

John Williams

John Williams first joined ISAG in 1986, when the society was still called the International Society for Animal Blood Group Research (ISABR), and attended his first society conference in Helsinki the same year. He has participated in 12 of the subsequent 16 conferences as an active member of ISAG committees, first as a member of the BoLA working group in 1990 and currently on the Genetics of Immune Response Committee. He has been the invited speaker at 20 international conferences over the past five years, a member of the organising committee of eight conferences in that period, and overall organiser of the seventh International Symposium on Animal Functional Genomics and a FAANG workshop in 2018. He is keen to support students and young researchers and their participation in ISAG and other international events. One of his current PhD students is the recipient an ISAG travel award to attend this year's conference in Lleida.

Williams was the leader of the bovine genomics program at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh (1990–2006). He was a member of the Bovine Genome Sequencing Consortium steering committee, leading to the publication of the bovine reference sequence in 2009. As head of the UK Cattle Blood Typing Service (1993–1996), he participated in and helped to organize ISAG cattle comparison tests and was involved in the early stages of the change from serology- to DNA-based parentage control. He was the science director of the Parco Tecnologico in Italy (2006–2015), where he coordinated many multinational projects on animal disease, genetic improvement of production traits, and development of molecular tools. He initiated the Buffalo Genome Consortium, which recently published a chromosome-level assembly of the buffalo genome. He is currently director of the Davies Research Centre at the University of Adelaide, which is focused on ruminant genomics and genetics. He has published a total of 220 refereed papers, of which 61 are in the ISAG journal *Animal Genetics*.

If elected to the ISAG Executive Committee, Williams looks forward to the opportunity to promote international collaborations in animal genetics research and to contribute to ISAG activities—in particular, encouraging the involvement of young scientists in the society