July 11, 2019

Ms. Kehong Liu
Citrus Research Institute
Southwest University
#15 Citrus Village, Xiema Town, Beibei District
Chongqing
P. R. China 400712

Dear Ms. Liu,

I will be glad to host you in my laboratory in California as a visiting scholar to work on a research project on genomic characterization of "*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus" associated with citrus huanglongbing (HLB) using next generation sequencing technology with DNA samples. Tentatively, the research project is set for 100 days, from December 15, 2019 to March 25, 2020. The exact beginning date and ending date can be adjusted pending on the process of your visa application. You will be responsible for your travel expense between China and US, living expense, and health insurance during your staying in California. Research expense will be covered by my research budget with USDA.

I am very pleased to know that you have been doing research works on HLB in Chongqing, China. Both Chongqing and California are similar in the importance of citrus production, and currently lack of HLB. Early diagnosis of HLB is critical for HLB management. Our research lab in California is currently leading genomic research in "*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus" and development of detection technology. I am sure you will accomplish much more with your research here. In addition, I believe that your research experience gained from this research project will help your future efforts towards management and control of similar plant diseases, and strengthen the established scientific collaboration in plant pathology research between Southwest University and USDA-ARS.

I am looking forward to your collaboration.

Sincerely yours,

Jianchi Chen
Research Molecular Biologist