

### INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL GENETICS

#### The Future of ISAG! Results

#### **GENERAL STATISTICS**

Total Number of Responses: 244

Number of Complete Responses: 212

#### (A) General information

Question 1. Are you an ISAG member?

Number of Responses: 234

Yes: 187 No: 47

Question 2. What is your interest in the activities of ISAG?

(Survey taker was allowed to select all applicable answers)

Number of Responses: 132

I am active as scientist/researcher in this field: 189 79.4%
I am active in applied genetics: 133 55.9%
I attend ISAG conferences: 172 72.3%
I participate in comparison tests: 80 33.6%

Question 3. How can ISAG be more attractive to young scientists especially?

Number of Responses: 132

Three major areas in texts (# with similar answer):

#### a. Financial support

- Have low prices for early career scientist (ECS) (or 100% bursary)
   45
  - Idea: could be a reduced registration for on-line only (to provide content of Conference on-line in real time for those who cannot afford to travel)
- Cash prize for best oral/poster presentation



Idea: Prize could also be reduced future conference registration

#### b. Career Development Support

- Provide opportunity for advanced training in modern technology/methods/tools 23
  - Ideas: involve industry, involve/emphasize under-developed countries
- Create career development workshop or events, interaction with mentors to create relationships (this could be done by/with ECS committee below)
   16
- Organize ECS-specific workshop, or recommend ECS speakers to existing Workshops
   13

10

- Provide opportunity for leadership/organizing
  - Idea: create ECS-organized committee
- Increase opportunities for networking at conference or on-line

#### c. Communicate more effectively with diverse, tech-savvy audience

- More on-line information and more social media effort
  - Idea: allow/support blogging of ISAG events, website content, value of membership
- Run excellent and topically relevant conferences 7
- Revitalize Conference and Workshops
  - o Increase turnover of Workshop leadership to increase interest and diversity 5
  - Increase workshop discussion time to build community, allow diverse voices

# Question 4. Should ISAG consider expanding its scientific scope into new areas? (Survey taker was allowed to select all applicable answers)

Number of Responses: 209

#### For example:

Wild populations of non- domesticates: 123 58.9% Zoo animals: 77 36.8% Cytogenetics: 59 28.2% Quant. genetics and genomic selection: 154 73.7%

Other suggestions: 15 7.2%

Provide more educational modules on methods

(genomics, epigenetics) 3

There were very few other responses expressed by more than 1-2 survey takers

than 1-2 survey takers.

Question 5. ISAG has few participants and members from Africa and Asia.



(Survey taker was allowed to select all applicable answers)

Number of Responses: 187

Is this due to linguistic barriers?:	42	22.5%
Does this reflect a reduced research presence in our field in these regions?:	74	39.6%
Do we need a special representative from those areas in our Board?:	104	55.6%
Other suggestions (# with similar answer): 48		25.7%

Other suggestions (# with similar answer): 48
Lack of funding, both for travel and research itself
ISAG lacks relevance/doesn't make the effort

10



#### (B) Conferences:

Question 6. ISAG Conferences are currently every two years. Do you think we should hold annual conferences?

Number of Responses: 220

Yes: 22.3% No: 77.7%

Question 7. Do you like the idea of separating the conference into two parts, one with scientific presentations and the other focused on comparison tests?

Number of Responses: 220

Yes: 52.3% No: 47.7%

### Question 8. What approaches could we use to make the conferences more attractive? Number of Responses: 210

46.7%

98

Better speakers: 88 41.9% More social activities: 44 21.0% Fewer social activities, which might reduce the length of the conference: 33 15.7% Attractive conference sites: 88 41.9% Lower conference fees: 148 70.5%

Other: 14 6.7%

Fewer parallel workshops:

There were very few responses expressed by more than 1-2 survey takers; some of these were

contradictory.



#### Question 9. Do you have other suggestions regarding the format of the ISAG conferences?

Improve the session quality -total of 12

- Improve vetting the speaker quality for invited speakers 3
- expand topics beyond animal genetics 7
- run survey to find popular topics to discuss in an open session 1
- more science and less industry-based speakers who primarily provide advertisement 1

Decrease overlap/parallel Workshops 11

 Several mentioned decrease the applied/comparison test workshops or put them all together

Don't make changes 10

More time for (and improve organization of) the poster sessions and interactions **7**Some single mentions for things we have already implemented:

- more bursaries for needy students
- runs professional development sessions
- provide remote attendance option
- run conference in Africa

Other single response items;

- Put bursaries earlier in meeting so student support is showcased/not everyone is gone.
- Add developing nations problem session/theme

#### (C) Animal Genetics journal:

Question 13. Do you know that members of ISAG have free online access to *Animal Genetics*? Number of Responses: 213

Yes: 162 76.1% No: 51 23.9%

Question 14. Do you read the journal?

