Slide 1

Professional Standards and Accreditation in Investigative Genetic Genealogy

ISHI – September 11-13, 2023
Denver, Colorado

IGG INVESTIGATIVE GENETIC GENEALOGY
Accreditation Board

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Slide 2

Why We Need Standards and Accreditation

4 primary reasons

- Public trust
- Data privacy
- Proficiency / Agency Trust
- Accountability

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Slide 3

IGG INVESTIGATIVE GENETIC GENEALOGY
Accreditation Board

The Investigative Genetic Genealogy Accreditation Board (IGGAB) takes public trust seriously, which is why we have codified in our IGG Standards that IGG practitioners may only upload forensic DNA profiles to sites that give their users the choice whether to participate in IGG matching. Any IGG practitioner who wishes to be credentialed by IGGAB must agree to this provision, and credentialed IGG practitioners who violate this provision will be subject to sanction.

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Our Board

Dr. David Gurney   Dr. Margaret Press   Amanda Reno

Carol Rolnick   Andrew Hochreiter   Bonnie Bossert   Michele Kennedy

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Advisory Board

- Law enforcement
- Prosecution
- Post-conviction
- Forensic science
- Diversity representation
- State crime lab director
- Private DNA lab director
- Bioinformaticist
- Academics
- Genealogy / GG experts
- IGG practitioners

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IGGAB Structure

- Started planning in May 2022
  - Working Group formed after I4GG
- Incorporated in Delaware (July 2022)
- Granted 501(c)(3) nonprofit status (Jan 2023)
- Bylaws written and approved

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IGGAB work effort

- IGGAB Board meetings held   : 66 weekly
- Exam Team meetings held   : 25
- Stakeholders interviewed   : over 30

- Notable engagements with specialists
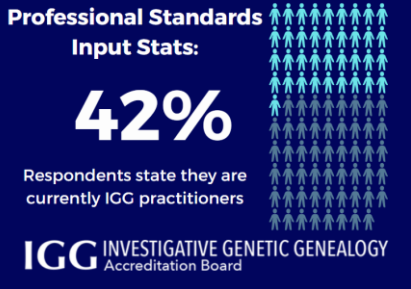 - NIST/OSAC
  - NTVIC
  - State of Maryland

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Standards Progress

- May 2022 Convened working group of experts
- April 2023 Published Draft for public comment
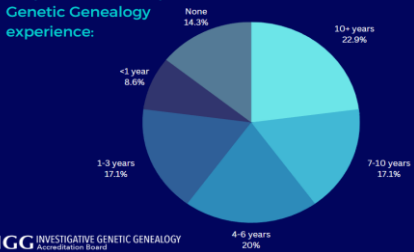- Summer 2023 Reviewing comments
- Fall 2023 Release Updated Standard

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FEEDBACK

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Majority of respondents from Forensic Science then

-- Government/Law Enforcement

-- Professional Genealogists

-- Academia

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Accreditation Exam Progress

- Working with an Instructional Designer
- Selected online testing platform
- Drafted 15 IGG core competencies
- No specific educational or professional prerequisites to take the exam
- Early 2024 goal
- Re-accreditation will be required at regular intervals (TBD)

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Core Competency Examples

- IGG fundamentals
- Genetic Genealogy concepts
- DNA Evidence Basics
- Ethical Standards & Privacy
- Accessible Genetic Genealogy databases
- Identifying Matches
- Genealogical research
- Building Family Trees
- Descendancy research
- Developing a hypothesis

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scorpion
caveon

- Signed contract August 2023
- Recruiting SMEs and Beta Testers
- Launch 2024

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Get involved!

- **Join our email list**
- **info@iggab.org**

- **Support us!**
- **Donations**
- **Volunteers**

Background: The Need for Standards and Certification

Since Investigative Genetic Genealogy emerged as a new tool for law enforcement in 2018, there has been a call for professional guidelines and the ability to test the knowledge, skill, and ethical considerations necessary to practice proficiently and ethically in this new field. IGGAB is developing an accreditation program which will include both professions standards and an accompanying proficiency exam to help ensure that this tool can continue to be used, while maintaining public confidence by balancing public safety needs and legitimate concerns for privacy. With input from IGG practitioners, forensic scientists, law enforcement and others, our standards and certification process will ensure that IGG remains a powerful and ethical tool for achieving justice.

IGGAB also encourages government jurisdictions to adopt the the AIGG standard as fulfillment of any licensing requirement they have mandated for Investigative Genetic Genealogists. In that way, they do not have to develop their own and can be confident that individuals certified under these standards are both competent and ethical.

Read more about The Need for Professional Standards.

The IGGAB accreditation exam is currently in development.
Join our email list to receive updates.

Please Consider a Donation to Help Support IGCAB

Your tax-deductible contributions help us cover administrative costs and support our mission. Thank you!

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Accreditation Board

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