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I completed my M.S. degree in 1988, Ph.D. in 1997 and joined the USDA-ARS, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) as a postdoctoral Research Animal Physiologist in the same year, for a period of two years. I joined the USDA-ARS Catfish Genetics Research Unit at Stoneville, MS in 1999 as a Molecular Biologist and then the USDA-ARS U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center NE as a Molecular Biologist in 2001. I am currently in the Reproduction Research Unit working in the area of swine genomics. My primary focus is to identify genetic variation and map genes that are relevant to swine production and to determine their function and expression as they relate to pork production. Because of my agricultural background and training in biochemistry, physiology and molecular biology, the genomics program at USMARC has provided an ideal work environment for me. I have authored or coauthored 70 refereed journal articles and 68 abstracts in the areas of gene mapping, characterization of QTL and marker discovery in livestock, and have served as an ad hoc reviewer for over a dozen journals. I have been a member of ISAG and ASAS since 2002 and I believe the peer-review process is critical for maintaining the high scientific standards that we trust and expect in the scientific literature.