

Functional Genomics Workgroup Co-Chair Candidate

Z. Jeffrey Chen

Professor of Plant Molecular Genetics
The University of Texas at Austin, USA

Research in my lab is focused on understanding epigenetic and genomic consequences of hybridization and ploidy in plant polyploids using *Arabidopsis*, cotton, and maize as genetic systems. In cotton, we use functional genomics and translational approaches to investigating genes and small RNAs that are important to fiber cell development. In the cotton fiber genomics project, we are geared toward sequencing allotetraploid cotton genomes in addition to functional analysis of cotton fiber development. These interdisciplinary and synergistic research activities will facilitate my leadership role particularly in cotton functional genomics as well as generally in the plant genomics community.