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NATIONAL  
GRAPE &  
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### **Dr. Lance Cadle-Davidson is Selected for the 2012 T.W. Edminster Research Associate Award**

Sacramento, CA (**October 4, 2012**) - A grape genomics project proposed by plant pathologist Dr. Lance Cadle-Davidson of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Grape Genetics Research Unit at Geneva, NY, has been selected to receive ARS' prestigious T.W. Edminster Research Associate Award. ARS is the chief intramural scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Cadle-Davidson's proposal was rated the best among the 50 proposals selected for funding through the agency's 2012 Postdoctoral Research Associate Program. Dr. Cadle-Davidson's project will focus on isolating the *Ren4* gene to control powdery mildew resistance in grapes. The T. W. Edminster Research Associate Award provides funding for a postdoctoral researcher to work on the project for two years. This program gives postdocs the opportunity to work closely with an experienced researcher in their field of interest, and also perform valuable research to help solve agricultural problems.

The highest quality *Vitis vinifera* grape cultivars are highly susceptible to powdery mildew. Grape growers desire vinifera cultivars with powdery mildew resistance for reduced inputs, which is the goal of this project. Dr. Cadle-Davidson said he and his fellow researchers already have identified molecular markers predictive of powdery mildew resistance and screened a library of chromosomal fragments to identify specific sequences at that locus. Functional analysis of the resistance genes is now under way.

Dr. Cadle-Davidson acknowledged the leadership of the National Grape & Wine Initiative in supporting this important project. Work to determine which genes control powdery mildew is part of a \$9 million, five-year project on grape genetics and genomics, which has strong NGWI member involvement, along with a grant from the Specialty Crop Research Initiative. Also included in this "VitisGen" project is work to make grapes more cold tolerant, to maintain fruit quality, and to focus on other key traits identified by the grape industry.

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The National Grape and Wine Initiative focuses on research and extension to strengthen the US grape and grape product industries in partnership with academics and government. Grapes are the nation's leading specialty crop and all industry segments including raisin, juice, fresh grape and wine created the NGWI coalition to drive research for maximum productivity, sustainability and competitiveness.