

Evolutionary and Comparative Genomics Workgroup Co-Chair Candidate

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As co-chair and future chair of the ICGI Evolutionary and Comparative Genomics 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 increased DNA-level knowledge will catalyze a shift in cotton research emphasis back to the whole-plant level, with 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. This goal is 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 about 280 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 the ICGI structural, evolutionary, and bioinformatics workgroups as well as ICGI overall. I initiated and led the *G. raimondii* reference genome sequencing project.