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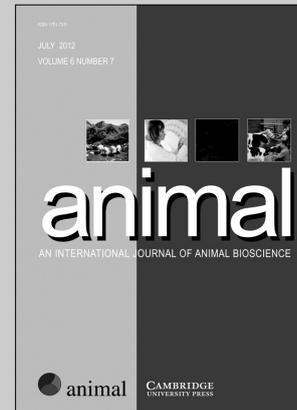
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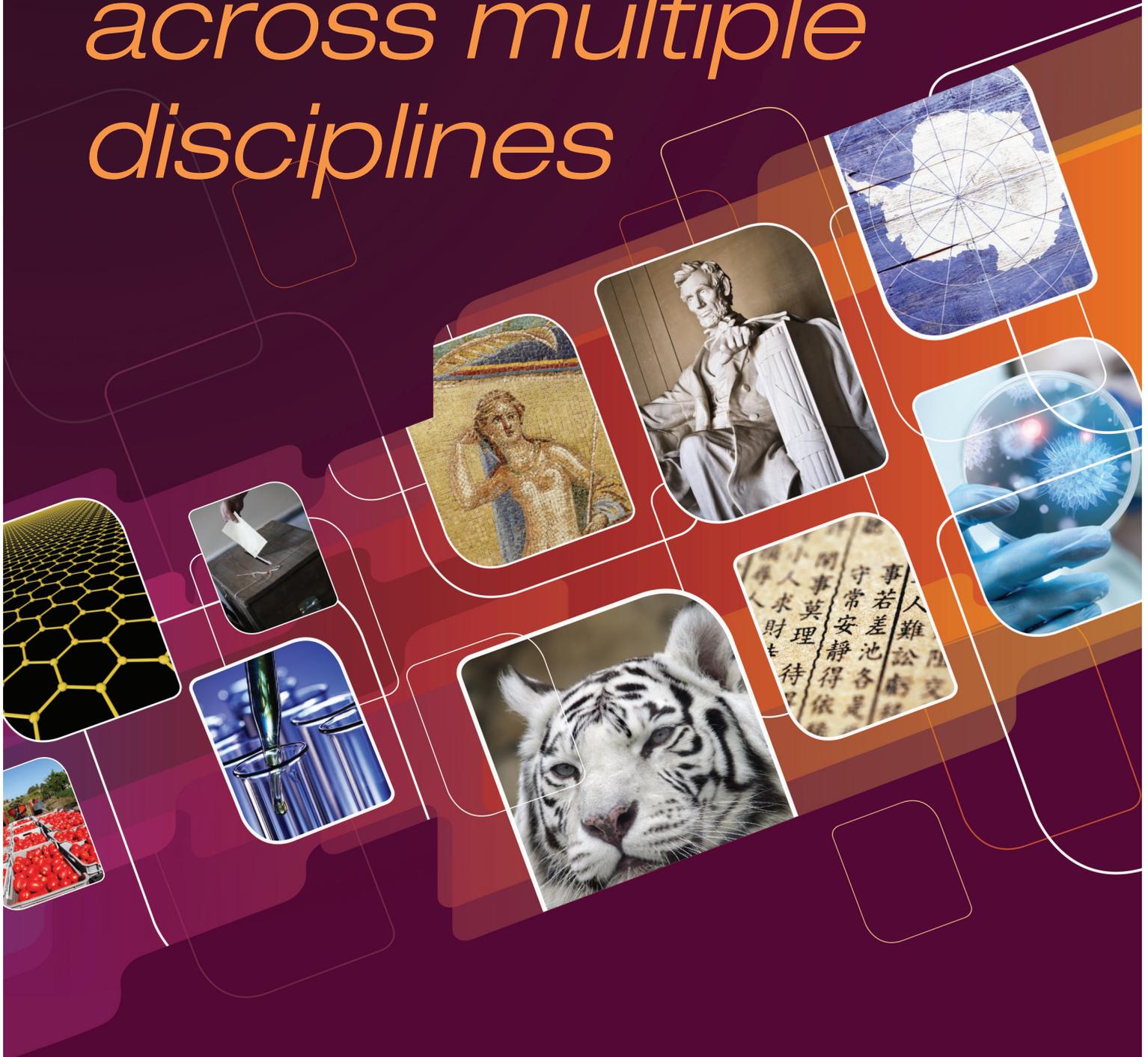


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ROBUSTMILK - Innovative and Practical Breeding Tools for Improved Dairy Products from More Robust Dairy Cattle

These proceedings contain papers summarising research from the ROBUSTMILK project.

ROBUSTMILK was a project constructed through the EU Framework 7 Programme to join together six organisations within the EU that are actively working in dairy cattle breeding and have strong links with the dairy industry. In full it was called **Innovative and Practical Breeding Tools for Improved Dairy Products from More Robust Dairy Cattle**.

The six organisations involved were:

1. Wageningen Livestock Research (roel.veerkamp@wur.nl; Netherlands)
2. SRUC (mike.coffey@sruc.ac.uk; Scotland)
3. Teagasc Moorpark (donagh.berry@teagasc.ie; Ireland)
4. University Liege (nicolas.gengler@ulg.ac.be; Belgium)
5. SLU (erling.strandberg@slu.se; Sweden)
6. Wageningen University (henk.bovenhuis@wur.nl; Netherlands)

The objective of ROBUSTMILK was to develop new, useful and practical technologies to allow dairy farmers and the dairy industry to refocus their selection decisions to include additional traits such as milk quality and dairy cow robustness.

The outcomes from the project have shown that there are good opportunities to achieve improvements in practice both in milk quality traits (for milk and milk products as part of a healthy diet) and for a variety of traits that contribute to 'robustness'. Whilst technical and computational advances for the capture of genomic and genotypic information into genetic evaluations have been rapid in recent years, the key to practical implementation continues to be the accessibility of relevant phenotypes at reasonable cost. The partners in the ROBUSTMILK project have shown that Mid Infra-Red spectroscopy (MIR) has potential for rapid phenotypic screening of a number of relevant traits. The project has also demonstrated the potential for interlinking data on whole animal phenotypes from different locations, nationally and internationally. This approach will be of increasing importance as the costs of managing resources for whole animal phenotyping continue to rise – but the importance of having access to 'gold standard' measurements on cows will also rise.

If you would like more information, you can visit the website www.robustmilk.eu, contact the authors of the papers in these proceedings or contact the project coordinator:

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