



Morris Soller was born in 1931 in Chicago, Illinois. He received his BS in Agriculture from Rutgers University in 1951, followed by his MS in Applied Statistics and PhD in Animal Breeding from Rutgers University, both in 1956. In 1957 he relocated with his family to Israel to take the position of senior scientist in Animal Breeding at the Volcani Center and senior lecturer in Biology and Genetics at Bar Ilan University. In 1966, he returned to the USA for additional training in biochemistry at Indiana University, continuing at Northwestern University. During this time he also taught at Roosevelt University. In 1972 he returned to the Department of Genetics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he rose in rank to professor, becoming emeritus professor in 2000. He has remained an active researcher and lecturer. His travels have taken him all around the world, and he has spent sabbaticals at the University of Illinois and at Iowa State University as the Cotswold visiting

scientist.

Professor Soller is best known and generally credited with introducing and popularizing QTL mapping and marker-assisted selection based on biochemical and DNA level polymorphisms in agricultural plants and animals as early as 1974. With his students and colleagues he developed the popular F<sub>2</sub>, Back Cross, Full-sib, Half-Sib, Granddaughter, AIL and selective-DNA-pooling designs for QTL mapping.

He and colleagues have applied these significant mapping designs to mapping QTL for trypanotolerance in the N'Dama cattle of West Africa, milk yield and milk quality traits in dairy cattle, and resistance to Marek's disease in chickens. Other significant contributions that he has participated in have include DNA pooling methods and use of candidate gene approaches. Current interests include haplotype block structure in chicken and cattle and high resolution QTL mapping. He has published over 160 refereed publications as well as many book chapters and encyclopedia entries. Professor Soller has trained over 50 students and postdoctoral associates and has given of his time generously, serving as an unofficial mentor to many more around the world.

Professor Soller has received a number of important awards. These include being elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1996) for contributions to gene mapping and marker-assisted selection, being awarded the Jay L. Lush Award of the American Dairy Science Association (1999) for contributions to Animal Breeding and Genetics, and being selected the A. B. Chapman Lecture Honoree by the University of Wisconsin in 2000. He has also been awarded honorary doctorates from Iowa State University (2000) and the University of Liege, Belgium (2007).

Professor Soller continues to live in Jerusalem with his beloved wife Mimi, where he still conducts research and contributes to our field.