

## BOOK REVIEW

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### *A Review of Inclusion Probabilities in Parentage Testing*

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**REFERENCE:** Walker, R. H., Ed.-in-Chief, *Inclusion Probabilities in Parentage Testing*, American Association of Blood Banks, 1117 N. 19th St., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22209, 1983, 673 pp., \$72.00.

Fifty of the fifty-three chapters that comprise this book are the proceedings, discussion, recommended guidelines and conclusions that emerged from the International Conference on Inclusion Probabilities in Parentage Testing held in Airlie, VA, 17-20 May 1982. This conference was hosted by the Committee on Parentage Testing of the American Association of Blood Banks to provide a forum for discussion and to develop guidelines for workers in the area of paternity testing. Participating were scientists and legal experts from the United States and Europe specifically invited for their expertise in the field.

Included in this publication are sections on the following:

- (1) concerns and issues;
- (2) concepts, logic, and methods;
- (3) legal topics;
- (4) variables, errors, and power of exclusion;
- (5) extent of testing, expressions of likelihood, and medical-legal applications in England and Europe;
- (6) special problems, HLA, and reporting;
- (7) paternity test analysis; and
- (8) conclusions and recommendations.

Many specific issues are addressed that have an impact on those conducting paternity testing such as: paternity probability calculations for mixed races; paternity probability testing where a putative father or mother is unavailable; determination of the probability of exclusion by the HLA system; error risks in paternity diagnosis by blood grouping; and consideration of silent genes in the statistical evaluation of blood group findings.

This volume is not a textbook. It is a comprehensive and authoritative scientific and legal reference book directed to the mature scientist engaged in parentage testing as well as to lawyers and judges involved in cases of disputed parentage. It presents theories and methods of parentage testing and family law, and provides guidelines on their use in the laboratory and their translation in the courtroom. Although the book is not inexpensive, it is highly recommended for those groups of professionals.

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