

Andrew Paterson (Germplasm & Genetic Stocks):

As co-chair and future chair of the ICGI Germplasm and Genetic Stocks Workgroup, I would strive to build on past efforts to nurture translation of increased cotton genome information into tangible scientific and agricultural benefits. I believe that substantial DNA-level information now available returns cotton research emphasis to the whole-plant and population level, and shifted my own program in that direction several years ago. I consider the next stage in evolution of cotton science being to unravel the genetic determinants of the remarkable diversity that has permitted *Gossypium* species to adapt to a wide range of ecosystems and provide humanity with many ecosystem services. Germplasm and Genetic Stocks are central to this goal, which is also rich with opportunities for community-wide efforts that ICGI is an excellent vehicle for developing. My background includes a Ph.D. in conventional crop breeding, work experience in both industry (duPont) and academia, and more than 350 publications in refereed journals, focusing on genome organization, evolution, and function with many directly studying cotton and others salient to it. I founded the PAG Cotton Workshop (1993), led a USDA-funded virtual center (2000-05), participated in three US-NSF cotton genomics centers (1998-date), founded a proposed USDA-CAP cotton project (2005), and have previously chaired all other ICGI workgroups as well as ICGI overall. I initiated and led the *G. raimondii* reference genome sequencing project, published in Nature in 2012 (involving 74 authors from 31 institutions in 10 countries) and publicly released nearly a year in advance of publication.