

*Curriculum vitae*  
Daniel G. Peterson  
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**Education:**

1998: Doctor of Philosophy: Botany - Colorado State University (advisor: Stephen M. Stack)  
1993: Master of Science: Botany - Colorado State University (advisor: Stephen M. Stack)  
1991: Bachelor of Science: Biology (*cum laude*) - Colorado State University

**Experience:**

May 1, 2009-present: Associate Director - Life Sciences & Biotechnology Institute (LSBI) - Mississippi State University  
March 2008-present: Associate Professor - Department of Plant and Soil Sciences - Mississippi State University  
August 2002-February 2008: Assistant Professor - Department of Plant and Soil Sciences - Mississippi State University  
October 2001-July 2002: Postdoctoral Research Coordinator II - Center for Applied Genetic Technologies - University of Georgia  
Feb. 1999-Sept. 2001: Postdoctoral Research Associate – Department of Botany – University of Georgia (advisor: Andrew H. Paterson)  
1998: Research Associate – Department of Biology – Colorado State University  
1993-1998: Cell & Molecular Biology Program – Colorado State University  
1993-1998: Graduate Research Assistant - Biology Department – Colorado State University  
1991-1992: Graduate Teaching Assistant - Biology Department – Colorado State University  
1991: NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates – Colorado State University  
1990-1991: Tutor for College of Natural Sciences – Colorado State University

**Service/Appointments:**

July 2009-present: Member of Editorial Board for *Analytical Biochemistry* (Elsevier)  
Aug. 2008-present: MS State Faculty Research Advisory Committee (FRAC) (appointed by Vice President for Research and Economic Development)  
2008: DOE/USDA Feedstock Genomics proposal review panel  
2007: Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES) Advisory Committee on Genetics and Genomics (appointed by MAFES administration)  
2007: Life Sciences and Biotechnology Institute (LSBI) Director's Advisory Committee (appointed by LSBI Director)  
2007: Chair of the LSBI 2007 Taskforce (appointed by LSBI Director)  
2006-present: Member of the Institute for Digital Biology (IDB) Scientific Advisory Board (appointed by Directors)  
2006-2007: Member of search committee for Institutional Biosafety Officer (appointed by Vice President for Research and Economic Development)  
2006: Member of search committee for Life Sciences and Biotechnology Institute (LSBI) director (appointed by Vice President of the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, & Vet. Med.)

2005-present: *Laboratory Space Committee* and *Website Committee*, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences (appointed by Department Head)

2004: Appointment to Graduate Faculty Level I, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Mississippi State University

2003: Appointment to Graduate Faculty Level I, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University

2003: Appointment to Graduate Faculty Level II, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University

2003-present: *Technical Advisory Committee*, Southern Institute of Forest Genetics, USDA Forest Service

2003-2008: Mississippi State University *Institutional Biosafety Committee* (appointed by Vice President for Research)

2003: Judge at Mississippi Region V Science and Engineering Fair (grades 1-6), MS State Univ.

2002-present: *Ad hoc* proposal reviewer for the National Science Foundation, Genome Canada, and the Consortium for Plant Biotechnology Research

2000-present: *Ad hoc* reviewer for *Analytical Biochemistry*, *BioTechniques*, *BMC Genomics*, *Chromosome Research*, *Crop Science*, *Cytogenetic and Genome Research*, *Gene*, *Genetics*, *Genome Research*, *Genomics*, *HortScience*, *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, *Molecular Breeding*, *New Phytologist*, *Oikos*, *Plant Physiology*, *PLoS ONE*, *Tree Genetics and Genomes*, *Tree Physiology*, and *Tropical Plant Biology*.

