

Current Research Objectives

Dr. Zhonglin Mou, Associate Professor, Microbiology and Cell Science, Gainesville
(zhlmou@ufl.edu)

Research topic: Plant Improvement

Primary Research Objective(s): Creating citrus varieties resistant or tolerant to HLB

Research Goal: Overexpress defense genes and screen for HLB resistant or tolerant transgenic lines.

Outcomes to date: We have demonstrated that elevating basal resistance by overexpression of defense genes is able to provide robust tolerance to HLB. This result also leads to the identification of gene targets for non-GMO mutations using the state-of-the-art gene editing technology.

Funding source for this objective(s): CRDF