

# Shanghai Symposium on DNA Typing for Human Identification

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Over 70 scientists and technicians in the field of DNA typing from the main provincial forensic laboratories in China attended the Shanghai Symposium on DNA Typing for Human Identification. Representation at the meeting covered 25 of China's 31 provinces—a stellar turnout and indication of the great interest in DNA typing in China. Speakers at the conference were invited from the United States, Spain, Germany and China. The talks covered a wide range of subjects focusing on the practical aspects of setting up and operating a forensic DNA typing laboratory, and an overview of national and international criminal databases. Promega Corporation, the Shanghai Public Security Bureau and Shanghai Promega Biological Products, Ltd., sponsored the conference.

## SYMPOSIUM

On the first day of the conference, Director Chen Liankang, Institute of Forensic Science, Shanghai Public Security Bureau, and Dr. Thomas Mozer, Promega Corporation, opened the conference with a short welcome. During the conference, Ms. Christine Tomsey, Pennsylvania State Police

Laboratory (USA), Mr. Jeffrey Ban, Virginia Division of Forensic Science (USA), and Dr. Jose Lorente, University of Granada, Spain, gave a series of talks on collecting evidence from a crime scene, setting up a DNA typing laboratory, DNA isolation procedures, fluorescent STR systems and casework examples. Dr. Martin Tracey, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA, introduced the use of statistics in DNA typing. Dr. Huaigu Zhou, Shanghai Public Security Bureau (SPSB), discussed the SPSB's use of STR systems (silver-stain detection) in case analysis. Dr. Anquan Ji, Beijing Ministry of Public Security Bureau, and Mr. Jeffrey Ban presented a review of quality assurance in multilaboratory systems in China and the United States, respectively. Dr. Rita Weispfenning, Promega Corporation, presented an overview of Promega's STR systems for both silver stain and fluorescent detection. Dr. Meihua Chu, Hitachi Genetic Systems, presented the capabilities of the Hitachi FMBIO® II Fluorescent Imaging System and compared its ease of use and high throughput to the capillary-based instrument from Perkin-Elmer Biosystems. Mr. Jeffrey Ban gave a presentation on the United States Combined DNA Index System

(CODIS). Dr. Jose Lorente, University of Granada, Spain, discussed a multi-country effort managed by the Grupo Iberoamericano de Trabajo en Análisis de DNA (GITAD) to establish DNA typing standards for forensic analysis and a database.

The final day of the conference, Mr. Cordell Brown and Dr. Meihua Chu, Hitachi Genetic Systems, together with Lin Bing Hui and Rita Weispfenning of Promega Corporation, demonstrated the features and functions of the Hitachi FMBIO® II Fluorescence Imaging System and used this system for analysis of products of the GenePrint® PowerPlex™ 1.1 System. Attendance at this workshop was high, and attendees asked many questions.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

After the conference, attendees were invited to visit the DNA typing laboratory of the Shanghai Public Security Bureau. The SPSB staff was very knowledgeable and experienced in the use of silver detection systems. Most attendees also went to the Shanghai Jin Mao Building, the fourth tallest building in the world, which is located in the Pudong area of Shanghai. This tower provides an unparalleled view of the beauty and rapid development of Shanghai City.

Almost all provincial public security bureaus in China have set up their own DNA analysis laboratories, and many cities' public security bureaus are beginning to use DNA typing as a routine tool for forensic and paternity casework. As the number of laboratories performing DNA typing in China is rapidly increasing, the use of silver detection STR systems is expanding.

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Meeting participants from the Shanghai Symposium on DNA Typing for Human Identification.