

*Forensic Analysis of Human DNA*

**INAUGURAL GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON FORENSIC DNA ANALYSIS**

The Gordon Research Conferences (GRC) are a group of prestigious international scientific conferences organized by a non-profit organization of the same name. The conference topics cover frontier research in the biological, chemical, and physical sciences, and their related technologies. Two years ago, we sent the GRC Board proposing the creation of a GRC on:

**FORENSIC ANALYSIS OF HUMAN DNA**

***Advancing Fundamental Technologies from the Crime Lab to the Crime Scene***

The reviews were enthusiastic and the inaugural GRC granted by the organization and is slotted for June 19-24 in Waterville Valley Resort this summer. The GRC style of conferences is unique in that there is limited attendance (~175), and all applicants are screened by the Chairs (and Vice-Chairs) to accept those applicants that we believe will contribute to a discussion-intensive conference. This format provides an opportunity for superb camaraderie, and discussions that will be critical in synchronizing the needs of the analyst with the development capabilities of those in the research and industrial sectors. We hope you will consider joining us. The program is on the back page.

**WANT TO ATTEND?**

In its 85-year history of Gordon Research Conferences, **this is the first GRC on *Forensic Analysis of Human DNA***. The GRC organization believes that a ‘think-tank’ conference focused solely on forensic DNA research and development is warranted and, thus, has sanctioned its launch. There are no overlapping sessions, with 22 talks over 4.5 days from a line-up of speakers that represent the best in the field world-wide, and 15-20 minutes discussion sessions following each talk. Owing to contributions from the GRC organization, the cost to attendees is very affordable (total cost for registration, lodging, food and evening social events is ~\$1200 USD), and as per GRC format rules, attendance is limited to ~175 attendees. As a result, applicants must provide a paragraph justifying why they would be a good participant in a discussion-intensive conference. Unlike other conferences, the GRC, with their drive to have a ‘think tank’ type of environment, does not allow the conference to be a platform for marketing. Despite that, we have been fortunate in attracting support from some of major the industrial entities below. Please join us by supporting this novel discussion forum on state-of-the-art research for forensics DNA analysis.



**Chairs:**

**James Landers, Joan Bienvenue**  
University of Virginia



**WATERVILLE VALLEY RESORT**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Vice-Chairs:**

**Robin Cotton, Steve Lee**  
Boston University San Jose State University

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**MORE ON THE GRC ORGANIZATION**

The conferences have been held since 1931, and have expanded to >180 different GRCs held worldwide. Conference locations are chosen for their scenic and often isolated nature, to encourage an informal community atmosphere. Contributions are "off-record" to encourage free discussion of unpublished research.

The focus of the GRC organization is to establish good, direct communication between scientists, whether working in the same subject area or in interdisciplinary research. They promote discussions and the free exchange of ideas at the research frontiers of the biological, chemical and physical sciences. Scientists with common professional interests come together for a full week of intense discussion and examination of the most advanced aspects of their field.

**THE PROGRAM**

**Day 0: FORENSIC DNA ANALYSIS: CHALLENGES & TRIUMPHS** Discussion Leader: [Timothy McMahon](#), AFDIL, USA

**Speaker 1:** Turi King, University of Leicester, UK

**Speaker 2:** Niels Morling, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

**Day 1: ANALYSIS OF DNA MIXTURES (Morning)** Discussion Leader: [Margaret Ewing](#), Promega Corp, USA

**Speaker 1:** Charles Brenner, Consulting Forensic Mathematics, USA

**Speaker 2:** Catherine Grgicak, Boston University, USA

**Speaker 3:** Mike Coble, NIST, USA

**Day 1: BIOINFORMATICS AND PROBABLISTIC GENOTYPING (Evening)** Discussion Leader: [Charlotte Word](#), Word Consulting, USA

**Speaker 1:** John Buckleton, ESR, NZ

**Speaker 2:** Craig O'Connor, OCME, USA

**Day 2: NUCLEIC ACID INTERROGATION FOR BODY FLUID ID (Morning)** Discussion Leader: [Rick Tontarski](#) Defense Forensic Science Ctr, USA

**Speaker 1:** Jack Ballantyne, UCF, USA

**Speaker 2:** Titia Sijen, Netherlands Forensic Institute, The Netherlands

**Speaker 3:** Sallyann Harbison, ESR, NZ

**Day 2: Contextual Bias (Evening)** Discussion Leader: [Lynn Garcia](#), Texas Forensic Science Commission, USA

**Speaker 1:** Cecelia Crouse, Palm Beach County Sherriff's Office, USA

**Speaker 2:** Scott Shappell, Embry-Riddle College, USA

**Day 3: TRACE DNA ANALYSIS (Morning)** Discussion Leader: [Minh Nyugen](#), National Institute of Justice, USA

**Speaker 1:** Mechthild Prinz, John Jay College, USA

**Speaker 2:** Todd Bille, ATF, USA

**Speaker 3:** R.A.H van Oorschot, Victoria Police Forensic Services, Australia

**Day 3: DNA TYPING FOR FAMILIAL LINKAGE (Evening)** Discussion Leader: [Lucy Davis](#), Trittech Forensics, USA

**Speaker 1:** Thomas Parsons, International Commission on Missing Persons, Bosnia

**Speaker 2:** Bruce Budowle, North Texas Health Science Center, USA

**Day 4: NEXT GEN TECH FOR DNA ANALYSIS (Morning)** Discussion Leader: [Bruce McCord](#), Florida International University, USA

**Speaker 1:** Marie Allen, Uppsala University, Sweden

**Speaker 2:** Peter Vallone, NIST, USA

**Speaker 3:** Peter de Knijff, Leiden University, The Netherlands

**Day 4: SINGLE NUCLEOTIDE POLYMORPHISMS FOR PHENOTYPING (Evening)** Discussion Leader: [Katherine Gettings](#), NIST, USA

**Speaker 1:** Daniele Podini, George Washington University, USA

**Speaker 2:** Mark Shriver, Penn State University, USA

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