

Dr. Michael Azain

Biography

Michael Azain obtained his B.S. in Animal Science from Penn State University in 1979. He received his M.S. in Foods and Nutrition from the University of Georgia in 1981 and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in 1984. Upon completion of his dissertation, he accepted a position in the New Products Identification Group in the Animal Sciences Division at Monsanto in St. Louis. In 1986, he moved into the Drug Delivery Discovery group at Monsanto working on somatotropin.

In 1988, he started as an Assistant Professor of Animal and Dairy Science at the University of Georgia, where he is currently Professor and Graduate Coordinator. He teaches undergraduate and graduate level animal nutrition courses, freshman seminar and directs a study abroad program in France. Dr. Azain's research interests include investigating the relationship of macronutrient intake with composition of gain in meat animals, the understanding and manipulation of lipid metabolism, and the evaluation of alternative feed ingredients and feed enzymes in both swine and poultry diets. He has authored over 75 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and is a member of the Swine Nutrition Regional Committee (NCCC-042). He has served as a reviewer, editorial board member, and section editor (Growth and Developmental Biology) for the Journal of Animal Science and is currently a member of the ASAS Public Policy Committee. Dr. Azain is also on the editorial board of the Journal of Nutrition, has served on several NRI or NIFA USDA panels and holds an adjunct appointment in the Poultry Science Department at Georgia.

Vision Statement

I have been a member of ASAS for over 30 years and have regularly attended the Midwest Section meeting for over 25 years. Our Society and its meetings have transitioned from places to present and publish research and interact with colleagues, to a broader role in conveying the importance of animal agriculture to consumers, governing bodies, and a public that often gets misinformation about the role of animals in our food supply or in research. It is critical that ASAS continue the mission of contributing to discovery, but maybe more importantly to sharing that information with members and the public to promote a greater understanding of how our work contributes to society. The Midwest Section is a critical venue to share information. The annual meeting has been, and should continue to be, a place where participants feel that they have gained something by attending, whether it is a first time graduate or undergraduate student, an established faculty member, an industry representative or an international guest. In addition, it is important that the meeting maintain its now unique role in training the next generation of animal scientists. My goal, if elected to this position, would be to work with staff and leaders from previous meetings and contribute as best I can to an efficient and well-organized meeting during my years of service.