

Dear Maize Genetics Cooperators,

We are excited to announce that the 63rd Annual Maize Genetics Meeting will also be our 2nd Virtual Meeting. Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting Steering Committee, in partnership with the MGC Board of Directors, made the preemptive decision to cancel our in-person conference. This decision was made to prioritize the health and safety of our community, and be inclusive of our international cooperators who may face travel bans. It was also prompted by impending contract deadlines, financial concerns and a desire to maintain the fiscal responsibility of the Maize Genetics Cooperation.

We are committed to hosting an interactive virtual 2021 Maize Genetics Meeting in March 2021, that will offer excellent science in the form of plenary talks, short talks from selected abstracts and interactive virtual poster sessions. The meeting will also include a Maize Genetics Cooperation-led community session, virtual networking and socializing opportunities and activities to broaden diversity, equity and inclusion. We have heard your feedback on the 2020 Virtual Maize Genetics Meeting, and are excited to incorporate many of the suggested improvements.

While a virtual format cannot fully replace the interactions of our usual in-person meetings, we are excited to push forward and expand the virtual offerings and interactions during our 63rd annual (and 2nd virtual) Maize Genetics Meeting. Please stay tuned for details regarding the virtual conference that will be sent to all Maize Genetics Cooperators and posted at the [Maize Genetics Meeting website](#). We look forward to a successful and engaging virtual meeting in 2021.

Best regards,

Maize Genetics Meeting Steering Committee

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors