

## ICGI Overall Co-Chair Candidate

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The explosion of genomic resources and new information made available by our international cotton research community over the last ten years has paved a bright future ahead for cotton improvement. Cotton is poised for a **post**-genomic revolution. To navigate the way forward, coordination and collaboration, led by the ICGI, are critical to future success. 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. Today ICGI is at a critical point in its' evolution. ICGI must be strong and innovative while playing a leading role in moving our international cotton research community forward. Strong leadership is critical to moving ICGI into the **post**-genomic era.

My leadership experience spans a number of organizations including ICGI. I was previously elected and served as the Co-Chair and Chair of the ICGI Germplasm and Genetic Stocks Working Group. During my time as Chair, our workgroup collaborated to document the status of eight major cotton germplasm collections across the world (Crop Sci. 2010. 50:1161-1179). I was elected as the Crop Genetics and Breeding Division Chair for the Crop Science Society of America and served as the Improvement Conference Chair of the Beltwide Cotton Research Conference. Currently, I serve as the Chair of the USDA Cotton Crop Germplasm Committee, Editor of the Journal of Plant Registrations, and President of the National Association of Plant Breeders or NAPB. My prior leadership experience in ICGI and these other organizations provide me a strong foundation to lead ICGI into the future. 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.