

The 117th Annual Convention and Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Friday February 24 and Saturday February 25, 2023, at the Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites, 1800 Wellington Ave. Winnipeg. Our keynote speakers this year are: Dr Lewis Bartlett, Dr Kaira Wagoner and Dr Steve Pernal.



Dr. Lewis Bartlett, Centre for the Ecology of Infectious Diseases at the University of Georgia, emphasises on the evolutionary ecology of infectious diseases and applications in apiculture.

Lewis's work integrates across ecological and evolutionary biology using techniques spanning mathematical models to field studies. Lewis's current focus explores how changes in host ecology affect the ecology of their infectious diseases, and consequences for both pathogen and host evolution. He applies this to managed apiculture in an effort to assist beekeepers in maintaining viable honeybee populations, and includes nutrition, ecotoxicology, and wider integration with agroecology from the perspective of a pest and pathogens biologist.

<https://www.bartlett.science/current-research>



Dr. Kaira Wagoner is graduate of Guilford College, earned her masters and doctorate degrees from the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG), and served five years as a post-doctoral fellow in the UNCG social insect lab. Dr. Wagoner currently serves as a Research Scientist, splitting her time between UNCG and Optera, a Greensboro-based start-up focused on improving honey bee health that was co-founded by Dr. Wagoner in 2020. Dr. Wagoner's research focuses on honey bee pests and diseases, particularly as they relate to the immune mechanism hygienic behavior, the ability of adult honey bees to detect and remove unhealthy brood from the hive. Dr. Wagoner is currently using natural honey bee stress signals to develop novel tools to facilitate apiary management and improve selection of disease

and pest-resistant honey bees. When not in the lab or apiary, Dr. Wagoner enjoys traveling, playing games, and spending time in the great outdoors with her husband and two nature-loving boys.



Dr. Steve Pernal received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Manitoba and was a postdoctoral fellow at Simon Fraser University. Since 2001, he has been employed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as a Research Scientist in Beaverlodge, Alberta where he leads Canada's federal apiculture research program and also serves as Officer-in-Charge.

Dr. Pernal's doctoral work concentrated on honey bee nutrition and the influence of pollen quality on foraging strategies in honey bees. Since 2001, he has been a Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, where he leads a national honey bee research program. His work has focused on the detection and management of honey bee diseases and parasites, the detection of antibiotic and pesticide residues in hive products, and the development of markers for breeding resistance to diseases and the parasitic mite *Varroa destructor*. He previously served as President of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists, and is a member of several national and international advisory committees. Dr. Pernal was the Scientific Program Chair of the 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress (2019).

Other guests include Dr. Medhat Nasar, Dr. Rob Currie, Greenlight Bioscience, Veto Pharma and Lloyd Harris.



Be sure to attend Friday night's MBA Convention Banquet as we present a Tribute to Rheel Lafreniere of his years of service to Manitoba beekeepers.

The Convention committee is planning a Thursday night (February 23) seminar about Business Risk Management Topics.

The full conference itinerary will be available for viewing before the meeting on the MBA site www.manitobabee.org