

Dr. Michael Purugganan is the Dorothy Schiff Professor of Genomics and Professor of Biology, and since 2012 serves as the Dean for Science at New York University (NYU). He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, is the official US representative to the Human Frontier Science Program, and he sits on the editorial boards of the journals *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, *Genome Biology and Evolution*, and *Trends in Plant Sciences*.

His research focuses on plant molecular evolution and genomics, and his work encompasses the study of the domestication of crop species, the genetics of life history evolution, plant evolutionary systems biology, the diversification of regulatory gene families, evolution of development, and microbial social evolution.

He obtained his Ph.D. in Botany with a Global Policy minor at the University of Georgia (1993), and did postdoctoral research as an Alfred P. Sloan Molecular Evolution Fellow at the University of California in San Diego, studying the evolution of development (1993-1995). Prior to joining the NYU faculty in 2006, he was the William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor of Genetics at North Carolina State University, where he also won the Outstanding Faculty Research Award and the Sigma Xi Research Prize. He is the recipient of an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Young Investigator Award (1997-2002), a Guggenheim Fellowship (2006-2007) and was a Kavli Fellow (2011). In 2005 was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and in 2010 was given the Award for Excellence in Science and Engineering by the Ayala Foundation/PhilDevUSA.