

Contributions To CGIL

Past Visitors

CGIL, University of Guelph

June 3, 2014



PhD in Animal Genetics (Distinction), University of Guelph, Canada 1990-1993. Supervised by Professors Charles Smith, Bob Kemp and John Gibson, and Glenn Fox from Agricultural Economics. The stimulating and challenging environment in CGIL provided an excellent stepping stone to embark on a career as an animal breeding consultant servicing a wide range of industries internationally and across multiple livestock species including dairy, beef, sheep, deer, swine and aquaculture.



Post-Doctoral Research Associate between August 1989 and August 1991 working with Ted Burnside, Larry Schaeffer and Charlie Smith on the development of international genetic evaluations of cattle and the optimal use of genetic material across-country. This appointment opened up new scientific horizons and largely determined the next steps of my career. It was indeed a great time of my life.



Visiting scientist from September 2008 to February 2009 when I was PhD student. I worked with the Canadian Dairy Network on the estimation of genetic correlations between body condition score and reproduction traits for Holstein and Ayrshire Canadian cows. I really appreciated the chance of attending classes and working, interacting with Filippo Miglior, Sarah Loker and Jarmila Bohmanova.

Hugh Blair, New Zealand



I spent 6 months at UoG in 1994, arriving in time for WCGALP, and 3 months at the end of 2000. Help from CGIL members was integral in enabling suitable analyses to be undertaken. 1994 coincided with the untimely death of Brian Kennedy who was always very kind to me and a good friend from 1981 when I was at Cornell. My wife (Alana) and children (James and Victoria) accompanied me on both visits. We had a wonderful social time and enjoyed exploring the nearby environs of Ontario.



1995 to 2000. Post-doc with John Gibson. Cytoplasmic inheritance in production traits. Fall 2000, Senior Research Associate and Adjunct Professor, with Jack Dekkers. The research emphasis was functional traits, longevity, udder health and mobility.



I spent less than a year at CGIL (June 1990 to February 1991), working with Charlie Smith. I remember the intensity of the time and the quality of the people I interacted with. The final remembrance was the idea that marker assisted selection with few marked QTLs may not work. Working as a postdoc I wrote a simulation program to compare BLUP on breeding value ignoring or considering a single QTL which explained 5 to 25 % of the additive variance, by means of the Fernando and Grossman model. Charlie Smith was a fair fellow, but most of all, an endearing and sensible person who never quit on the idea that my results may be correct!



August 1993 to April 1994. CGIL gave me many opportunities to learn animal genetics and to know and work with the best animal geneticists of the 90's.



During my stay, I had the chance to develop an in-depth understanding of novel statistical methods. Applying this knowledge to various collaborative projects between CGIL and industry was a great complement to my graduate education. I greatly benefited from the very productive weekly seminars, interaction with great scientists from all over the world and meetings with industry groups. Last but not least, I developed long lasting friendships and my first son was born in Guelph! Overall, it was one of the best experiences in my professional career.



September 1986 to December 1987 I finished writing my PhD (on carcass quality traits in rainbow trout) which I defended in May 1988. The reason for going to Guelph was that I learned to know Larry when he and his wife Laura stayed at Department of Animal Science, Agricultural University of Norway in 1984-1985. Larry wrote a series of fortran programs for AKVAFORSK (for free!) for the prediction of single trait family (using a sire and dam model) and individual (by back solving) breeding values for Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout. These programs were the first ever used for the prediction of BLUP breeding values for any fish species, and were used by AKVAFORSK for more than ten years. I look back at my 15 months stay at CGIL as the most fruitful in my scientific carrier.



Dairy and beef research at CGIL:

1987-1988: E.B. Burnside and L.R. Schaeffer

1994-1997: L.R. Schaeffer

1999-2010: L.R. Schaeffer

2011-2013: S.P. Miller



I spent about 4 months in Guelph. The stay was fruitful (we got a paper out) and I very much enjoyed the positive and friendly atmosphere at CGIL.



Graduate student with Jim Wilton, team mate on Guelph Grey Gryphons hockey team with Jim and Brian, adjunct professor at CGIL. Now I run Genesus and chair PigGen.

Brian Kinghorn, Australia



We had a wonderful sabbatical in Guelph. I have fond memories of lunching most days with Charlie Smith and others at the Faculty Club. We enjoyed friendly hospitality at home with various members of the GCIL team. I worked mostly with Charlie, Brian Kennedy and Jack Dekkers, on inferring QTL segregation from pedigree and phenotypes, and adventurous ways to use IVF in dairy cattle, and a few other things on the side.

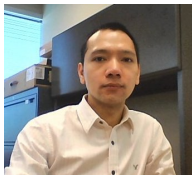


2012-2014: Postdoctoral researcher supervised by Flavio Schenkel.



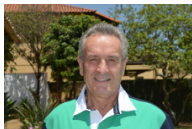
My preferred name is Jeff Liu after working at NIH in 2009. I did my MSc program with Larry Schaeffer from 1996-1998. After graduation, I worked as an assistant researcher with Larry Schaeffer in 1999 to re-estimate heritabilities for conformation traits of various Canadian dairy breeds. Besides the great patience and serenity from Dr. Schaeffer, I especially appreciated the solid programming fundamentals that I learned at CGIL and UoG, and yes, it started with test-day regression models coded in Fortran 77.





2008-2009: Research Assistant supervised by Steve Miller.

