

From: [Scott Allen Jackson](#)
To: [Deborah Powell](#)
Cc: [Jeremy Schmutz](#); [Peggy Ozias-Akins](#)
Subject: Re: CROPS Attendee Fund Requests
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 12:31:07 AM

I think offering 1500 toward his expenses would be reasonable. then if he is serious, he would have to kick in his own money. I'm not familiar with his institute so I cannot asses that.

How are registrations going?
scott

On Feb 17, 2015, at 10:44 AM, Deborah Powell <dpowell@hudsonalpha.org> wrote:

Total expenses would be about \$4200. (The average flight is about \$3000, hotel cost and ground transportation about \$600 and conference registration is \$645).

In the budget we are estimating the average per person air travel cost to be \$1000. What if we say we would pay \$1500 toward travel expenses and he pays for registration?

Since we have had only one speaker/organizer that is willing to pay their own way, my concern is that we will have other people that will make the same request and we will not have budget to cover them. What criteria should we use to choose who we want to offer the funding? Would having the Deputy chief scientist of NIBGE (National Institute for Biotechnology an Genetic Engineering) be worth paying \$1500 toward his travel? Below is information on the institute where he is employed:

NIBGE is one of the main biotechnology institutes of the four bioscience centers of PAEC and was formally inaugurated by the President of Pakistan in 1994. It is also an affiliate center of ICGEB. The institute is a focal point of modern biotechnology and provides a technology receiving unit to help the development of country through applications of modern biotechnology and genetic engineering. The research programs at NIBGE are mainly aimed at improving agriculture, health, environment and industry and are supported by national and international financial grants. The institute's research facilities include state of the art equipments supported by technical services, IT facility and a National Library for Biological Sciences. The institute now offers several services and marketable products. The educational programs leading to MPhil and PhD degrees have also been incorporated in the institutes mandate for the development of human resources in modern sciences.

Agricultural Biotechnology Division

Head, Agricultural Biotechnology Division

[Dr Zahid Mukhtar](#)

Principal Scientists

Overview

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of Pakistan. The sector employees 50% of the labour, contributes 25% to GDP and sustain major industries of the country. Pakistan has one of the fastest population growth rates and food security is the major issue for the nation. The total population of the country is around 170 million which is expected to rise to 210 million by 2022. The success of the Green Revolution of the earlier decades will now have to be repeated through a "Gene Revolution".

The Division has gathered research facilities, manpower with sufficient levels of expertise and a critical mass essential to realize goals mentioned above. The total number reaches around 180. Research endeavors in Agricultural Biotechnology Division has reached a stage that their exploitation at commercial level is becoming a reality. The program is focused on five major crops including cotton wheat, rice, sugarcane and potato. Several steps required to take technology to end-users have been taken that include patenting of technology, approval for laboratory and field testing of genetically-modified crops by Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) and National Biosafety Committee (NBC), Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan.

Activities:

Activities in the division are aimed at use of modern molecular methods

- ❑ To understand problems that limit crop productivity, isolate relevant gene(s) that can confer novel agronomic traits, transform those genes in crop plants and characterize engineered plants under glasshouse and field conditions.
- ❑ Reduce cost of production by developing plants that requires less input (such as pesticides) and are efficient in use of water and fertilizers.
- ❑ Development and utilization of DNA markers for marker-assisted selection of desirable plants. The program is ultimately aimed at characterization and enhancement of germplasm resources in the country which is vital for maintaining competitive edge of the country in agriculture sector and safeguard National interest in WTO regime.
- ❑ Development and utilization of microbial technologies for plant growth enhancement and protection against biotic and abiotic stresses.
- ❑ Establishment and utilization of Genomics, Proteomics and Metabolomics tools for understanding of key pathways important for crop productivity.
- ❑ To serves as a receiving unit for technologies developed elsewhere using molecular tools for the benefit of the country.
- ❑ The Division has incorporated both formal (M. Phil/Ph.D) and informal training activities for the development of trained manpower in Agricultural Biotechnology and has emerged as the largest training facility in the country. The activity also provide young talented workforce for speedy accomplishment of research endeavors.

Transgenics in pipe line:

The division has submitted around 40 cases of laboratory manipulation, field trials and commercial release of GM crops to National Biosafety Commission (NBC). Most of these cases deal with introduction of single gene traits for control of insect pests, viruses, resistance against abiotic stresses such as salt, drought and heat tolerance. We call them as "**First Generation GM crops**" One non-GM and two GM cotton varieties have been approved. In the "**second generation GM crops**" technologies that depend upon expression of 2-3 genes are being developed. However, we soon have to move to the "**third generation GM crops**" where more than three genes are expressed for "stacked characters" and the expression of the transgene may be limited to tissues where it is required for example roots, phloem, seeds etc. The development of the second and third generation technologies require scientific expertise and technologies with input of high tech research.