1998: Member of search committee for assistant professor position (plant physiologist), Department of Biology – Colorado State University

1997: Judge at science fair, Eyestone Elementary, Wellington, CO

1995-1996: Cell & Molecular Biology Academic & Admissions Committee – Colorado State University

1994-1997: Plant Biotechnology Seminar Committee – Colorado State University

#### **Awards and Honors:**

2008: Distinguished Fellow, *Life Sciences and Biotechnology Institute*, Mississippi State University (one of four inaugural inductees)

2007: Grantsmanship Award (plaque and \$1000) – Sustained Excellence in External Competitive Grantsmanship - Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES), Mississippi State University

2007: Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society, Mississippi State University

2006: Fellow of the *Institute for Digital Biology* (IDB) at Mississippi State University

2004: Grantsmanship Award (plaque and \$500) - Most Success in Extramural Funding - Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES), Mississippi State University

1998: Outstanding Poster Presentation - Rocky Mountain Plant Biotechnology & Molecular Biology Symposium, Colorado State University

1997: Best Graduate Poster Presentation - Department of Biology Student Symposium, Colorado State University

1997: Outstanding Poster Presentation - Rocky Mountain Plant Biotechnology & Molecular Biology Symposium, Colorado State University

1996: Cell & Molecular Biology Scholarship Award, Colorado State University  
1995: Cell & Molecular Biology Scholarship Award, Colorado State University  
1994: Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, Colorado State University  
1993: College of Natural Sciences Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, Colorado State University  
1993: Colorado Fellowship - Cell & Molecular Biology Interdisciplinary Program, Colorado State University  
1990: Golden Key National Honor Society, Colorado State University  
1990: Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society, Colorado State University

**Society Membership:**

Genetics Society of America (GSA)  
American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB)

**Grants:**

2007-2008: USDA-ARS 58-6402-7-241: Increasing US cotton competitiveness through genomics. \$463,118 - PI: SHANE C. BURGESS. Co-PIs: PEGGY THAXTON, ZHAOHUA PENG, K. RAJA REDDY, DANIEL G. PETERSON, and JEFF WILKINSON.  
2007-2010: Mississippi Corn Promotion Board – Towards Improved Aflatoxin and Insect Resistance in Maize. \$180,000 – PIs: DANIEL G. PETERSON and JEFF R. WILKINSON.  
2006-2008: USDA-CSREES 2006-34506-17290 – Forest and Agricultural Genomics in Mississippi. \$1,053,611 – PI: DANIEL G. PETERSON. Co-PIs: ERDOGAN MEMILI, ZHAOHUA PENG, and M. CETIN YUCEER.  
2004-2008: National Science Foundation DBI-0421717 – Accelerating pine genomics through development and utilization of molecular and cytogenetic resources. \$1,668,611 – PI: DANIEL G. PETERSON. Co-PIs: M. NURUL ISLAM-FARIDI, C. DANA NELSON, DOREEN S. MAIN, and JEFFREY P. TOMKINS.  
2004: Office of Research, Mississippi State University, *Research Initiation Program Award* – Utilizing a new ‘gateway’ into the pine genome. \$10,000 – PI: DANIEL G. PETERSON.  
2003-2005: USDA Forest Service award SRS 03-CA-11330126-263 - Development of SSR Markers from EST Sequences in Loblolly Pine. \$83,645 - PI: DANIEL G. PETERSON. Co-PIs: C. DANA NELSON and CRAIG ECHT.  
2002-2004: National Science Foundation DBI-0208311 - BAC resources for comparative biology in selected angiosperms. \$400,000 - PI: ANDREW H. PATERSON. Co-PI: DANIEL G. PETERSON.  
2001-2005: National Science Foundation DBI-0115903 - Grass Genome Biodiversity: Application of genomic tools from Sorghum and related grasses to identify and analyze variation in structure and function of C4 crop genomes. \$3,962,498 - PI: ANDREW H. PATERSON. Co-PIs (in alphabetical order): ALAN GINGLE, STEPHEN KRESOVICH, DANIEL G. PETERSON, CAROL SODERLUND, and ROD A. WING.  
1999-2001: United States Department of Agriculture-CSREES-NRI Plant Genome postdoctoral award 99-35300-7819. Cytomolecular mapping in sorghum and maize using *in situ* hybridization. \$90,000 - PI: DANIEL G. PETERSON.

