

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

*Karen Plaut*

*Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jay Akridge  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

FROM: Karen Plaut  
Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture *Karen Plaut*

DATE: July 18, 2022

SUBJECT: Dean's Chair in Soybean Genomics

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Jianxin Ma for appointment as the Dean's Chair in Soybean Genomics. Dr. Ma's leading-edge research makes him a great candidate for this chaired position.

Dr. Ma is a highly proficient researcher in soybean genetics. His accomplishments include gene discovery for germplasm enhancement, the discovery of insights into soybean genome evolution and domestication, and the development of tools to analyze the genome. His work to uncover novel genetic factors that influence disease resistance (sponsored by Corteva) and the work to increase soybean nodulation to increase nitrogen fixation is world class and has the potential to improve soybean yields. Dr. Ma publishes in journals with high impact factors and his accomplishments have been recognized in the numerous awards he has received, including awards from the Crop Science Society of America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, two highly respected international societies.

Dr. James Specht indicates that Dr. Ma excels in three primary areas, "significance and originality of basic and applied research, excellence in creative reasoning and skill, and total impact of scientific contributions." In his letter, Dr. Wayne Parrott calls Dr. Ma "the world's foremost authority on soybean genomics." Dr. Ma's creativity has led to outstanding impact in his field of research. He inspires and trains the next generation of researchers.

Attached you will find Dr. Jianxin Ma's recommendation letter from Dr. Ron Turco, full CV, exemplary letters of support and abbreviated CV. Dr. Ma is at the top of his field, and I wholeheartedly support this appointment. I hope that you will agree that Dr. Ma is worthy of this distinction, and that you will in turn recommend him to the Board of Trustees for the Dean's Chair in Soybean Genomics. While this Chair is currently a Dean's Chair, it is expected that Dr. Ma will become the Chair in Soybean Genetics and Improvement sponsored by the Indiana Soybean Alliance or the Henry Wallace Chair sponsored by Corteva when they become available. I will submit a revised title when it becomes available.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Approved:*

*Jay V. Akridge*

Jay V. Akridge, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

*8/8/22*

Date

*Approved:*

*Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.*

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., President

*9/2/22*

Date