Deborah Powell | Conference Manager
HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology
Cell: 256 810.2047 | Office: 256.327.5218
Email: dpowell@hudsonalpha.org

On Feb 16, 2015, at 11:26 PM, Scott Allen Jackson wrote:

I think this is the guy: <http://www.nibge.org/Profile.aspx?PID=43>

Deputy Chief Scientist of something in Pakistan.

I'm fine but wonder how much it will cost. I think he should pay for something (registration or hotel).

scott

On Feb 16, 2015, at 2:25 PM, Deborah Powell <dpowell@hudsonalpha.org> wrote:

All,

I have had one request to date to provide funding to attend CROPS. We were waiting on specific funding earmarked to pay for these type travel requests but so far nothing has come through. We have had one speaker willing to pay their own travel, Rajeev Varshney, so that we could use his travel funds for other purposes.

Is the request below someone that we should consider funding or should we hold the request until we see how many more of these type requests we get and if we have any extra money to fund the requests? With international travel I am sure they will want to know quickly so travel can be booked.

Just looking for some guideline on how to handle this.

Thanks,
Deborah

Deborah Powell | Conference Manager
HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology
Cell: 256 810.2047 | Office: 256.327.5218
Email: dpowell@hudsonalpha.org

Begin forwarded message:

From: Shahid Mansoor <shahidmansoor7@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Join us at CROPS 2015!

Date: January 17, 2015 4:26:55 AM CST
To: CROPS Conference <dpowell@hudsonalpha.org>

Dear Organizers,
I am wish to attend this meeting provided a get some funds. Please keep me posted.
Shahid

On Sat, Jan 17, 2015 at 2:36 AM, CROPS Conference <dpowell@hudsonalpha.org> wrote:

Early bird deadline is March 10!

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May 18–21, 2015

IMPROVING AGRICULTURE WITH GENOMICS



HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology
Huntsville, Alabama, USA

Early booking deadline: March 10, 2015

Register Today!

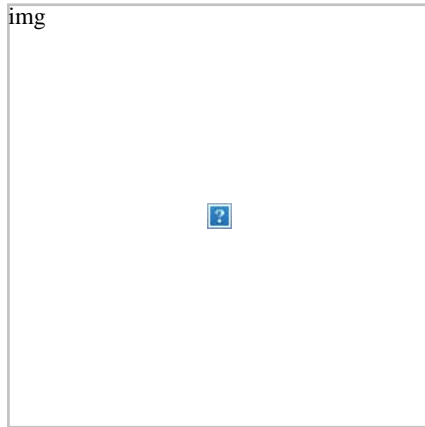
Join leading genomics researchers and plant breeders at CROPS 2015 to address genomics enabled crop breeding and improvement.

CROPS 2015, hosted by HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology and the University of Georgia, will provide a discussion forum for what is the next, most difficult challenge for plant genomics: integrating and translating genomic knowledge to improve breeding and crop production.

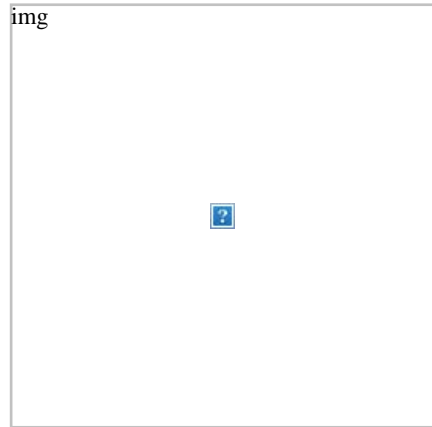
Benefits of attending CROPS:

- Hear informative presentations from internationally-renowned experts in the field of genomics enabled crop breeding and improvement.
- Discover the latest developments on integrating data into crop applications.
- Network with over 300 colleagues from around the world at exciting social events.
- See the latest tools and techniques that will benefit your research.

Keynote Speakers:



Steve Rounsley
Dow AgroSciences



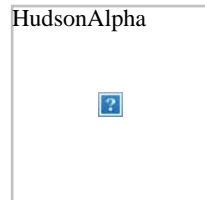
Gerald A. Tuskan
Joint Genome Institute



For more information, visit www.CROPSconference.org.

Early booking deadline: March 10, 2015

Register Today!



For questions regarding registration, please contact Deborah Powell at dpowell@hudsonalpha.org.

You are receiving this email because of your interest in crops genomics.

HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology 601 Genome Way Huntsville, AL 35806 USA

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Dr. Shahid Mansoor, Sitara-e-Imtiaz
HEC Distinguished National Professor
Fulbright Alumnus
Deputy Chief Scientist
Director
National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE)
P O Box 577
Jhang Road
Faisalabad
Pakistan

Phone
92-41-2651475-9 (extension 243)
92-41-2553594 (direct)
Cell 92-300-7944841
Fax 92-41-2651472