

Hans Lenstra (Utrecht University, Netherlands) has worked for 35 years on molecular evolution, eukaryotic gene structure, genome characterization and molecular diversity of livestock and wildlife. His present research interests include the molecular diversity of cattle, sheep, goat, water buffalo, horse and elephants by analysis of mitochondrial and Y-chromosomal DNA variation, microsatellites and high-density SNP datasets. This work is carried out in close collaboration with several European, American and Asian researchers. He considers the use of genomic data and the development of tools to translate these to biologically relevant conclusions as the present challenge. As chairman of the ISAG/FAO advisory group on animal genetic diversity he hopes to contribute to the establishment of a worldwide community of scientists collaborating on livestock research.

Personal data

Johannes Arjen Lenstra, born August 17th, 1950, Zaandam, The Netherlands.
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Married with B.A. Huitema, three children

Education

1968-1974 University of Amsterdam
1974 MSc degree Chemistry (major: Biochemistry; minor: Aquatic Ecology)
1979 Ph.D. Thesis (University of Groningen, prof. J.J. Beintema): Structure and Evolution of Pancreatic Ribonuclease.

Professional experience

1979-1982 Postdoctoral Research at the Dept. Biochemistry, University of Nijmegen; research on transformed cells in culture (Prof. H. Bloemendal).
1982-1984 Postdoctoral Assistant at the Dept. Med. Biochemistry, University of Leiden; evolution of genes for the eukaryotic elongation factor EF-1_a (Prof. W. Möller)
1984-1986 Postdoctoral Assistant in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University: molecular immunology of coronaviruses by prokaryotic epitope expression.
1986-1992 Assistant professor, Head of the Recombinant DNA Facility, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, research on:
- epitope mapping by antigenic selection of expressed random sequences.
- sequencing of monoclonal antibodies and T-cell receptors
1989-1990 Sabbatical leave at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena (prof. L.E. Hood); structure and evolution of the genomic loci of T-cell receptors in mouse and man.
1987- 2002 Organization of the yearly postacademic Workshop *Molecular Biology and Recombinant-DNA Technology*; advisor of training courses in DNA technology in Bucharest and Bangkok
from 1992 Associate professor, research on veterinary genetics.
- markers for a paternity test for horses
- cattle and sheep genome mapping
- genetic mapping of the sheep parasite *Haemonchus contortus*
- identification and comparison of repetitive sequences of domestic animals
- identification of DNA repeats and probes for species identification and evolution
- genetic diversity and molecular evolution of ruminants, horses and elephants
1992-1995 Participation in the European Community Project *BovMap* (cattle genome mapping)
1999-2002 Coordinator of European Community Project *Towards a strategy for the conservation of the genetic diversity of European cattle* (CT-98-118)
From 2002: Participation in the European Research projects *MolSpeciesID*, *Econogene*, *Trace*, *GlobalDiv* and *AsiaLink*.
From 2008 Chairman of the ISAG-FAO Advisory Group on Animal Genetic Diversity
From 2010: Participation in the ESF project *Genomic-Resources*.