2009-2012: PhD student. "Applications of the Illumina BovineSNP50 BeadChip in genetic improvement of beef cattle"



Charles Smith was aware of the economic advantages of *Bos taurus* x *indicus* F1s for tropical dairy production. Roberto Luiz Teodoro, a Brazilian researcher in Guelph through an EMBRAPA-Guelph interchange project, was invited by Charlie to examine the economics of F1 embryo production. I was invited as a correspondent author to that study.



I was at CGIL from December 1989 until May 1991 as a postdoctoral fellow with Brian Kennedy. I studied the implementation of genetic evaluation for sow litter size traits in Ontario and the estimation of genetic parameters for residual feed intakes in pigs when available records were means of sibs. My time in CGIL was very rewarding academically and socially. It afforded me the opportunity to know many fellow geneticists, a large number of whom still provide support and friendship up till now.



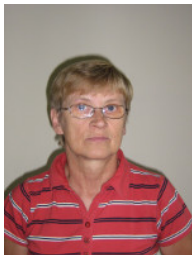
I started at CGIL in Sept 1985. I did collaborative research projects with Ted Burnside and Jim Wilton on growth, reproduction and herd life in dairy and beef cattle. In 1989, I initiated a meat goat research project with Ted Burnside. During 1993-97, I was involved in swine breeding research with John Gibson in collaboration with the Ontario Swine Inc.(OSI). I really enjoyed my time in CGIL and living with my family in Guelph.



Visited Guelph in Fall 1996 to get Larry Schaeffer to write some programs for me, and to attend his classes.



I was in CGIL from May 2006 to April 2007 doing part of my PhD with Flavio Schenkel. During this time I could follow and take part in the research projects that were going on in his group, and I also had the opportunity to take his course on QTL and Markers and Larry Schaeffers course on Animal models. The experience in Flavios Lab, the courses, the Friday Workshops and the interaction with the colleagues at CGIL were an important contribution to my PhD training. From my time in Guelph I also keep very pleasant memories and a few good friends.



I was in CGIL from April 1991 to August 1992. I worked on test day models (fixed regression models) used in genetic evaluation of dairy cattle, and presence of interaction between year of calving and age and month of calving for milk traits.



My stay was from July 1991 to September 1993. I worked with Brian Kennedy on direct-maternal effects models in pigs. In addition, we estimated genetic parameters for litter size in Canadian Yorkshire and Landrace swine. I had a very successful time at CGIL with the great opportunity to meet and discuss with numerous researchers working, visiting or studying in Guelph. These contacts still exist and are very beneficial for my entire career.



In October 1986, I left my native Ireland to do a PhD in Edinburgh with Charlie Smith, who was just about to move to Guelph which meant that I was lucky enough to work with him at CGIL from June to December 1987. It was a very intense, successful and memorable stay. I learned an awful lot through courses, but most of all from the daily work and social interactions with CGIL faculty, the large number of students, postdocs and visiting scientists at CGIL at that time.



I stayed at CGIL from June to December 1987. The time I spent in Guelph was one of the most interesting and instructional phases in my career, working in the same place as Larry Schaeffer, Brian Kennedy and Charlie Smith, and meeting lots of visitors at CGIL which at that time certainly was one of the best places a young and ambitious animal scientist could visit. I always enjoyed the very open and informal exchange that was possible with everybody, from faculty to grad students and visitors. Many of the skills I learned there, like writing clearly structured papers, helped me throughout my academic life. Quite a number of people who crossed my way during the stay at CGIL became good colleagues, some even friends, and formed the backbone of my scientific network until today.



I was at CGIL from January 1987 to May 1989. I was there as a research associate with Brian Kennedy and worked on estimation of variance components and breeding values in pig populations.



I was in Guelph from 2007 to 2012 as a PhD student with Flavio Schenkel working on genetic diversity in dairy cattle and later as post doc with Steve Miller working on variety of beef and sheep projects. I was taught MBG4030 Animal Breeding Methods for 2 years.



I spent a year at Guelph under Charlie's supervision and took excellent lessons in this department during the period of August, 1995 and July, 1996, supported by Embrapa, in Brazil. Under his supervision we wrote and published a paper, so important and usefull to the tropical environment.



I spent two months in CGIL (June and July of 1993). I was working with Charles Smith on two topics: avoidance of inbreeding and marker assisted selection. I had a good time interacting with him and other people that were around: Theo Meuwissen, John Gibson, Brian Kennedy, etc..



PhD student from 1992-1995, working on 'Robustness of statistical methods for detection of major genes for quantitative traits', with advisors Brian Kennedy and Jack Dekkers.



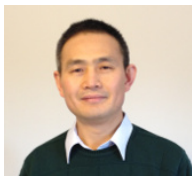
My stay at CGIL was 1990-1993 for my MSc program with Brian Kennedy, and 1994-1997 for my PhD program with Larry Schaeffer.



My stay at CGIL was 1986-1992 for my PhD program with Ian McMillan.



I was at CGIL from January 2001 until June 2004 working with Larry Schaeffer. My research covered type traits in dairy cattle and prediction of single locus effects using genomic models.



I stayed at CGIL between September 1998 and December 2003. I pursued my Ph.D. under Andy Robinson and Ann Gibbins. My research was on associations of candidate genes with growth and meat quality in swine. I had a great experience at CGIL.



In 2002, I spent three months in the CGIL. At that time I was still named Dedkova. I got a grant from the OECD and I addressed the issue of test day model with random regression. I came to CGIL to work with Larry Schaeffer and Janusz Jamrozik. My stay at CGIL had a major positive impact on the development of cattle breeding in the Czech Republic. My stay at CGIL was an unforgettable experience.