**Other Successful Competitive Proposals:**

- 2008: Joint Genome Institute, Department of Energy, *Community Sequencing Program (CSP)* - Advancing Pine Genomics through Targeted and Random BAC Sequencing. Result: Sequencing and assembly of 100 bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) clones from pine. In this program no funds are awarded to PI or co-PIs – PI: DANIEL G. PETERSON, CO-PIs: JEFFREY F.D. DEAN, C. DANA NELSON, RONALD R. SEDEROFF, and DANIEL S. ROKHSAR.
- 2006: Joint Genome Institute, Department of Energy, *Community Sequencing Program (CSP)* – Sequencing D-genome cotton. Result: 0.5X shotgun sequencing of the *Gossypium raimondii* genome by the JGI. In this program, no funds are awarded to PI or co-PIs – PI/Proposer: Andrew H. Paterson. Co-Proposers: DANIEL G. PETERSON and 19 others.
- 2005: Joint Genome Institute, Department of Energy, *Community Sequencing Program (CSP)* – Sequencing the sorghum genome, as a framework for structural, functional and comparative genomics of tropical biomass and food crops. Result: 6X shotgun sequencing of the *Sorghum bicolor* genome by the JGI. In this program, no funds are awarded to PI or co-PIs – PI: ANDREW H. PATERSON, CO-PIs: C. THOMAS HASH, STEPHEN E. KRESOVICH, JOACHIM MESSING, DANIEL G. PETERSON, and DANIEL S. ROKHSAR.

#### **Ph.D. Dissertation:**

PETERSON DG (1998) Genome organization and meiotic chromosome structure of tomato. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523.

#### **Refereed Publications:**

- SHAN X, RAY DA, BUNGE JA, PETERSON DG (2009) A bacterial artificial chromosome library for the Australian saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and its utilization in gene isolation and genome characterization. *BMC Genomics* **10** (Suppl. 2): S9.
- BUNGE JA, CHOUVARINE P, PETERSON DG (2009) CotQuest: Improved algorithm and software for nonlinear regression analysis of DNA reassociation kinetics data. *Analytical Biochemistry* **388**: 322-330.
- MORSE AM, PETERSON DG, ISLAM-FARIDI MN, SMITH KE, MAGBANUA ZV, GARCIA SA, KUBISIAK TL, AMERSON HV, CARLSON JE, NELSON CD, DAVIS JM (2009) Evolution of genome size and complexity in *Pinus*. *PLoS ONE* **4**: e4332.
- PATERSON AH, BOWERS JE, BRUGGMANN R, DUBCHAK I, GRIMWOOD J, GUNDLACH H, HABERER G, HELLSTEN U, MITROS T, POLIAKOV A, SCHMUTZ J, SPANNAGL M, TANG H, WANG X, WICKER T, BHARTI AK, CHAPMAN J, FELTUS FA, GOWIK U, GRIGORIEV IV, LYONS E, MAHER CA, MARTIS M, NARECHANIA A, OTILLAR RP, PENNING BW, SALAMOV AA, WANG Y, ZHANG L, CARPITA NC, FREELING M, GINGLE AR, HASH CT, KELLER B, KLEIN P, KRESOVICH S, MCCANN MC, MING R, PETERSON DG, MEHBOOB-UR-RAHMAN, WARE D, WESTHOFF P, MAYER KFX, MESSING J, ROKHSAR DS (2009) The *Sorghum bicolor* genome and the diversification of grasses. *Nature* **457**: 551-556.
- SAHA S, BRIDGES S, MAGBANUA Z, PETERSON DG (2008) Discovering relationships among dispersed repeats using spatial association rule mining. *BMC Bioinformatics* **9**: O4.
- SAHA S, BRIDGES S, MAGBANUA ZV, PETERSON DG (2008) Empirical comparison of *ab initio* repeat finding programs. *Nucleic Acids Research* **36**: 2284-2294.
- SAHA S, BRIDGES S, MAGBANUA ZV, PETERSON DG (2008) Computational approaches and tools used in identification of dispersed repetitive DNA sequences. *Tropical Plant Biology* **1**: 85-96.

