

Pig – the ideal biomedical model of obesity related traits?

INVITED SPEAKERS

Prof. Max Rothschild

In 1978 he obtained his Ph.D. in animal breeding with minors in statistics and genetics from Cornell University. From 1978 to 1980 he was an assistant professor at the University of Maryland. In 1980 he joined the Department of Animal Science at the Iowa State University where he was made C.F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor of Agriculture in 1999.

Max Rothschild's research program encompasses both quantitative genetics and molecular genetics. Recent research has been directed towards identifying genes controlling traits of economic importance in the pig. This research now centers on gene identification and mapping and Rothschild's lab has conducted candidate gene analyses and large QTL studies to further these aims. Other research is aimed towards uncovering genomic regions that are imprinted and in examining gene expression in the pig. More recently, his lab group has been actively looking at the pig as a model for the human health, especially obesity. Rothschild has been active as USDA Genome Coordinator in promoting collaboration and cooperation world wide by providing materials for pig gene research. His recent appointment as Co-director for the new Center for Integrated Animal Genomics at Iowa State University is to help direct animal genomics research to involve not only livestock but animals as models for human health.

He is a member of many national and international societies. He has presented numerous invited papers in over 35 countries and has over 200 referred publications, 450 other publications and 5 patents. His awards include AAAS fellow, USDA Group Honor Award, ASAS award in Animal Breeding and Genetics, Iowa Inventor of the Year 2002 and two Research & Development 100 awards.