

Promega STR Educational Forums Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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The first Promega STR Educational Forum was held on November 28, 2000, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. STR Educational Forums are small local meetings sponsored by Promega to promote education, awareness and interaction within the Genetic Identity community while discussing the latest products and developments. The purpose of this two-day meeting was to discuss the use of the PowerPlex® 16 System^(a,b) for forensic casework, databasing and paternity samples.

Twenty-eight people representing 11 organizations from Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas attended the meeting. The forum opened with a presentation by Lisa Lane covering an overview of Promega's philosophy and organization, as well as the current support structure in the Genetic Identity team. Plans for future improvements in customer support were also discussed.

Dr. Arni Masibay presented an overview of Promega's Genetic Identity products. The products were presented against a historical backdrop emphasizing Promega's long-standing commitment to the DNA typing community. Dr. Masibay also presented the latest information on a new DNA purification and quantitation method that is able to normalize DNA quantities independent of starting concentrations.

Dr. Edward Grotjan, President and CEO of *eneGene* Genetic Services, LLC, gave a talk entitled PowerPlex® 16: Ability to Resolve Challenging Paternity Cases. He presented several interesting cases he was able to resolve using the PowerPlex® 16 System, some with a Combined Paternity Index (CPI) of >1,000, i.e., the probability of paternity was >99.9%. Jason Wyckoff from the Missouri State Highway Patrol Laboratory discussed results obtained using the PowerPlex® 16 System with FTA® buccal and blood samples in his lab. These cases were part of their internal validation efforts for PowerPlex® 16. Laura Schile of the Oklahoma City Police Department followed with a presentation of her laboratory's progress with internal validation of PowerPlex® 16 for casework, including concordance studies and procedures being undertaken for laboratory setup. This session was concluded by Dr. Arni Masibay who reviewed Promega's PowerPlex® 16 validation efforts including a summary of the validation guidelines as well as the various conditions tested during validation.

Dr. Paul Newman presented the second session of the meeting on running and analyzing PowerPlex® 16 samples and troubleshooting. The first part of the session was on proper matrix generation on the ABI PRISM® 310 Genetic Analyzer. This included tips for optimizing individual matrix files under various conditions. The next part of the session covered PowerPlex® 16 sample detection and analysis on the ABI PRISM® 310 Genetic Analyzer and use of the PowerTyper™ 16 Macro for allelic designation. Dr. Newman closed this session with a trouble-shooting presentation and discussion.

The second day of the meeting opened with a roundtable discussion on training requirements for analysts and the creation of training manuals. This session was moderated by Laura Schile and included a presentation by Melissa Keith of the Oklahoma City Police Department. The meeting was concluded with a mock trial featuring Patti High, Oklahoma City District Attorney; Lisa Johnson, Oklahoma City Sex Crime Unit; and Melissa Keith. Lisa Johnson acted as the Prosecuting Attorney, Patti High as the Defense Attorney, and Melissa Keith played the expert witness. The mock trial was followed by a spirited question-and-answer session.

This was the first in a series of STR Educational Forums that Promega will be hosting throughout the US in the next year. Participants reviewed the meeting favorably and many are already looking forward to the larger CE Working Group Meeting to be held in St. Louis April 29–May 2, 2001.



Attendees at the Promega STR Educational Forum.

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^(a,b)Refer to the patent and disclaimer statements on page 2.