- CHOUVARINE P, SAHA S, PETERSON DG (2008) An automated, high-throughput sequence read classification pipeline for preliminary genome characterization. *Analytical Biochemistry* **373**: 78-87.
- DENNIS JH, FAN H-Y, REYNOLDS SM, YUAN G, MELDRIM J, RICHTER DJ, PETERSON DG, RANDO OJ, NOBLE WS, KINGSTON RE (2007) Independent and complementary methods for large-scale structural analysis of mammalian chromatin. *Genome Research* **17**: 928-939.
- BUNGE J, EPSTEIN SS, PETERSON DG (2006) Comment on "Computational Improvements Reveal Great Bacterial Diversity and High Metal Toxicity in Soil." *Science* **313**: 918.
- LAMOUREUX D, PETERSON DG, LI W, FELLERS JP, GILL BS (2005) The efficacy of Cot-based gene enrichment in wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). *Genome* **48**: 1120-1126.
- WICKER T, ROBERTSON JS, SCHULZE SR, FELTUS FA, MAGRINI V, MORRISON JA, MARDIS ER, WILSON RK, PETERSON DG, PATERSON AH, IVARIE R (2005) The repetitive landscape of the chicken genome. *Genome Research* **15**: 126-136.
- PATERSON AH, BOWERS JE, CHAPMAN BA, PETERSON DG, RONG J, WICKER TM (2004) Comparative genome analysis of monocots and dicots, toward characterization of angiosperm diversity. *Current Opinion in Biotechnology* **15**: 120-124.
- PATERSON AH, BOWERS JE, PETERSON DG, ESTILL JC, CHAPMAN BA (2003) Structure and evolution of cereal genomes. *Current Opinion in Genetics and Development* **13**: 644-650.
- PETERSON DG, WESSLER SR, PATERSON AH (2002) Efficient capture of unique sequences from eukaryotic genomes. *Trends In Genetics* **18**: 547-550.
- PETERSON DG, SCHULZE SR, SCIARA EB, LEE SA, NAGEL A, JIANG N, TIBBITTS DC, WESSLER SR, PATERSON AH (2002) Integration of Cot analysis, DNA cloning, and high-throughput sequencing facilitates genome characterization and gene discovery. *Genome Research* **12**: 795-807.
- TOMKINS JP, PETERSON DG, YANG TJ, MAIN D, ABLETT EF, HENRY RJ, LEE LS, HOLTON TA, WATERS D, WING RA (2001) Grape (*Vitis vinifera* L.) BAC library construction, preliminary STC analysis, and identification of clones associated with flavonoid and stilbene biosynthesis. *American Journal of Enology and Viticulture* **52**: 287-291.
- TOMKINS JP, PETERSON DG, YANG T, MAIN D, WILKINS TA, PATERSON AH, WING RA (2001) Development of genomic resources for cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*): BAC library construction, preliminary STC analysis, and identification of clones associated with fiber development. *Molecular Breeding* **8**: 255-261.
- DRAYE X, LIN Y-R, QIAN X-Y, BOWERS JE, BUROW GB, MORRELL PL, PETERSON DG, PRESTING GG, REN S-X, WING RA, PATERSON AH (2001) Toward integration of comparative genetic, physical, diversity, and cytomolecular maps for grasses, using the Sorghum genome as a foundation. *Plant Physiology* **125**: 1325-1341.
- PETERSON DG, TOMKINS JP, FRISCH DA, WING RA, PATERSON AH (2000) Construction of plant bacterial artificial chromosome libraries: An illustrated guide. *Journal of Agricultural Genomics* **5**: <http://wheat.pw.usda.gov/jag/>.
- PETERSON DG, LAPITAN NLV, STACK SM (1999) Localization of single- and low-copy sequences on tomato synaptonemal complex spreads using fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH). *Genetics* **152**: 427-439.
- PETERSON DG, PEARSON WR, STACK SM (1998) Characterization of the tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) genome using *in vitro* and *in situ* DNA reassociation. *Genome* **41**: 346-356.

