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KEYNOTE SPEAKER - 1



Prof. Dr. Peter Neumann

Director, Institute of Bee Health,
University of Bern, Switzerland

Brief Bio: Peter Neumann has a background in chemistry, ecology and evolution. His research and teaching covers all aspects of bee health with focus on behavioral, evolutionary and molecular ecology of honey bees and their pathogens. He is fascinated by social insects since his childhood and eventually moved from ants (his first love) to honey bees. Over the past 30+ years, he has worked with various social insect species on all continents except Antarctica focusing on honey bee pathology and ecotoxicology. Peter currently is Foundation-Vinetum Prof. of Bee Health; Director of the Institute of Bee Health, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern; Extraordinary Professor, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria, South Africa and President of COLOSS (prevention of honeybee COLony LOSSes, www.coloss.org). For further details, please refer to his [google scholar](#).

He is the President COLOSS association
(prevention of honey bee COLony LOSSes [www.coloss.org] with >1900 members from 102 countries, since 2013)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - 2



Prof. Dr. Robert Paxton

Chair of General Zoology, 2010-present
Institute for Biology, Martin Luther University
Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Brief Bio: Robert is a graduate of Sussex University, where he undertook a PhD on sex ratios in solitary wasps in 1985. Robert subsequently held postdoc positions at Cardiff University, researching bees and pollination, Uppsala University, working on population genetics, then the University of Tübingen (Germany), researching social evolution. In 2003 took up an academic post at Queen's University Belfast from where, in 2010, he moved to the University of Halle (Germany), to take up a chair in zoology. His main research areas are: social evolution, host-parasite relations, pollination and conservation genetics, with a taxonomic focus on bees. His most recent research addresses deformed wing virus and its impact on the health of both honey bees and wild bee species.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - 3



Dr Jay Evans

Lead Scientist in the US Department of
Agriculture's Bee Research Laboratory
(Beltsville, MD), USA

Brief Bio: Dr Jay Evans born in Seattle, Washington, USA and knew from a young age he wanted to study biology but did not realize they would involve bees until after finishing undergraduate (Princeton University) and graduate (University of Utah) degrees in genetics and behavior. He is a Lead Scientist in the US Department of Agriculture's Bee Research Laboratory (Beltsville, MD) where he has focused on interactions between bees, microbes, mites, and insects. He was Leader in the Honey Bee Genome Project and has helped develop new genetic tools for bee breeding and disease diagnostics, while looking for safe medicines to reduce the impacts of bee disease. He is also interested in the ways of nutrition; chemical stress and disease interact to harm honey bees. He has received USDA awards for 'Early Career' (2013) and 'Senior' (2023) Scientist of the Year and James Hambleton Award for Bee Research. He has enjoyed mentoring dozens of students and Professional Researchers. He writes a monthly column for Bee Culture Magazine (www.beesfoundintranslation.org) and enjoys frequent talks with beekeepers. He is a sometime sheep and goat farmer. He will speak on "Honey bee disease" (covering efforts to understand honey bee behavior and interaction with parasites, pathogens, and mutualists through a genetic eye)

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