Dear International Quantitative Genetics Community

We would like to extend a warm invitation to join us for the International Conference of Quantitative Genetics (ICQG) to be held in Brisbane, Australia, June 14-19 2020.

The ICQG conference is held every four years and is unique in attracting researchers across disciplines, united through their common interest in quantitative genetics. The conference attendees typically represent diverse applied fields including model species, plants, agriculture and human traits and disease. The rapid technological advances of the last decade have meant that we are now able to conduct quantitative genetic studies on an unprecedented scale. Moreover, we can now study the quantitative genetics of omics traits, including at the single-cell level. The conference includes invited speakers and delegates who have developed new methods to analyse these data sets that are applicable across a range of species and traits. The last conferences in Edinburgh, UK in 2012 and Madison in 2016 attracted >500 delegates.

Traditionally, ICQG has been a plenary-only format with mostly invited talks. Based on the participation survey following ICQG5 we are keeping this format mostly, but based on the feedback we have planned that two afternoon sessions will run with parallel programs of contributed talks. We will also select some short-format plenary talks from abstract submissions. Our two poster sessions will start with lighting talks selected from the poster abstracts. There will be prizes for students and early career researchers with the best presentations and or posters. We will have a “Meet the editor” session for early career researchers to learn the ‘dos and don’ts’ of responding to editors and reviewers comments for your manuscripts. We have a diversity representation policy, aiming that our speakers are representative of the diversity of our attendees. We already have a remarkable list of invited speakers, and this will continue to grow over the next months.

Brisbane is a hub of quantitative genetics research. The University of Queensland is a platinum sponsor of our conference in recognition of our diverse research groups, led by:

Human QG: Peter Visscher, Jian Yang, David Evans, Naomi Wray
Livestock & Crop QG: Ben Hayes, Mark Cooper
Model species & evolutionary QG: Mark Blows, Steve Chenoweth

While June is winter time for us, the average day/night time temperatures are 21°C/11°C (71°F /52°F). This is the best time of year to visit the Great Barrier Reef or the national parks of Northern Queensland (e.g. Daintree), Northern Territory (e.g., Kakadu, Uluru), Western Australia (e.g., Bungle Bungles). Whales are migrating north and can be seen from the whole Eastern coast, including day trips from Brisbane. We have some vacation planning ideas on our website, but also have an afternoon trip as part of the conference that will allow you learn about our amazing Australian wildlife.

We are very excited to be planning what we think will be an inspiring, thought provoking program of scientific discussion and networking. We hope you will be able to join us.

Prof Naomi R Wray
ICQG6 Co-chair

Prof Ben J Hayes
ICQG6 Co-chair

Ms Robyn Evans
ICQG6 Manager