

Short Term Fellowships of the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG)

Short Report – research visit, King's College in London.

Applicant:

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On the 13th of March to the 14th of April, I visited King's Forensics Research Group at the Department of Analytical, Environmental & Forensic Sciences, King's College in London. My PhD project concerns the determination of chronological age from patterns of DNA methylation. Part of my project aims to validate and implement a prediction model for prediction of chronological age from DNA methylation developed by researchers at King's Forensics. In connection to this, the main goal of the visit was to learn about the model as well as getting experience with the methodology.

During the visit, I had the chance to go through the whole process of experimental work to the final interpretation. The laboratory work included bisulfite conversion and PCR amplification of the DNA, library build and sequencing on the MiSeq. Hereafter, the pipeline for converting the data obtained from sequencing to DNA methylation levels as well as prediction the age of the individuals using the model was demonstrated.

Overall, the fellowship has given me the opportunity to gain experience with the prediction model and increase my knowledge on age prediction from DNA methylation, as well as to expand the collaboration between King's Forensics and the Section of Forensic Genetics at the University of Copenhagen.