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Do you have an interesting case or question you would like to share. Email us at [nikkib@aabb.org](mailto:nikkib@aabb.org)



## Immigration Meeting

Representatives from the Department of State (DS) and the Department of Homeland Security United States Citizenship and Immigrations Services (DHS-USCIS) Fraud Divisions contacted the AABB with concerns regarding sample collection of immigrants in the US. A meeting was arranged at AABB headquarters during the Relationship Testing Standards Program Unit (RTSPU) meeting on May 14, 2007. Present at the meeting were staff representatives from DS and DHS-USCIS Fraud Divisions, members of the RTSPU, Jean Otter (AABB Division Director of Standards, Accreditation and Educational Programs), Holly Rapp (AABB Director of Accreditation and Quality), Eduardo Nunes (AABB Director of Standards and International Affairs), Diane Killion (AABB Staff Legal Counsel), Christopher Bocquet (AABB Standards and International Affairs Manager), Nikki Bass-Jeffrey (AABB Accreditation and Quality Staff Member).

After introductions, DS and DHS-USCIS staffs explained their concerns. They noted that there are some immigrants that have arranged to have samples collected with labs other than those listed on the AABB web site. These labs either claim to be AABB accredited or they use an AABB lab for the testing. One lab's internet address is [www.AABB.net](http://www.AABB.net). The people from DS and DHS-USCIS found this web site along with a number of others. The AABB National Office is aware of most of the web sites inappropriately using AABB name and logo. The legal department at AABB investigates these and takes appropriate action.

Some immigrants have contacted labs who send them self-collection kits only to discover that the DS and DHS-USCIS will not accept the results because there is no chain of custody for the samples. These immigrants have to start all over using an AABB accredited laboratory and spend more money. AABB accredited laboratories must follow AABB standards for the collection of samples. So called "non-legal" collections are not acceptable. The collection kit must be sent to the collection site, not the individuals to be tested.

## AVAILABLE SOON

### The 2005 AABB Annual Report Summary

To obtain a FREE copy

**JUST CLICK:**

[http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Parentage\\_Testing\\_Accreditation\\_Program/ptprog.htm](http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Parentage_Testing_Accreditation_Program/ptprog.htm)

## TO ORDER A COPY OF THE

*7<sup>th</sup> Edition Standards for  
Relationship Testing*

or

*7<sup>th</sup> Edition of Guidance for  
Standards for Relationship  
Testing Laboratories*

**JUST CLICK:**

<https://portal.aabb.org/apps/marketplace/category.aspx?cat=Standards%20and%20Quality&subcat=Standards>

DS and DHS-USCIS would like to be assured that collection sites in the US are properly collecting the samples. The DS and DHS-USCIS staffs were pleased to hear that the AABB is looking at the possibility of accrediting collection sites.

DS and DHS-USCIS would like AABB accredited labs to include a chain of custody and a color photo of the person residing in the US with all final reports going to the US embassies. DS and DHS-USCIS staff listened while members of the RTSPU explained some of the requirements of the RT standards. One concern they had was with exclusion cases. They did not realize that every excluded case requires repeating the testing from the original sample of at least the alleged parent and also the child if a known parent is not tested.

Members of the RTSPU explained to DS and DHS-USCIS staff the difficulties the labs have when asked by embassies to prove unspecified relationships, such as that a husband and wife are not related. They were aware of the problem and stated they have been working to change this. They would like the embassies to ask labs to prove a specific relationship, rather than to disprove a relationship.

DS and DHS-USCIS representatives were given a list of speakers for SIG II and invited to attend the AABB meeting in October.



# ANNUAL MEETING & TXPO 2007

October 20-23 • Anaheim, California, USA



**Annual Meeting  
Registration is  
NOW OPEN**

Online registration for the  
AABB Annual Meeting and  
TXPO 2007 is now open.  
Visit the [AABB Web site](#) to  
register for this year's  
exciting educational  
events.

Connect with colleagues,  
exchange new knowledge,  
grow your professional  
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of educational opportunity  
await you!

