

ICGI Structural Genomics Workgroup Co-Chair Candidate

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Currently, I am an Associate Professor and Cotton Geneticist at NC State University, Raleigh, NC, USA. My research program's primary focus is on developing germplasm, genetic stocks, and genomic resources for enhancing cotton productivity through improved genetics and breeding information and technologies. My research is also focused on efficient utilization of biodiversity using genomic tools and understanding of the genetic basis of fundamental biological processes for profitable and sustainable cotton production. Recent research activities include developing germplasm with improved yield and fiber quality, molecular genetic mapping of major agronomic traits- leaf shape and flowering time, map-based cloning of leaf shape genes, building diversity panels, association mapping and developing largest set of genetic mapping resources for structural and functional genomic analyses in cotton. In addition, I am serving as an active member in the professional societies, committees and organizing conference sessions. As a nominee for the structural genomics chair- ICGI, my vision includes: make proactive efforts in synergizing the cotton structural genomics efforts across the cotton community, assist scientists to present pertinent and new discoveries in structural genomics at the ICGI meetings and crop genomics conferences, enhance communication among the scientists involved in structural genomics analysis, communicate needs of the structural genomicists to its broad clientele, and assist with ICGI mandate in organizing conferences and contribute to its new initiatives.