



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Penny Patterson
Sr. Director, Communications
Promega Corporation
Phone: (608) 274-4330
E-mail: penny.patterson@promega.com

Discover the Latest in Forensics at the 25th Annual International Symposium on Human Identification (ISHI)

MADISON, WI USA (September 4, 2014) — When the International Symposium on Human Identification (ISHI) began in 1989, forensics was an emerging science, rife with possibilities. Few could have predicted that 25 short years later, scientists and researchers would be discussing the legitimate possibility of creating genetic “mug shots” or using trace amounts of DNA from excavation sites to piece together lost history.

Today, ISHI is the largest conference on DNA analysis for human identification. The [25th International Symposium on Human Identification](#) (ISHI) 2014 will be held September 29–October 2 at the Arizona Biltmore, 2400 East Missouri Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. This year, more than 50 experts representing the fields of forensic science, DNA typing and fingerprinting, medical molecular diagnostics and genomics will speak to emerging forensic DNA practices and technological advances over the last 25 years. ISHI 2014 presenters include:

- [David Balding, PhD](#): Balding, Statistical Genetics Professor of the Institute of Genetics at University College of London, will examine the controversial low template DNA profiling that was used to help convict Amanda Knox and Raffaele Sollecito of murder and later played a role in the appeal that overturned these convictions in 2011.
- [Vanessa Lynch](#): Following the brutal and tragic murder of her father in 2004, Lynch, Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit DNA Project, made it her life’s mission to advocate for DNA legislation and the establishment of a national DNA database in South Africa. Lynch spearheaded the introduction of the first draft of the DNA Bill into Parliament in 2008 and spent the next five years fighting until the Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Act 37 of 2013, commonly known as the “DNA Act,” was finally passed on January 27, 2014. She will share her story.
- [Tim Palmbach](#): Palmbach, Associate Professor and Chair of the University of New Haven Forensic Science Department, was on sabbatical researching the use advanced investigative methods, including DNA and Rapid DNA analysis, in the war against trafficking in persons (TIP). At ISHI 25, Palmbach will present his current work interjecting these same DNA-based methods into the investigation of TIP cases throughout the Balkan region and eastern Africa.
- [Mark D. Shriver, PhD](#): Shriver, Professor of Anthropology and Genetics at Pennsylvania University, will demonstrate how genetics can help solve cases where there is no reference genotype—a process that has been possible for years, though infrequently used. From early successes solving cases using molecular photofitting to the state-of-the-art processes available now, Shriver’s presentation will expand on the critical importance of modeling both genomic ancestry and functional genes in phenotypic predictive modeling.

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Experts from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), including the CODIS Unit, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), top national and international research universities, public and private forensic labs, various state forensic science bureaus, police departments and state attorneys' offices, and expert DNA witnesses will be represented.

Other confirmed presenters and panelists include: [Antonio Alonso Alonso, PhD](#) (National Toxicology Institute & Forensic Science), [Jeff Ashton](#) (Orange County State Attorney's Office), [Michael L. Baird, PhD](#) (DNA Diagnostics Center), [Heidi Baker](#) (ESR), [Bruce Budowle, PhD](#) (UNTHSC), [John Butler, PhD](#) (National Institute of Standards and Technology), [John Douglas](#) (Mindhunters, Inc.), [Tom Callaghan, PhD](#) (FBI Laboratory Biometric Analysis Section), [Richard Edward \(Ed\) Green, PhD](#) (University of California Santa Cruz), Richard Guerrieri (Battelle), [Douglas Hares, PhD](#) (Federal Bureau of Investigation), [Desarae Harmon](#) (New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner), [Gary Harmor](#) (Serological Research), [Jed Henry](#) (photojournalist), [Charles Heurich](#) (National Institute of Justice), [Suzanne Miles](#) (Utah Bureau of Forensic Science), [Tamyra Moretti, PhD](#) (FBI Laboratory), [Sarah Noël, PhD](#) (Laboratoire de Sciences Judiciaires et de Medicine Legale), [Walther Parson, PhD](#) (Institute of Legal Medicine at Innsbruck Medical University), General JK Phalane (South African Police Services), [Jennifer Kay](#) (Florida Department of Law Enforcement), [Lutz Roewer, PhD](#) (Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, Berlin), [Farida al Shamali](#) (Dubai Police Department), [Jessica Seifarth](#) (New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner), [Jenifer Smith, PhD](#) (Pennsylvania State University) and [Erin Sweeney](#) (Bode Technology).

A [full agenda](#), [speaker biographies](#) and continuing program updates are available at the symposium website: www.ishinews.com.

This symposium for forensic experts and suppliers is offered through Promega Corporation, a leader in providing innovative solutions and technical support to the life sciences industry. The company's 3,000 products enable scientists worldwide to advance their knowledge in genomics, proteomics, cellular analysis, molecular diagnostics and human identification. Founded in 1978, the company is headquartered in Madison, WI, USA, with branches in 16 countries and over 50 global distributors. For more information about Promega, visit www.promega.com.

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2014 International Symposium on Human Identification (ISHI) Sept. 29 – October 2 in Phoenix, AZ.