

Campbell Statement

Cotton is poised for a **post**-genomic revolution. Although the genomic landscape of *Gossypium* has not been fully revealed, the explosion of genomic resources and new information made available by our international cotton research community over the last five years has paved a bright future ahead for cotton improvement. To navigate the way forward, coordination, collaboration, and community, led by the International Cotton Genome Initiative (ICGI), are critical to future success. In my opinion, ICGI is at a critical point in its' evolution. A number of *Gossypium* genomes have been sequenced and annotated; however, there are many secrets yet to be unlocked from one of the world's most economically important natural resources that produces an amazing natural and spinnable fiber. ICGI must be strong and play a key and leading role in moving our international cotton research community forward. If elected Chair of ICGI, I pledge to do my best to lead, cultivate, and grow the world's premier cotton genetics and genomics organization.