

HUGH BLAIR



Professor Hugh Blair grew up on a hill country sheep and beef cattle farm in New Zealand. He graduated from Massey University in 1976 and immediately joined the Sheep Husbandry Department to lecture and undertake a PhD. In 1995, he became Department Head of Animal Science and in 1998 assumed the role of Deputy Head of the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Science. After a further restructure in 2018, the Animal Science Group returned to the School and Agriculture and Environment and Hugh resumed being Head of the Animal Science Group. Hugh lectures in animal production and animal breeding and genetics to undergraduate and postgraduate students. His main research interests are improving the application of animal breeding and genetic technologies to the improvement of production and service animals in New Zealand; understanding developmental programming to improve production animal performance and the study of the genetic causes of diseases. Hugh Blair has supervised about 85 postgraduate students, 35 being PhD graduates; he currently co-supervises 11 PhD students. He has developed several international collaborative research relationships with colleagues in Japan, China, Uruguay and USA. Hugh attended his first AAABG meeting in 1987 in Armidale and has attended most meetings since then. For the three meetings in New Zealand in 1990, 2001 and 2013, Hugh was, respectively, Secretary, Treasurer and President. He has co-authored 23 papers in the AAABG proceedings.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics is pleased to enrol Hugh as a Fellow of the Association.