- PETERSON DG, BOEHM KS, STACK SM (1997) Isolation of milligram quantities of nuclear DNA from tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), a species containing high levels of polyphenolic compounds. *Plant Molecular Biology Reporter* **15**: 148-153.
- PETERSON DG, PRICE HJ, JOHNSTON JS, STACK SM (1996) DNA of content of heterochromatin and euchromatin in tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) pachytene chromosomes. *Genome* **39**: 77-82.
- PETERSON DG, STACK SM, HEALY JL, DONOHOE BS, ANDERSON LK (1994) The relationship between synaptonemal complex length and genome size in four vertebrate classes (Osteichthyes, Reptilia, Aves, Mammalia). *Chromosome Research* **2**: 153-162.

### **Book Chapters:**

- PLOMION C, CHAGNÉ D, POT D, KUMAR S, WILCOX P, BURDON R, PRAT D, PETERSON DG, PAIVA J, CHAUMEIL P, VENDRAMIN G, SEBASTIANI F, NELSON CD, ECHT C, SAVOLAINEN O, KUBISIAK T, CERVERA MT, ISLAM-FARIDI MN (2007) The Pines. In: *Genome Mapping and Molecular Breeding in Plants, Vol. 7, Forest Trees*. Edited by: Kole CR. Springer - Heidelberg, Berlin, New York, Tokyo; pp. 29-78 (ISBN: 978-3-540-34540-4).
- PETERSON DG (2005) Reduced representation strategies and their application to plant genomes. In: *The Handbook of Plant Genome Mapping: Genetic and Physical Mapping*. Edited by: Meksem K, Kahl G. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. - Hoboken, NJ, pp. 307-335.

### **Select Presentations:**

- PETERSON DG (2009) Gymnosperms: Evolution in 3/4 time. Plant & Animal Genome XVII. January 10, 2008. San Diego, California. Abstract W163.
- PETERSON DG (2008) Genomics 101. MAFES/MSU-ES Annual Meeting. November 7, 2008. Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS.
- PETERSON DG (2008) MGEL: Battling Monster Genomes Since 2002. Division of Natural Sciences. Tougaloo College. April 17, 2008. Tougaloo, Mississippi.
- PETERSON DG (2008) Gymnosperms: Evolution in 3/4 time. Center for Computational Sciences, High Performance Computing Collaborative. Mississippi State University. February 25, 2008. Mississippi State, Mississippi.
- PETERSON DG, BRIDGES SM, BATCHELOR WD (2007) MSU Bioenergy and Biotechnology Program. Oak Ridge National Laboratories. March 1, 2007. Oak Ridge, Tennessee.
- PETERSON DG (2006) Battling Monster Genomes. Digital Biology Learning Community Seminar Series. Mississippi State University. March 22, 2006. Mississippi State, Mississippi.
- PETERSON DG (2006) Battling Monster Genomes. Genetic Engineering/Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology Seminar Series. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. February 8, 2006. Urbana, Illinois.
- PETERSON DG (2006) Exploring the Pine Genome Using Cot Filtration and 454 Life Sciences Massively Parallel Shotgun Sequencing. Plant & Animal Genome XIV. January 14, 2006. *Reduced Representation Sequencing (RRS) Workshop*. San Diego, California. Abstract W376.
- PETERSON DG (2005) Attack of the Pine Clones. Third Meeting of the *Loblolly Pine Genome Project (LPGP)*. June 23, 2005. Raleigh, North Carolina.

