

Structure Genomics Workgroup Co-Chair Candidate

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I believe co-chair and future chair of Structure Genomics Workgroup should advance the interests of all members to better understand the complex cotton genome. If elected, I will foster collaboration among all members to further develop this workgroup, and focus on important scientific issues such as sequencing, integration of genetic and physical maps, and QTL analysis. I obtained my Ph.D. in Genetics in 1990. My research interests have been on developing molecular markers (SSR and SNP) for genetic map construction, marker-assisted selection and germplasm characterization. I was the Director of Molecular Cotton Breeding at Delta and Pine Land Company until June, 2007. I was the sole developer of cotton SSR markers prefixed with: C2, COT, DC, DPL, and SHIN. I was one of the key authors who constructed the first high density consensus genetic map of tetraploid cotton (PLoS ONE 2012, 7:e45739). I was a strong supporter of ICGI, and played essential role to sponsor ICGI bi-annual conferences in 2004 and 2006. Currently, I am a Supervisory Research Geneticist and the Research Leader of Cotton Fiber Bioscience Research Unit, USDA-ARS at New Orleans, Louisiana. My research focuses on understanding cotton fiber development through integrated genomic approaches, and improving cotton variety with assistance of molecular markers. More information about my personal and unit research can be found at: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/AboutUs/AboutUs.htm?modecode=64-35-25-00>. I believe that my experience in both industry and academia will serve our members well.