



62nd Annual Maize Genetics Meeting Summary and Report

Overview:

Conference: 62nd Annual Maize Genetics Meeting

Dates: June 25-26, 2020¹

Location: Virtual¹

Website: https://maizegdb.org/maize_meeting/v2020/index.php

Conference Chair: Clint Whipple

Local Host: Mike Muszynski

Attendance: 670 registered attendees (2nd highest attendance)

Talks: 26 virtual talks (39 talks were originally planned for the in-person meeting)

Posters: 106 virtual posters (235 posters were originally planned for the in-person meeting)

Steering committee:

Clint Whipple (Chair) - Brigham Young University (2021), Marna Yandea-Nelson (Co-Chair) - Iowa State University (2022), Andrea Gallavotti - Waksman Institute (2020), Mike Muszynski - University of Hawaii (2020), Todd Jones - Corteva (2021), Hilde Nelissen - Ghent University (2021), Jeff Ross-Ibarra - University of California - Davis (2021), Yongrui Wu - Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences (2021), Mei Guo - KenFeng Seed Co (2022), Erin Sparks - University of Delaware (2022), Maud Tenaillon - INRA Génétique Quantitative Évolution - Le Moulo (2022)

Ex-officio members:

Mike Muszynski (Local Host) - University of Hawaii, Carson Andorf (MaizeGDB) - USDA-ARS, David Braun (Treasurer) - University of Missouri, John Portwood (Abstract Coordinator) - USDA-ARS, Marty Sachs (Maize Meeting support) - USDA-ARS, Angela Freemyer - Missouri Conferences Office, Darwin Campbell (Audio Visual) - Iowa State University

Virtual planning committee:

Clint Whipple- Brigham Young University, Marna Yandea-Nelson- Iowa State University, Carson Andorf - USDA-ARS, Darwin Campbell - Iowa State University, Minjeong (MJ) Kang - Iowa State University, Morgan McCaw- Iowa State University, John Portwood - USDA-ARS.

¹ The 2020 Maize Genetics Meeting was scheduled to take place from March 12-15, 2020 at Keauhou Bay, Hawaii. Due to the concerns of the spread of the novel Coronavirus COVID-19, the conference was moved to a virtual format in June.

Conference Summary:

The 62nd annual Maize Genetics Meeting (MGM2020) took place virtually from June 25-26, 2020. The conference was organized by the Maize Genetics Meeting Steering Committee and the Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors with support of the National Science Foundation, industry partners, and in-kind support from the USDA-ARS. The conference took place over two days and consisted of four sessions of talks, two poster sessions, and a community session.

The Maize Genetics Meeting is a forum to bring together researchers, scientists, students and other professionals to discuss innovative ideas, current scientific and technical advances, and diverse topics related to maize genetics. Over the last 10 years, over 3,000 individuals from academia, industry, and government have attended a Maize Genetics Meeting from 75 different countries. The 2020 conference was the first time the meeting was held virtually. There were 670 registered attendees who attended talks, poster sessions, and a community session. There were attendees from 40 U.S. states and 30 different countries: Argentina (4 attendees), Australia (1), Belgium (1), Brazil (4), Canada (7), China (11), Czech Republic (4), Egypt (1), France (21), Germany (37), Ghana (1), Greece (1), India (3), Italy (11), Kenya (1), Mexico (20), New Zealand (2), Nigeria (1), Pakistan (2), Peru (7), Singapore (1), South Africa (1), South Korea (5), Spain (4), Switzerland (2), Taiwan (5), Tanzania (1), The Netherlands (3), United Kingdom (7), United States (501).

Conference Scope:

The talks from the four plenary speakers and the 2020 McClintock Prize for Plant Genetics and Genome Studies winner were postponed to the 2021 Maize Genetics Meeting.

MGM2020 had 26 talks presented in four different sessions:

- Developmental Regulation
- Natural Variation, Breeding and Crop Improvement
- Gene Function, Genome Structure and Evolution
- Environmental Interactions and Biochemical Genetics

The community session hosted by the Maize Genetics Cooperation presented on these topics:

- Maize Genetics Cooperation (MGC) incorporation process
- MGC financial report
- MGC subcommittee reports
- 2020 survey results
- NSF-RCN report
- Reports from funding agencies: NSF (Gerald Schoenknecht), USDA-ARS (José Costa), USDA-NIFA (Shelby Servais), and NCGA (Robyn Allscheid)
- Community discussion

Community Awards:

Three maize community members were recognized for career awards:

- M. Rhoades Early-Career Maize Genetics Award
 - Matthew Hufford (Iowa State University)
- L. Stadler Mid-Career Maize Genetics Award
 - Jim Holland (USDA-ARS)
- R. Emerson Lifetime Maize Genetics Award
 - Jerry Kermicle (University of Wisconsin)

Acknowledgments:

- The meeting was co-organized by the Maize Genetics Meeting Steering Committee and the Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors.
- The meeting was partially supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) - Research Coordination Networks (RCN) Award Abstract #1748978: Broadening and Energizing the Maize Genetics Research Community.
- The USDA-ARS provided in-kind support for the hosting the conference website, managing abstract collection, and providing technical assistance.
- Industry sponsors of MGM2020 are Corteva Agriscience (Agriculture Division of DowDuPont), Bayer, BASF, Syngenta, National Corn Growers Association, KWS SAAT AG, Inari Benson Hill Biosystems, and Chomet Consulting.

Ten-year summary:

Dates	Location	Chair	Attendance	Talks	Posters
June 25-26, 2020	Virtual	Clint Whipple	670	26	106
March 14-17, 2019	St. Louis, Missouri	Mike Muszynski	644	40	393
March 22-25, 2018	Saint-Malo, France	Alain Charcosset	456	33	268
March 9-12, 2017	St. Louis, Missouri	Erich Grotewold	677	32	416
March 17-20, 2016	Jacksonville, Florida	David Braun	571	34	376
March 12-15, 2015	St. Charles, Illinois	Mark Settles	608	33	341
March 13-16, 2014	Beijing, China	Ann Stapleton	584	29	221
March 14-17, 2013	St. Charles, IL	Phil Becraft	613	35	354
March 15-18, 2012	Portland, OR	John Fowler	560	34	312
March 17-20, 2011	St. Charles, IL	Erik Vollbrecht	579	35	297