EDITORIAL

Upcoming Meetings

AABB Annual Meeting and TXPO 2007
Anaheim, California, USA
October 20–23, 2007
www.aabb.org

Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS)
Bolton Landing, New York, USA
October 31–November 3, 2007
www.neafs.org

Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists (NWAFS)
Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
November 5–9, 2007
www.nwafs.org

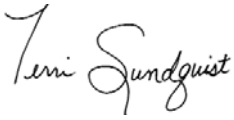
American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting
Washington, D.C., USA
February 18–23, 2008
www.aafs.org

Dear Readers,

New methodologies are continuously being developed and applied to each step of the DNA analysis process to improve speed, ease of use and the quality of results. However, staying up-to-date with new technologies can be challenging. In this issue of *Profiles in DNA*, we will learn about new technologies for DNA extraction and quantitation, detection of STR products and data analysis. First, we will hear from the man who helped found the field of DNA typing: Sir Alec Jeffreys. Dr. Jeffreys relates how his discovery of DNA fingerprints has impacted his life and career, and also his vision of how his discovery might be used in the future.

In this issue, we provide specific examples of new technologies that are currently being developed and used in DNA-typing laboratories. The first example is a new DNA quantitation system: the Plexor® HY System. Loretta D'Costa, Jonathan Millman, Melinda Matte, Melanie Richard, Kelly Bowie and Roger Frappier from the Centre of Forensic Sciences describe their experience with this multiplex system to quantitate both total human DNA and Y-chromosomal DNA, allowing them to streamline their decision process, preserve potential evidentiary DNA and help eliminate the need to screen for body fluids. Another example is the use of the Maxwell® LEV System and DNA IQ™ Casework Sample Kit to automate DNA extraction from up to 16 casework samples and concentrate the DNA into small volumes prior to downstream analysis. In addition, Susan Greenspoon, Stephanie Yeung, Jeffrey Ban and Richard Mathies review the current capabilities of microchip capillary electrophoresis and give their thoughts on how these technological advances will change the future of forensic DNA testing.

Also, Rhonda Roby presents the National Institute of Justice's Expert System Testbed Project to evaluate three expert systems using four different chemistry kits on a multicapillary instrument. Finally, Ryan Olson and Cristopher Cowan answer some technical questions about automating the Differex™ System for high-throughput processing of differential extraction samples. The automated Differex™ method incorporates the DNA IQ™ chemistry to achieve separation and allow automation to increase laboratory throughput.



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Profiles in DNA