriculture and Hydrology

Research Funding: \$49,640

**Author: Dr. Basil Iannone**

Unit: School of Forest Resources & Conservation

Title: Evaluating the contribution of biotic complexity to pest control in ornamental plant communities

Research Funding: \$50,000

**Author: Dr. Seonghee Lee**

Unit: Horticultural Sciences/Gulf Coast REC

Title: Development of CRISPR/Cas gene-editing technology in strawberry

Research Funding: \$50,000

**Author: Dr. Tong Geon Lee**

Unit: Horticultural Sciences/Gulf Coast REC

Title: Development and deployment of a genomics pipeline for rapid detection of structural variation in plant genomes

Research Funding: \$48,628

**Author: Dr. Amit Levy**

Unit: Plant Pathology/Citrus REC

Title: Role of vesicle trafficking, callose and calcium in the interactions of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus with host plant and the Asian Citrus Psyllid

Research Funding: \$47,356

**Author: Dr. Hui-Ling (Sunny) Liao**

Unit: Soil & Water Sciences/North Florida REC

Title: An emerging strategy (Combined Metaomics & CRISPR) for the study of ectomycorrhizal symbiosis between Suillus and Pinaceae, with emphasis on their roles in fungal-plant cross talk and nutrient cycling

Research Funding: \$50,000

**Author: Dr. Brandon McFadden**

Unit: Food & Resource Economics

Title: Using Eye Tracking to Determine the Effectiveness of the Updated Nutrition Facts Panel

Research Funding: \$49,715

**Author: Dr. Justin Renkema**

Unit: Entomology & Nematology/Gulf Coast REC

Title: Developing molecular tools to determine impacts of beneficial invertebrates in Florida small fruit agroecosystems

Research Funding: \$49,998

**Author: Dr. Sarah Strauss**

Unit: Soil & Water Science/Southwest Florida REC

Title: Impact of propagation method on citrus rhizosphere development

Research Funding: \$40,100

**Author: Dr. Christopher Vincent**

Unit: Horticultural Sciences/Citrus REC

Title: Primed acclimation of citrus to improve resistance to *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*

Research Funding: \$48,400

**Author: Dr. Yu Wang**

Unit: Food Science & Human Nutrition/Citrus REC

Title: Bioactivity-→Guided Identification of Adipogenesis Inhibitors in the Huanglongbing (HLB) infected orange

Research Funding: \$49,165