

I lead the highly successful CSIRO breeding program, the sole cotton breeding program in Australia. This is an applied program directly connected to serve industry needs and through various agreements supplies commercial cultivars to Australia, the USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Greece and Turkey. Throughout my research career I have worked on many aspects of cotton breeding from physiological traits for abiotic stress resistance, disease resistance and fibre quality, together with the identification and transfer of important traits from diploid cotton species to *hirsutum*. Over this time I have personally been responsible for the release of more than 30 cultivars including many of the FiberMax branded cultivars sold around the globe. Not only have I released many commercially important cultivars, but I am also committed to basic research and the sharing of knowledge around traits and breeding outcomes. To that end I am author on more than 40 scientific papers. I am passionate about taking innovative, excellent science and converting it to improved cultivars that make a real difference in the profitability and sustainability of farmers and the broader cotton industry. As we move even further into the genomic era it is imperative that genomics and plant breeding research be further integrated to deliver the benefits that have long been promised but have yet to be fully exploited. I have significant experience in creating linkages between the researchers in these disciplines and ensuring everyone is focused on the same goal. The ultimate outcome is a highly predictive Genomic Selection program fully integrated into a successful breeding program that delivers genetic gain to the cotton industry. CSIRO is a diverse research organisation and I have gained knowledge from other crop breeding research and have a broad understanding and experience with many crop breeding systems. I also have direct experience with the power of core cotton collections and the value of cotton germplasm – this is partly reflected in the successful development and deployment of disease resistant cultivars. These are the skills that I will bring to ICGI to assist it to deliver on its objective of utilising the cotton genome for the benefit of the global community.