

Hitachi FMBIO® Users Group Meeting: Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, January 1998

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A two day FMBIO® Users Group meeting entitled "Advanced Fluorescent-STR MegaPlex Technology Workshop" was held at the Palmetto Dunes Resort on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, from January 11-13, 1998. This meeting was sponsored by Promega Corporation, the Bode Technology Group, Inc., and Hitachi Software Engineering America, Ltd., and was supported by the Virginia Division of Forensic Science and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. The purpose of this workshop was to enhance the skills of the forensic scientist on the use of the FMBIO® Fluorescent Scanner and to address related STR (Short Tandem Repeat) issues for casework analyses. Representatives from nine laboratories attended, including Indiana State Police Department Crime Laboratory, Alabama Department of Forensic Science, Palm Beach County Crime Laboratory, Bode Technology Group, North Carolina Bureau of Investigation, Maryland State Police Crime Laboratory, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Arkansas State Police Department and the Virginia Division of Forensic Science.

A dinner reception for the 58 attendees was held at the Palmetto Plantation Country Club on Sunday evening, January 11, 1998, with welcoming remarks by Tom Bode from the Bode Technology Group, Tom Mozer from Promega Corporation and Paul Ferrara from the Virginia Division of Forensic Science. Presentations were given on Monday and Tuesday, January 11 and 12. The presenters were James Schumm (Promega Corporation) on molecular biology of eukaryotes, Robert Bever (the Bode Technology Group) on forensic sample preparation and troubleshooting techniques, Cecelia Crouse (Palm Beach County Crime Laboratory) on polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis of megaplex systems, Sonja Klein and Deborah Smead (Hitachi Software Engineering Co.) on the recent updates to the FMBIO® Analysis and StarCall™ Software and the FMBIO® Fluorescent Scanner Technology, and George Li and Jeffrey Ban (Virginia Division of Forensic Science) on case approach, STR databasing and CODIS software applications. An informative and interactive question and answer session was held at the conclusion of each presentation. Each attendee also received four CPE credits from the National Forensic Science Technology Center for the two-day workshop.

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Upcoming Meetings

SOUTHWESTERN WORKING GROUP ON DNA ANALYSIS METHODS (SWGDM)

May 27-29, 1998

Austin, Texas

Contact: John Krebsbach
(505) 768 2230

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

September 3-7, 1998

Port Canaveral, Florida

Contact: Michelle Shepherd
(404) 244 2827

MIDWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

October 5-9, 1998

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Contact: Dorothy Martus
(248) 380 1000

9th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON HUMAN IDENTIFICATION

Symposium
October 7-10, 1998

Workshops

October 5

"Basics of PCR and DNA Typing"

October 6

"Expert Witness Testimony"

Orlando, Florida

Contact: Carol Zabit
(608) 277 2670