

Upcoming Meetings

Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS) 2007 Annual Meeting
 Washington, D.C., USA
 May 23-25, 2007
www.maafs.org

European Network of Forensic Science Institutes Annual Meeting
 Riga, Latvia
 May 30-June 2, 2007
www.enfsi.org

22nd Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics
 Copenhagen, Denmark
 August 21-25, 2007
www.isfg2007.org

2007 Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS)
 Atlanta, Georgia, USA
 September 9-14, 2007
www.southernforensic.org

18th International Symposium on Human Identification
 Hollywood, California, USA
 October 1-4, 2007
www.promega.com/geneticsymp18/

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors 35th Annual Workshop and Symposium
 Orlando, Florida, USA
 October 1-4, 2007
www.asclcd.org

Dear Readers,

New technologies continue to improve the speed of DNA typing, the throughput of laboratories and the quality of STR data. One new technology that is being adopted in many laboratories is real-time PCR. Although real-time PCR is often associated with DNA quantitation, it has many other applications, as shown in several articles in this issue. In the first example, Trisha Noreault-Conti and Eric Buel from the Vermont Forensic Laboratory, Department of Public Safety, describe their work identifying unknown stains of forensic importance. Using real-time PCR, they can characterize the mRNA profile of an unknown stain and compare it to that of known body fluids or tissues. In another article Daniel Katz of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner DNA Unit in Delaware presents his laboratory's work using real-time PCR as a tool to gauge DNA quality in addition to DNA quantity. Real-time PCR assays can provide information about DNA integrity and purity before significant amounts of precious samples and time are potentially wasted. Finally, Joseph Bessetti, a Promega Technical Services Scientist, summarizes useful information about PCR inhibitors found in common sample types and ways of detecting and overcoming PCR inhibition.

In this issue, Suni Edson at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory shares her experience helping to identify and separate 208 sets of commingled remains of U.S. servicemembers involved in the Korean War. Because the remains were commingled, AFDIL members attempted to type each bone using mitochondrial DNA, allowing them to categorize skeletal elements by success rate. Suni also presents AFDIL's success rates in obtaining DNA profiles from remains recovered from other military conflicts.

In our Tech Tips section, Kimberly Huston answers frequently asked questions about the new FSS-i³™ Expert Systems Software. She outlines how to add microvariant alleles to the virtual allelic ladder, how to add templates when using multiplex STR systems that are not included in the software, how to use the Plate Layout Manager and other useful hints to make analysis with the FSS-i³™ Expert Systems Software as easy as possible.

We continually seek to improve *Profiles in DNA* to best serve our readers. We would like to hear from you so that we can meet your needs effectively. Please contact us with your comments and ideas, by letter at the address given on page 1 or by e-mail at: profilesindna@promega.com



Terri Sundquist
 Editor,
Profiles in DNA

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