



ISAG Conference 2008, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Cattle, Sheep, and Goat Gene Mapping Workshop

Chair : **Eduardo Casas**, USDA, Clay center, USA.

Over 250 people attended the workshop.

The workshop program was as follows:

- Welcome and Business meeting (E. Casas, USDA, ARS, Clay Center, Nebraska, USA).
- Dutch Milk Genomics Initiative (A. Schennink, Animal Breeding and Genomics Centre, Wageningen University, The Netherlands).
- Genome wide association study of feed efficiency in beef cattle (L. Sherman, University of Alberta, Alberta, Canada).
- Genomic signatures of artificial selection in US Holstein cows (T. Sonstegard, USDA, ARS, Beltsville, Maryland, USA).
- FecXr, a deletion in the BMP15 locus associated to increased prolificacy in the Rasa Aragonesa (L. Monteagudo, University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain).
- Gene expression profiles in CNS of naturally scrapie-affected sheep (I. Martin-Burriel, Universidad de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain).
- Using a 1.5K ovine SNP array to expand the sheep linkage map (J. Maddox, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia).
- Gene discovery for reproduction rate in tropically adapted Australian beef cattle (R. Hawken, CSIRO St Lucia, Australia).
- Profile of circulating DNA in healthy cattle (J. Beck, Chronix Biomedical GmbH, Goettingen, Germany).
- Functional analysis of the c.1892+19 T>C SNP of the PPARGCIA gene which is associated with variation in milk fat yield (R. Fuerbass, Research Institute for the Biology of Farm Animals, Dummerstorf, Germany).
- Analysis of gene expression in horned and polled tissue from Brahman cattle using Agilent bovine microarray (M. Mariasegaram, CSIRO St. Lucia, Australia).
- Goat mammary expressed genes representative of immunity function during pregnancy before acquisition of its secretory phenotype (F. Faucon, INRA Jouy en Josas, France).

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Several members of the committee were to retire during this meeting. The retiring members were: Dr. Noelle Cockett (USA), Dr. Andre Eggen (France), Dr. Christa Kuhn (Germany), Dr. Harris Lewin (USA), Dr. Sheila Schmutz (Canada), and Dr. Eduardo Casas (USA). Election of Committee members were held during this session. A motion was brought to the floor by Dr. Jim Womack to nominate Drs. Fiona Buchanan (Canada), Rachel Hawken (Australia), and Hasan Khatib (USA) as members of the committee. Motion was seconded by Dr. Sheila Schmutz. Having no discussion, the nominees were unanimously elected to serve during the next four years. Two previously elected members remained in the committee. They are: Dr. Jill Maddox and Dr. Toshio Watanabe (both elected in 2004). Dr. Fiona Buchanan has agreed to serve as Chair of the Committee for the period of 2008-2010.

The current Cattle, Sheep, and Goat Gene Mapping Workshop Committee members are:

Dr. Fiona Buchanan (Canada; Chair),
Dr. Rachel Hawken (Australia),
Dr. Hasan Khatib (USA),
Dr. Jill Maddox (Australia),
Dr. Toshio Watanabe (Japan).

The committee usually comprises 8 members. There are still 3 open positions in this committee. It is recommended that during the ISAG conference in 2010, these positions are filled (or sooner if the ISAG regulations allow it).