- PETERSON DG (2005) Gene-Enrichment Strategies for Analysis of the Wheat Gene Space. Plant & Animal Genome XIII. January 15, 2005. *International Genome Research on Wheat (IGROW) Workshop*. San Diego, California. Abstract W174.
- PETERSON DG (2004) Towards physical mapping and genespace sequencing in loblolly pine. Second Meeting of the *Loblolly Pine Genome Project (LPGP)*. June 25, 2004. Jekyll Island, Georgia.
- PETERSON DG (2004) Cot-based cloning and sequencing (CBCS). NSF Pan-American Advanced Studies Institute (PASI): Knowledge Discovery in Genomic Databases: A PASI on Data Mining Applications for Genomics and Bioinformatics. February 9, 2004. Montevideo, Uruguay.
- PETERSON DG (2004) Cot-Based Cloning & Sequencing: A 'Divide and Conquer' Approach to Genome Exploration. Plant & Animal Genome XII. January 10, 2004. *Reduced-Representation Sequencing: Methods and Applications Workshop*. San Diego, California. Abstract W324.
- PETERSON DG (2003) Selective sequence enrichment (SSE) and its application to the citrus genome. Second National Citrus Genome Workshop. October 31, 2003. Fort Pierce, Florida.
- PETERSON DG (2003) Exploring plant genomes: Why can't a cabbage be more like a man? Department of Plant Pathology, Kansas State University. February 20, 2003. Manhattan, Kansas.
- PETERSON DG (2002) Cot-Based Cloning and Sequencing (CBCS) in the advancement of comparative genomics. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists. August 3-7, 2002. Denver, Colorado.
- PETERSON DG (2002) New tools for investigating plant genomes. Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, West Virginia University. May 6, 2002. Morgantown, West Virginia.
- PETERSON DG (2002) Investigating angiosperm molecular evolution using new genomic approaches. Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, Virginia Polytechnic and State University (Virginia Tech). January 31, 2002. Blacksburg, Virginia.
- PETERSON DG (1998) Genome organization and meiotic chromosome structure of tomato. Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. March 9, 1998. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- PETERSON DG (1995) *In situ* hybridization to synaptonemal complex spreads of tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*). Plant Molecular Biology Seminar Series, Colorado State University. March 22, 1995. Fort Collins, Colorado.
- PETERSON DG (1994) The relationship between synaptonemal complex length and genome size in four vertebrate classes (Osteichthyes, Reptilia, Aves, Mammalia). Annual Meeting of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Divisions of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). May 22-26, 1994. Durango, Colorado.
- PETERSON DG (1992) The relationship between genome size and total synaptonemal complex length in four vertebrate classes. Boone Chromosome Conf. III, September 23-25, 1992. Boone, North Carolina.

#### **Workshops Organized:**

- PETERSON DG (2010) Evolution of Genome Size. January 9, 2010. 8:00-10:10 AM. Plant & Animal Genome XVIII. January 9-13, San Diego, CA. Planning in progress.

PETERSON DG (2009) Evolution of Genome Size. January 10, 2009. 8:00-10:10 AM. Plant & Animal Genome XVII. January 10-14, San Diego, CA.

PETERSON DG (2008) Evolution of Genome Size. January 12, 2008. 8:00-10:10 AM. Plant & Animal Genome XVI. January 12-16, San Diego, CA.

PETERSON DG (2007) Reduced-Representation Sequencing. January 13, 2007. 8:00-10:20 AM. Plant & Animal Genome XV, January 13-17, San Diego, CA.

PETERSON DG (2006) Reduced-Representation Sequencing. January 14, 2006. 8:00-10:20 AM. Plant & Animal Genome XIV, January 14-18, San Diego, CA.

PETERSON DG, PATERSON AH (2005) Reduced-Representation Sequencing. January 15, 2005. 8:00-10:20 AM. Plant & Animal Genome XIII, January 15-19, San Diego, CA.

PETERSON DG, PATERSON AH (2004) Reduced-Representation Sequencing: Methods and Applications. January 10, 2004. 8:00-10:40 AM. Plant & Animal Genome XII, January 10-14, San Diego, CA.

**Invitation-Only Meetings:**

Banbury Conference on Conifer Genomics. March 18-21, 2007. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY. Banbury Conferences are recognized as being amongst the most prestigious and productive meetings in molecular biology, genetics, and neuroscience. Each meeting is limited to 36 individuals, and participation is by invitation only. Dr. Peterson's participation in the conifer genomics meeting is evidence of his reputation as a leader in pine/conifer genomic research.

2007 Southern Energy Research Alliance. July 25-26, 2007. Oak Ridge National Laboratories, Oak Ridge, TN. Dr. Peterson attended this meeting as one of four representatives from Mississippi State University. He was invited due to his expertise in genome sequencing and plant biology.