



Frank Nicholas was born in October 1947 in Parkes, New South Wales, Australia. Frank began his career with the practical aspects of agriculture. He completed a certificate in Agriculture at the Yanco Agriculture College in 1965 then returned to the family farm to raise sheep and wheat. Shortly thereafter, he returned to university, completing a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with Honors at the University of Sydney in 1971 then earned a doctorate from the University of Edinburgh in 1974 under the supervision of Allan Robertson. Since then, Frank has been a member of faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney.

Frank has taught and conducted research on a wide range of topics related to quantitative genetics and genomics of animals. Research topics have included wallabies, dogs and most species of livestock. During his career he has published well and often, collaborating with many of the leading researchers in animal genetics. His most recent publication is as a co-author of the sheep genome sequence paper in *Science*.

Frank's interests in animal health led him to publish *Veterinary Genetics* in 1987 followed by *Introduction to Veterinary Genetics* in 1996. The latter book is popular and has seen three editions as well as publication in many languages.

Frank is also the creator and curator of the *Online Mendelian Inheritance in Animals (OMIA)*. This resource is a database compendium of inherited disorders and other single locus traits in domestic animals. On one hand it is an effective tool to discover what research has been done within a species; on the other it is a unique resource to compare the genetics of similar disorders in diverse species (<http://omia.angis.org.au>).

In addition to scholarly work on the genetics of animals, Frank has been fascinated by the life of Charles Darwin. In 1990, he and his wife, Jan, wrote and published, *Darwin in Australia*, an account of Darwin's visit to Australia and its influence on the development of Darwin's theory of evolution. An anniversary edition was published in 2008.

Frank recently retired from the University of Sydney but continues to be active in the field of animal genetics. He is active in research on sheep genomics and the genetics of hip dysplasia in dogs. He also continues to curate *OMIA*.