



Long-time SARDI oat breeder Dr. Pamela Zwer retires

Dr. Pamela Zwer joined SARDI (South Australian Research and Development Institute) in 1995, after receiving her PhD at the University of California, Davis. She worked at the University of Sydney and Oregon State University before being recruited as principal oat breeder for SARDI. Pamela was forward-thinking and established linkages with oat millers such as long-term program collaborator Uncle Toby's, re-focusing the program on milling quality. The focus on beta-glucan and the cardiovascular benefits of oat products was world leading, with SARDI-bred varieties now in virtually all Australian oat food products. Over Pamela's career at SARDI she released eight hay, nine milling, and two feed oat varieties. She was also involved with the development of six oat varieties at the University of California while completing her PhD and five wheat varieties while at Oregon State University and Michigan State University.

In addition to her work as an oat breeder, Pamela contributed greatly to the oat community by being Chair of the International Oat Conference committee for a number of years. Pamela will continue to contribute to the oat community, as outlined in her retirement message below:

"5 March 2021

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I said farewell to SARDI last week as the Principal Plant Breeder and leader of the Australian National Oat Breeding Program. The program was commercialised and InterGrain was the successful company.

I want to thank all the people who worked in the program over the years and especially those who hung in there for the long run. We, as a team, built a successful program that developed improved oat varieties for growers, seed companies, and commercial processing companies not only for milling grain, but for export hay. There's a story about oat nutrition for humans and animals that research will uncover and promote.

Now, I want to thank each and every one of my friends and colleagues for their support over the years. It hasn't been easy, but with your ideas, friendship, and steady support, we have succeeded. I think the best thing about 'not being easy' is the challenge to innovate and accept change.

I enjoyed my role as the International Oat Committee Chair for several years. I hope we can overcome the COVID pandemic and have the Perth IOC 2020 in 2022. Communication and discussion will need to occur in the next year to decide if this is possible.



Once a plant breeder, always a plant breeder! So, with that, I hope to stay in the oat breeding world and continue to contribute.

Thanks again to the fantastic oat community - we definitely have collaboration cornered in the world for breeding a broad acre crop that is special and not a bulk commodity.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pamela'.

Pamela Zwer