

Dr. Baohong Zhang is a full Professor at East Carolina University. His major research interest is on plant genetics and genomics with a focus on epigenetics and small RNA regulation in cotton fiber development and response to different biotic and abiotic stresses. Dr. Zhang has developed a somatic embryogenesis and plant regeneration system for cotton tissue culture and transgenics; based on this, he also developed a system for CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing in cotton. He will be happy to collaborate with anyone in this field. Dr. Zhang has published more than 200 papers with more than 9000 citations; many of his papers have been listed as highly cited or hot papers by the ISI Web of Sciences. During the past 20 years of his research and teaching, Dr. Zhang has been promoting genomics and biotechnology through research and education for a diversity of people, including both undergraduate and graduate students as well as high school students and scientists, including people from underrepresented groups. He also mentors scientists internationally, including those from US, China, Turkey, Poland, India and Russia. Dr. Zhang has served on a various editorial boards of international journals and served as reviewers for more than 100 peer-reviewed journals as well as review panels for more than 30 national and international funding agencies. Dr. Zhang has delivered many keynote and/or invited lectures at different institutes and international conferences. He also has served as chairs for more than 20 national and international conference sections. Dr. Zhang would like to serve on the Co-Chair/Chair for ICGI Functional Genomics Workgroup if elected. He wishes to promote the research development, collaboration, exchange, and education in the field of cotton functional genomics for the benefit of the global cotton research community.