

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents  
**From:** Board Office  
**Subject:** Request to Award Honorary Degree, Iowa State University  
**Date:** July 7, 2000

**Recommended Action:**

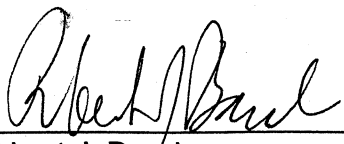
Approve Iowa State University's request to award an Honorary Doctorate of Science Degree to Dr. Morris Soller.

**Executive Summary:**

Iowa State University requests approval to award an honorary doctorate of science degree to Dr. Morris Soller at summer commencement on August 7, 2000. Professor Soller is one of the most innovative and creative thinkers in the history of animal breeding and genetics, and it is fitting and proper for one of the premier universities in this field to consider awarding him an honorary doctorate of science. Dr. Soller has been in the vanguard in this field; he foretold the rise of the molecular markers in plant and animal breeding. His theoretical vision has provided the foundation for marker-assisted selection and, consequently, for the development of numerous national and international plant and animal genome projects.

Professor Soller's career has spanned more than forty years. He earned his B.S. in Agriculture [1951], his M.S. in Statistics [1956], all from Rutgers University. Dr. Soller has made major contributions to our knowledge in several areas. During his years at the Volcani Center [a part of the Israeli Agricultural Research Organization], he and his colleagues developed the concept of present value of animal genetic improvement programs. He then made his major contributions in the area of DNA level markers and during a series of seminars in 1981 in the United States and England, he literally mesmerized student and graduate students with his ideas. More recently, he has been working on the theory and practice of using comparative genomics to identify candidate genes for QTL mapping and marker-assisted selection.

In summary, Dr. Soller's outstanding record of innovative research has led to an entirely new paradigm in plant and animal breeding that has transformed the science an application of animal and plant genetics.

  
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Robert J. Barak

Approved:   
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Frank J. Stork