

EUROPEAN DNA PROFILING (EDNAP) MEETING

ROME 17 JANUARY 1998

Host: Dr Ernesto d'Aloja

Chairman: Dr Niels Morling

The meeting was held in conjunction with the STADNAP meeting

REPORT OF THE MEETING

1. Update of current exercises

ACTBP2, APOAII, D11S554, D12S391 and D1S1656

Peter Gill has prepared a draft manuscript (see Annex 7). Peter Gill reported that the methods were robust and that there was good agreement between laboratories. The use of allelic ladders is the way forward. It was requested that members should look critically at the draft, particularly the discussion, and send comments to Peter Gill by the end of January. The final draft will be prepared during the first week of February for submission to Forensic Science International.

MtDNA

Angel Carracedo has prepared a short paper on the collaborative exercise (see Annex 8).

The names of authors plus any comments on the draft script should be sent to Angel by the end of January. The final manuscript will also be submitted to Forensic Science International.

DYS385

Peter Schneider thanked members for the considerable amount of population data which he has received (see Annex 9). So far he has not produced a first draft of the paper but, if there is sufficient feedback, this could be produced for the next meeting.

2. Communication of activities

Peter Schneider asked all members to visit the EDNAP Home page regularly for information. There is a new page with population data and links to conference information. Peter Schneider

also reported that the NIST site has some interesting data on populations and validations together with some valuable links (see Annex 10).

STADNAP now needs a web site and we may need to use some of the money to pay for the site and keep it professionally maintained. This should be an interactive site in order to obtain the necessary data retrieval.

Peter Schneider asked for suggestions concerning the design and content of the Newsletter. He also requested contributions for a STADNAP logo.

3. Update on ENFSI activities

Dave Werrett informed members that a meeting of ENFSI in Brussels was imminent and decisions on progress and projects would be made. The meeting would be discussing commercially available systems so that recommendations could be made to the Paris meeting on 28 and 29 January.

ENFSI has now received a grant from the EU for work in the Sexual Trafficking of Persons (STOP) projects. The money will pay for 80% of expenses incurred and application has to be made each year.

4. EDNAP terms of reference

It was considered unwise to produce terms of reference for EDNAP at the present time. A letter has been sent to ENFSI stating that while there is overlap there are also differences. The content of this communication has been agreed.

5. Principles for collaboration with commercial companies

Angel Carracedo said that Pharmacia and Amersham are restructuring and, while they have indicated that they would like to send a representative to EDNAP meetings, they have not as yet identified a person. Angel will continue the negotiations.

Peter Schneider suggested that company representatives should not necessarily take part in all activities. It was, however, agreed that a two-way interchange between EDNAP and commercial companies is desirable. This would avoid the situation where members are only reactive to available systems and will, in future, have the opportunity to influence developments.

Angel Carracedo, Peter Schneider and Niels Morling will approach companies with a view to them making presentations at future meetings.

6. Application for membership

Niels Morling informed members that he has recently received an application from Croatia for membership of EDNAP. It was fully expected that there will be more European countries seeking membership in the not-too-distant future.

At the next open EDNAP meeting in Berkeley we should meet applicants and try to determine how to assimilate them into EDNAP. As the STADNAP project has only just started and the money has been allocated it would be difficult to accept new members in the next three years. We must, however, make it a goal to expand the EDNAP membership following the termination of STADNAP.

Björn Olaisen was asked to present our deliberations to the next ISFH board meeting to see if they can offer a way forward. We will re-visit the topic at the next EDNAP meeting.

7. Next EDNAP meeting

The next EDNAP meeting will be held in conjunction with the STADNAP meeting in Innsbruck on 13 June 1998.

Enclosed: Annex 7 - 10.

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