

# CMACC 2018 Guest Speaker Profiles



**Allen M. Dennison, MD** graduated from Harvard University in Biology and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1980. His wife, Jane Dennison M.D, a pediatrician and beekeeper, has encouraged his efforts to use raw local and Manuka honey to close wounds in the nursing home where he works. He is currently working with the Depts. of Microbiology, Pharmacy and Wound Care (Division of Nursing) at Brown University's R. I. Hospital, to re establish honey as a preferred dressing component for all surgical wounds, with special attention to antibiotic-resistant bacteria. He is an active clinical teacher at Brown University and Boston University Medical Schools. He has vowed not to rest until the National Board of Internal Medicine includes an exam question on wound healing, to which you already know the answer.



**Melanie Kirby, Apiculturist and Queen Honeybee Breeder** established Zia Queenbee Company to provide quality queenbees and natural honeybee products. Melanie has been a professional beekeeper for 21 years and has specialized in queenbee-rearing for the past 19 years. She began her career as a Beekeeping Extension Volunteer with the United States Peace Corps. After serving her country abroad as a technical and cultural ambassador, she continued to learn and grow as a beekeeper. While working for two companies on the Big Island of Hawaii, she learned more skills in queen grafting and rearing. In Florida, she learned about nucleus and package bee production. Following these experiences, she committed her energies and skills towards beginning Zia Queenbee Company, a beekeeping enterprise that is progressive, innovative and ethical. In partnership with Mark Spitzig, Zia Queenbee Company and its sister enterprise Superior Honey Farms span from border-to-border. Queenbee Company's bee farming takes place throughout New Mexico's Land of Enchantment. Home base is nestled in

the folds of the Pecos, Santa Fe and Carson National Forests – in Truchas\* (8300 foot elevation) with the backdrop of Truchas Peaks reaching over 13,000 feet in elevation. We are on The High Road- halfway between Santa Fe and Taos, NM. Zia Queenbee Co. is in the heart of Pueblo Indian country – reverence for our location and nature's gifts is prominent here. Zia Queenbee Co. is dedicated to conscientious and practical queen breeding/rearing projects and to maintaining local, regional and national sustainability.



**Reyah Carlson, Practitioner of Apitherapy** has been stung by bees more than 25,000 times. On purpose. She was a featured speaker at the 2010 North American Beekeepers Conference held in Orlando. Reyah, operates out of her home, and drives to some of her clients homes throughout Vermont and has used the therapy on herself with positive results. She has given stings to nearly 3000 people and has traveled the world to spread the word about bee venom therapy. She has also appeared in National Geographic and on the Discovery Channel. Learn more about Reyah here <http://reyahcarlson.typepad.com/about.html>



## **Nika Pengal, Beekeeper, Apitherapist, Honey Massage**

**Therapist** When I left school, I went on to attend the Faculty of Humanities in Koper at the University of Primorska, Slovenia, to pursue a degree in archeology with a major in European and Mediterranean Heritage. I was amazed to learn that beekeeping had been an important part of the development of civilizations around the Mediterranean and that bee products are highly beneficial both as a foodstuff and for their medicinal properties; this synergy between honeybees and humans fascinated me. However, when I realized the way in which human civilization is threatening the very existence of these creatures who give us so much, I was very disturbed. Nevertheless, I came to realize that Slovenia possesses an amazing culture and respect for bees, perhaps more than anywhere else in the world. As the birthplace of the Carniolan

Honeybee, I realized that I had everything at my fingertips to become part of this beautiful ancient tradition. As someone who was always close to nature, growing up in the countryside not far from the green city of Ljubljana, learning about beekeeping brought me closer still to nature. As my awareness grew to the blossoming of each type of tree and flowering plant, I realized how this is as vital to the bees as it is to nature itself. So it was natural that by the time I graduated from University, I would begin keeping bees. I enrolled in a beekeeping course at the Pivka Beekeeping Association, Ilirska Bistrica in 2013, and in 2014 I became a member of both the Slovenian Apitherapy Association and the Dr. Filip Terč Apitherapy Association in Maribor. Also in 2014, I enrolled to study apitherapy at the Maribor Beekeeping Association through the Slovenian and Dr. Filip Terč Apitherapy Associations. In 2016, I gave a presentation on Depression and Apitherapy and my graduation work was titled Balanced Nutrition and Apitherapy. That same year, I started working in the apitherapy bee-house of the tourist farm Pri Zalarju. Since then I have continued to follow apitherapy and honey massage seminars in Slovenia and throughout Europe very closely.

I am an active member of the Domžale Beekeepers Association and Škofja Loka Beekeepers Association. In the former, I am a representative of the apitherapy branch and am currently involved in establishing the Domžale Beekeeping Trail, a learning path emphasizing intergenerational learning and exchange of experiences. The path will feature information boards and regular beekeeping educational activities. I am responsible for the educational content of the learning path and overseeing the construction of the specialized apitherapy beehouse and pollinator garden to be included in the path. After the construction, I will be tasked with management of the beehouse and apitherapeutic activities. I actively engage with the public and with professionals at various events. I have given talks on beekeeping, apitherapy, bee products for beekeepers and other professionals, cancer patients and wider audiences. At this year's Celje Fair I am promoting Slovenian apitherapy and raising awareness of its potential. I have been featured in magazines, online and interviewed on the radio. I wrote an article on apitherapy for beekeepers in Kranjska č'belá, the journal of the Gorenjska Beekeepers Association. In 2017, I entered the startup generator Štartaj Domžale competition, where I responded to the need for more healthy snack foods by creating CHEWBEE, a beeswax-based healthy alternative to chewing gum, winning first place in the competition. I continue my mission of promoting the importance of bees, and this spring will see me attending various events to this end, regionally and wider. In the Summer of 2018, I will establish an apitherapy centre on the planina of Talež, near to Slovenia's premier attraction of Lake Bled named "Hiša Nika; Center za apiterapijo, čaj in poezijo" (Nika's House; Center for Apitherapy, Tea and Poetry). Ultimately, my professional goal is to become a leading apitherapist in Slovenia and the world. I want to raise the awareness of the necessity of bees and the benefits of their products. I want to advance the use of apitherapy in close collaboration with modern medicine, enabling a comprehensive approach to patient treatment from a holistic perspective.