

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of: *Progress in Forensic Genetics 10*

REFERENCE: Doutremépuich C, Morling N, editors, *Progress in forensic genetics 10*, Elsevier B. V., Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2004, 651 pp. (\$195)

This book is the tenth in a series, representing a formal proceedings of the biannual meetings of the International Society of Forensic Genetics (which at one time was called the International Society for Forensic Haemogenetics). Volume 10 is the proceedings of the 20th meeting, held in Sept., 2003, at Arcachon, France. ISFG members receive this volume automatically. Non-members can get it from Elsevier (http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/bookdescription.cws_home/702745/description#description). Volumes 9, 8 and 7 are also still available for those interested.

This is a highly specialized meeting of DNA scientists, the preponderance of whom are probably from western Europe. There are 212 papers in the current proceedings, on a wide range of forensic genetic topics. By design, these papers are about 4 printed pages in length, but many contain primary data. There is considerable value for DNA specialists in a proceedings like this one, because a great majority of the papers presented will never be written up for and submitted to the refereed journals. Accordingly, these proceedings will be the sole published record of the work. The value lies in the

fact that the papers, though short, contain primary data. The book is not just a collection of abstracts.

There is something for everyone here, from specialists in criminal case DNA profiling to those in parentage testing or human identification in mass disasters. Characteristically, many of the papers are on newer polymorphisms, such as SNPs and Y chromosome markers. There are papers on different methods for detecting SNPs, not much used in forensic science at present, such as microarrays and mass spectrometry. Many of the papers are population studies, running from the general (a large concordance study by 165 labs in Europe) to the arcane (Y chromosome haplotype frequencies in Bahia, Brazil, or in Beijing, for example). There are also case reports, papers on methods (such as novel techniques of extracting DNA from bone learned from the World Trade Center remains), comments on proficiency test programs, and even the occasional paper on determining classical genetic marker genotypes by DNA analysis.

This book would be of interest only to hard-core DNA scientists who want to keep up with the latest developments and with where the technology is likely to go in the next 5 years or so. It is, as mentioned, international in scope so as to give a worldwide snapshot of forensic DNA typing practices and methods.

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