EDITORIAL

Upcoming Meetings

Forensic Science Society 48th Annual General Meeting
Wyboston, United Kingdom
November 1, 2008
www.forensic-science-society.org.uk

Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists Meeting
Boise, Idaho, USA
November 3–7, 2008
www.nwafs.org

American Academy of Forensic Science 61st Annual Scientific Meeting
Denver, Colorado, USA
February 16–21, 2009
www.aafs.org

29. Spurenworkshop der Deutschen Gesellschaft fuer Rechtsmedizin
Muenster, Germany
February 27–28, 2009
www.r-km.de/spurenworkshop2009/

Dear Readers,

Successful DNA typing requires that each step in the process, including DNA isolation, quantitation and amplification, separation of amplified products and data analysis, be performed accurately, consistently and with sufficient throughput to avoid a backlog of samples. The articles in this issue describe processes that can improve workflow and reduce a scientist's hands-on time without sacrificing the quality of the final result.

As one of the first steps toward consistency and high-quality results, DNA-typing laboratories record and validate their processes and often undergo accreditation. One option is ISO accreditation. In the first article of this issue, Patricia Wojtowicz from Forensic Quality Services—International addresses misconceptions about the ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation process.

Three articles in this issue describe tools to reduce a scientist's hands-on time when processing samples, which can result in increased consistency. First Jindřich Novotný and Thorsten Hadrys describe the coupling of laser microdissection and pressure catapulting of single cells from a slide with on-chip PCR, allowing rapid amplification and interpretable DNA profiles from as few as one cell. Next Heike Felske-Zech, Kai Steffen Edler, Igor Martytschan, Christin Gruber and Frank Heidorn relate their experiences with automated DNA isolation using the DNA IQ™ Casework Sample Kit for Maxwell® 16. Finally, Sarah Shultz and Benjamin Krenke present some frequently asked questions about the new automated Plexor® HY System setup methods, which direct robot-mediated quantitative PCR assembly.

In the Tech Tips article, Robert McLaren, Marty Ensenberger, Cindy Sprecher, Dawn Rabbach, Patricia Fulmer, Joe Bessetti and Doug Storts describe a novel solution to eliminate double-stranded DNA artifacts that can appear at the vWA locus. Finally, we present a list of useful citations for laboratories that are validating or considering validating Promega genetic identity products.

Terri Sundquist
Editor,
Profiles in DNA

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[b]STR loci are the subject of U.S. Pat. No. RE 37,984, German Pat. No. DE 38 34 636 C2 and other patents issued to the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften, e.V., Germany. The development and use of STR loci are covered by U.S. Pat. No. 5,364,759, Australian Pat. No. 670231 and other pending patents assigned to Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas.

Patents for the foundational PCR process, European Pat. Nos. 201,184 and 200,362, expired on March 28, 2006. In the U.S., the patents covering the foundational PCR process expired on March 29, 2005.

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