

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *Probability of Inclusion in Paternity Testing*

REFERENCE: Silver, H., Ed., *Probability of Inclusion in Paternity Testing*, American Association of Blood Banks, Arlington, VA, 1982, 106 pages, \$15.00.

In 1978, the American Association of Blood Banks released its first comprehensive publication on the laboratory aspects of disputed paternity (reviewed in this Journal, Vol. 24, No. 3, July 1979, pp. 705). The primary emphasis of this book was on testing for the purpose of exclusion in paternity cases. However, the issue of probability analysis of inclusion of paternity was also addressed by several of the contributors. This generated a great deal of interest and debate in the legal and medical community because of current pressing social and economic considerations. The controversy over this new approach to parentage determination finally led to a meeting in May 1982 in Airlie, VA of an International Conference on Inclusion Probabilities in Parentage Testing. The result was the establishment of accepted principles for determining and expressing the probability of a paternal relationship. In part, these include the logic involved in probability determinations, a more precise terminology, and such legal issues as reliability and interpretation of information.

Most of these new developments that emerged from the Airlie Conference are condensed in *Probability of Inclusion in Paternity Testing*. The first chapter deals with those laws of probability that are applicable to this problem. It is followed by an exposition of how frequency tables may be appropriately used. Then there are two chapters on logic and another on paternity case analysis, which illustrates the principles presented in the previous chapters. Finally, a section on computer application of statistical calculations and a discussion of the problems encountered in presenting calculated probability in the courtroom complete this slim text. All of the chapters are written by innovators in their fields of expertise.

The book is brief and clear. The quality of the tables and references is superb. It is soft-bound and the price is a bargain. If there is a flaw in this publication, it would be the absence of an index, but it does contain a brief, succinct glossary which serves as a key to the material presented.

There are two additional publications scheduled to be released by the American Association of Blood Banks in 1983 that will be of interest to forensic scientists: *Proceedings of the Airlie Conference on Inclusion Probabilities in Parentage Testing* and *Medicolegal Issues for Blood Bankers*. If these are of the same quality as the previous publications of the Association that are concerned with jurisprudence, they, too, can be highly recommended. Look for them!

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