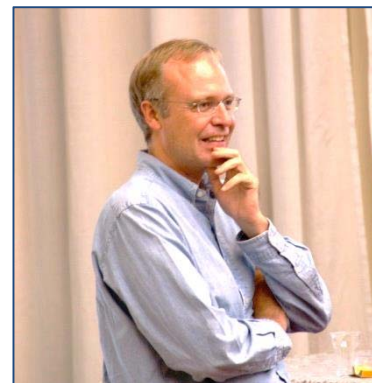


Professor Michel A.J. Georges University of Liège

Michel Georges was born in 1959 in Schoten, Belgium. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Liège in 1983, followed by a Master of Science in Molecular Biology from the Free University of Brussels in 1985. He obtained his habilitation from the University of Liège in 1991. From 1989 to 1993 Michel worked in USA, first as senior scientist, then director of research at Genmark Inc. and as adjunct professor in the Department of Human Genetics in Salt Lake City, Utah. Since 1994 he has been heading the Unit of Animal Genomics at the University of Liège. He played an instrumental role in establishing the GIGA (Interdisciplinary Cluster for Applied Genoproteomics) Research Institute within the University of Liege. In 2006, the Unit of Animal Genomics became part of GIGA, and Michel Georges is now the Research Director of GIGA.

Michel is well known for his research in the field of animal genetics and genomics. He is one of the world leaders in the development of tools and strategies for increasing the efficiency of genome analysis for livestock improvement. He has been instrumental in the identification and mapping of genes affecting both single gene and complex multi-gene economically important traits in livestock, double-muscling in cattle among the best known.



By studying the phenotypic characteristics of traits such as callipyge in sheep he and his colleagues have identified novel molecular mechanisms resulting from the perturbation of miRNA-mediated gene regulation, thus acting as a pioneer in opening up the field of epigenetics for animals. Among his present activities is research on the processes of gene mutation and recombination. These processes have a direct impact on phenotypes and traits such as lethality and fertility..

Over the years Michel has established working relationships with the major breeding organizations in many countries, helping them to apply the results of his discoveries on a large scale to accelerate the process of farm animal improvement.

He was awarded the Wolf Prize in Agriculture in 2007, and the Francqui Prize in Biomedical Sciences in 2008 and is a member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Sciences.

Michel is highly regarded within the animal genetics and genomics community, both for his brilliance and for generously sharing his ideas.