Number of Responses: 213

Yes: 178 83.6% No: 35 16.4%



## Question 15. If yes, how often do you read the journal? Number of Responses: 150

#### (# with similar response):

Only specific articles of interest (web searches)	40
Monthly/bimonthly	37
Regularly/weekly	21
Every issue/use eTOC alerts	25
Occasionally/when have time	15
Seldom/very few times	11



#### Question 16. Do you publish in Animal Genetics?

Number of Responses: 205

Yes: 101 49.3% No: 105 50.7%

Question 17. As a reader of Animal Genetics, what subject areas of interest are not adequately covered by papers that appear the journal? (# with similar answer)

#### All subject areas are covered well 18

More coverage on wild populations and other companion animals that go beyond domestic animals 11

More methods and procedures training including: parentage/quantitative/technical/quality

control/regulatory 10

Cover more animal disease and genetic research on virology and microbiome **6** 

More translational

genetics/applied/selection/deeper

characterization of genomes including functional genomics **4** 

Gene editing 3

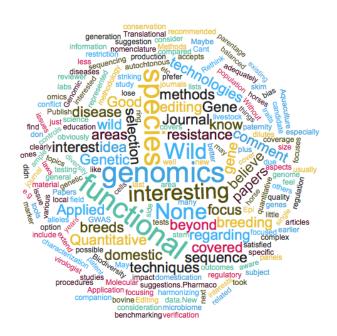
#### Many 1-2 mentions:

large omics studies; conservation genetics;

epigenetics; Stem cell genetics;

Pharmacogenetics; reviewer conflict of interest issues; application of skim sequences; Genetic diversity; aquaculture; Domestication; Gene nomenclature; Focus on specific breeds.

Also: reduce topics (!)



### Question 18. How can we improve the quality of and interest in *Animal Genetics*? (# with similar answer)

Decrease the time of processing manuscripts 14 Increase the number of invited papers or reviews 13

Specific ideas included:

- more special issues or conference summaries 4
- more perspective papers future outlook reviews 4
- increase the total number of invited reviews by giving incentives 5

Go fully online 8

Increase social media effort 4

Specific examples were to contact news aggregators/ animal science departments/ consider an eZine

The quality is good as it is 8

Improve the quality 5

Examples: reduce narrow interest

articles and focus on novel results; decrease low power papers ;consider awards for highly cited papers

Decrease APC for developing countries/early career authors 4



#### (D) Comparison Tests:

Question 19. Have you ever participated in an ISAG Comparison Test?

Number of Responses: 208

Yes: 73 35.1% No: 135 64.9% Question 20. If yes, what do you think can be improved (e.g., logistics, communications, costs) within the process of the comparison tests? (# with similar answer)

Organization/communication of process 20

- Improve organization and communication Through the use of a web page to report results; to improve the speed and accuracy of results; consider tracking errors 15
- a central lab as international logistics is often unclear and uncertain 5

#### Improve process details 14

- Decrease costs (coordinate to reduce costs for tests?) 10
- Improve scoring to remove bad markers; standardize the panel and improve testing protocols; consider making tests blind

Organization is good don't change 13



Minor comments (1-2 mentions)

The institutional membership fee is not equitable between the small and large labs;
 Improve leadership of workshops; decrease workshop overlap; consider supplying raw materials for labs for typing; add new comparison tests for genetic diseases

#### (E) The Future of ISAG

Question 21. How would you like to see ISAG change by 2025? What new activities should ISAG consider?
(82 responses)

Changes to the ISAG Conference General category (mine) of "Professional development for early career scientists" (total of **20**, breakout below for specific examples with common responses)

- Interested in training workshops or accompanying courses such as MOOC 6
- More travel awards and "real" awards for young investigators 5
- More talks on course development or mentoring/collaborations 5



• Set up meeting for young members to learn about techniques/experimental design 4 Novel research talks 14

[specific suggestions: zoo animals/quantitative genetics, contemporary issues, epigenetics, genomic data reuse, global one health]

New diagnostics more comparing companion testing fish setting standards for platforms 5

Workshops in developing countries and tech transfer 5
Improved speakers and more science/fewer company presentations 5
Decrease costs for meetings 4
More social activities 3
Don't change much 8

Changes to ISAG Society or Animal Genetics
Increasing diversity in memberships 5
Update the editorial board or improve speed of animal genetics reviews 2
Integrate with related organizations 1