

## PETER R. AMER



Peter grew up on a Dairy Farm in North Canterbury in New Zealand. He studied Agricultural Science at Lincoln College with his Honours dissertation titled “Methods of calculating breeding values for rams in flocks genetically linked by reference sires” completed in 1988. The following summer he joined the Genetics Section at Ruakura Agriculture Research Centre where he worked on researching and implementing the statistical analysis for the National Sire Referencing Scheme. He then moved to University of Guelph for his PhD “Economic evaluation of beef cattle genotypes using neoclassical production theory” awarded in 1992. His thesis was selected to represent the Department of Agricultural Economics and Business in a competition among North American Universities.

Peter had postdoctoral fellowships at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (studied economic aspects of dual cattle production) in and Scottish Agricultural College, Edinburgh (working on economic selection indexes in beef cattle breeding). In 1996 he was appointed as a Geneticist with AgResearch at Invermay, Mosgiel NZ. He worked on optimising industry use of major genes; supported industry genetic improvements programmes for sheep and deer; analysed livestock data sets to detect evidence of gene segregation; and had contract work in aquaculture breeding programmes, predominantly salmon.

In 2001 he was one of the early scientists to join Abacus BioTech where he consulted on indexes for industry groups which has had continued. During the early days he also did some venture investment work for the original Abacus Biotech Investors. In 2006 Peter was a founding partner in the establishment of AbacusBio and has been Managing Director from 2022.

Peter has set an outstanding example of how to both effectively serve industry and continue to be scientifically active. He has published 341 articles (100 on Scopus) with a h-index of 26. He is highly collaborative publishing with 150 co-authors. He has been able to work across countries and production systems with his top three cited papers include developing breeding objectives for beef cattle in Ireland, sheep in New Zealand and dairy cattle in Australia.

Peter is extremely good at listening to farmers and understanding challenges in their production systems. He is a highly effective mentor of young scientists and consultants, and has been an early adopter of novel tools such as 1000minds for decision making and conjoint analysis. For his outstanding contribution to developing genetic improvement programs across multiple species, the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics is pleased to elect Peter Amer as a Fellow of the Association.