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**I. SPECIAL REPORTS****MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL WHEAT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (NWIC)  
MEETING.****5 December, 2007.****Raleigh, NC, USA.****Attendance.**

**NWIC Members and Proxies:** C. J. Peterson, Oregon State University (chair), Robert Graybosch (secretary); David Van Sanford, University of Kentucky; Edward Souza, USDA-ARS; Tom Shanower, USDA-ARS; Christina Cowger, USDA-ARS; Elias Elias, North Dakota State University; Jose Costa, University of Maryland; David Marshall, USDA-ARS; Barry Morton, National Association of Wheat Growers; Jon Raupp, Kansas State University; Allan Fritz, Kansas State University; Jackie Rudd, Texas A&M University; Hans Braun, CIMMYT; Mohamed Mergoum, North Dakota State University; Jane Demarchi, North American Millers Association; David Garvin, USDA-ARS; Yue Jin, USDA-ARS; Brett Carver, Oklahoma State University; Elizabeth Maghirang, USDA-ARS; Floyd Dowell, USDA-ARS; Bob Bowden, USDA-ARS; Dave Matthews, USDA-ARS; Robert Zemetra, University of Idaho; Kim Garland Campbell, Washington State University; Mike Davis, American Malting Barley Association; and Kay Simmons, USDA-ARS.

**Informational items.**

Barry Morton has assumed the position of scientific liaison for the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG). Main scientific topics of concern for NAWG are GMO wheat, carbon sequestration, wheat as a source of cellulosic ethanol, and practical spin-offs from agricultural research.

**UG99 screening in Kenya.** The USDA-ARS continues to facilitate, under the guidance of Yue Jin, Cereal Disease Laboratory, St. Paul, MN, the screening of resistance to the stem rust race UG99 in Kenya. The main effective genes found in current U.S. advanced breeding lines are *SrTnp*, *Sr24*, *Sr36* and an unknown gene on the Amigo T1AL·1RS wheat-rye chromosomal translocation. Virulence was noted to *Sr24* and *Sr26*. These efforts will continue, and the NWIC thanks Yue Jin for his diligence in this area.

**Rust in the Great Plains.** Bob Bowden, USDA-ARS, noted good control of leaf rust in the southern and central Great Plains remains elusive. Approximately two-thirds of the SW Kansas wheat acreage was treated with fungicide in 2007. Stripe rust continues to impact wheat production in this region.

**Annual Wheat Newsletter.** According to Jon Raupp, editor, both financial and research contributions have been dropping. Readers are urged to encourage their colleagues to contribute research updates from their programs.

**GrainGenes update.** GrainGenes has added a web page with updated information on the stem rust race Ug99. Web analysis revealed the GrainGenes receives approximately 30,000 unique users each month.

**Wheat genomics subcommittee.** The NWIC has established a Wheat genomics subcommittee to provide guidance in this area. Established priorities are: databases, physical maps, and increased number of available markers. P. Stephen Baenziger, University of Nebraska, presently serves as the chair. Additional information may be found at the following website: <http://wheat.pw.usda.gov/NWIC/>.

***Research priorities.***

NWIC members voted, in order of decreasing preference, the following research areas as high priority items for increased attention:

- a. Wheat rusts
- b. Wheat genotyping efforts
- c. Wheat quality screening
- d. National Small Grains Collection, Aberdeen, ID
- e. Hessian Fly resistance

***Resolutions.***

**Germ plasm exchange issues.** The National Wheat Improvement Committee urges the USDA–ARS to establish and fund a position, affiliated with the National Small Grains Collection at Aberdeen, ID, to coordinate the import, increase, and distribution of wheat germ plasm (defined as seed and related articles) from CIMMYT-coordinated international nurseries. Due to the urgent need to access novel germ plasm and disease resistance genes, the National Wheat Improvement Committee urges USDA–APHIS to develop protocols to allow the importation and distribution of wheat seed and related articles from CIMMYT international nurseries.

**Chair.** It was moved that C.J. Peterson continue in his current role as chair of the NWIC for a second term. NWIC unanimously approved this motion, and thank Dr. Peterson for his continued efforts. The current term shall expire in December 2010.

***Approved amendment to NWIC by-laws.***

The scientific liaison of the National Association of Wheat Growers (position occupied, as of this writing, by Barry Morton) shall be an *ex officio* member, with voting privileges, of the National Association of Wheat Growers.

***Next annual meeting of the NWIC.***

Members approved a tentative plan to meet in January, 2009, in conjunction with the annual Plant and Animal Genome Meetings, in San Diego, CA.

R. Graybosch, Secretary, 31 March, 2008.