THE PEANUT
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

February 8, 2023

The Peanut Research Foundation is entering the final year of Phase II of the Peanut Genome Initiative. Phase II is capitalizing on new genomic tools to address four issues in the peanut industry; disease resistance, aflatoxin, drought tolerance, and quality traits including flavor. Our goal is to give peanut breeders new tools to more easily incorporate new, desirable traits into cultivars with high yields and grades. The publication of the peanut genome and subsequent discovery of numerous genetic markers is making marker-assisted selection a reality for most U.S. peanut breeding programs.

The first cultivar releases which are a direct result of these advances are joint releases from the USDA breeding program in Tifton, GA and the University of Georgia. Dr. Corley Holbrook, Dr. Peggy Ozias-Akins and Dr. Juliet Chu have a long history of collaboration and utilization of marker-assisted selection. CB-1 a small seeded high oleic runner, CB-2 a normal oleic runner, and CB-7 a high oleic runner are in seed increase and will be renamed for marketing. Each is highly resistant to leaf spot and should result in significantly reduced production costs.

Annual reports are available on our website at https://peanutresearchfoundation.org. A cumulative progress report for the Peanut Genome Initiative and the Peanut Genome Initiative - Phase II will be posted soon. These reports list specific research projects we have funded as well as other significant achievements.

In December of 2022, the board of directors voted to fund 15 new research projects, the last under the Phase II initiative. We will be soliciting input from the peanut industry regarding the future direction of Foundation research. We appreciate the past support of Georgia peanut producers via the Georgia Peanut Commission and the National Peanut Board. We ask for your input in helping us plan future research which will result in the best return on investment.

Steve Brown
Executive Director, The Peanut Research Foundation