**Register by August  
31 and take  
advantage of the  
early registration  
discount.**

## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**Session: Relationship Testing SIG I:**

**Date: Saturday, October 20, 2007 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

Objectives:

- ✓ Discuss the administrative actions affecting relationship testing laboratories.
- ✓ Describe the update on the AABB relationship testing laboratory assessment process.
- ✓ Review the changes in the 8th edition on the standard and the summary of annual report.

### Event Description

This SIG covers administrative actions affecting relationship testing laboratories. One part will discuss the findings from assessments, including any patterns of problems seen by the assessors. Also discussed will be findings from the AABB/CAP Relationship Testing Proficiency test. The second part of this SIG will include a discussion of the new (effective Jan 2008) 8th edition of standards and the annual report for testing performed in 2006. The annual report gives a summary of volume of testing and other measures for relationship testing and discusses common problems that may be encountered.

**Session: Relationship Testing SIG II:**

**Date: Saturday, October 20, 2007 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

Objectives:

- ✓ Discuss issues related to relationship testing required by US Immigration.
- ✓ Describe relationship testing when tested individuals are closely related.
- ✓ Explore the use of appropriate databases in immigration cases.

### Event Description

The session will be devoted to the relationship testing issues encountered for immigration cases. The program will attempt to create a consensus, through discussions and presentations, a set of standard criteria for inclusion and exclusion of various relationships. There will be presentation about use of appropriate databases in case of immigration cases where the tested persons are from world wide various ethnicity. Ethical issues generated by relationship testing will also be discussed.

***See below for a sneak peak of this event's outline.***

**IF YOU MISSED THE MEETING LAST YEAR YOU CAN STILL ORDER HANDOUTS OR STREAMING AUDIO WITH POWERPOINT SLIDES OF ALL THE SESSIONS HELD DURING THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING BY VISITING**

**THE AABB LIVE LEARNING CENTER JUST CLICK:**

<http://www.softconference.com/aabb/>

**CONTENT FROM THE 2007 SESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE AABB ANNUAL MEETING.**

SIG II Event Outline		
Start Time to End Time	Presentation Title	Faculty
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Relationship Tests of U.S. Immigrants: An Overview	Robert Wenk
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Calculation and precautions in motherless cases where mother and father are related	David W. Gjertson
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Case Report: An Unusual Kinship Case	Sudhir K. Sinha
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Ethical Issues	Robert W. Allen
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Problems and Pitfalls of Single Parent Testing for Immigration and the Establishment of Familial Relationships	Arthur Eisenberg
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Forensic Databases Do Not Call Into Question Identity and Kinship Statistics	Bruce Budowle
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Choice of Reference Samples and Criteria for Inclusion and Exclusion in Kinship Cases.	Ranajit Chakraborty

### Session: Forensic Sciences

**Date: Sunday, October 21, 2007 8:30 am – 10:00 am**

#### Objectives:

- ✓ Discover the latest technological developments in the field of forensic science.
- ✓ Learn a better sense of how “real” CSI shows are

#### Event Description:

This workshop will highlight recent advances in several traditional disciplines in forensics including forensic biology and forensic chemistry. In addition, the newly emerging field of forensic microbiology will be introduced and the challenges facing this area will be discussed.

### Session: What’s new in HLA Typing and Other Genetic Polymorphisms - *ASHI/AABB Joint Program*

**Date: Sunday, October 21, 2007 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

#### Objectives:

- ✓ Learn how histocompatibility antigens are used as targets for immunotherapy and their role in allogeneic stem cell transplantation
- ✓ Explore how current HLA and MICA typing and antibody identification procedures are used to assist in organ allocation study transplantation outcomes and assess the risk of TRALI.
- ✓ Discover how testing for polymorphisms in other genetic systems are used for disease risk assessment, identification, relationship and chimerism analysis.

#### Event Description:

Experienced speakers will discuss the latest findings in the areas of HLA antigen and antibody testing as they relate to donor/recipient matching, organ transplantation and TRALI. They will also explore testing for polymorphisms in genetic markers as they relate to disease risk assessment, identification and relationship analysis.

# GREAT RESOURCES

## Did you know ?

- 1) Additional questions or uncertainties regarding any standard can be submitted to the Relationship Testing Accreditation Program Unit for review as a topic for the newsletter and/or educational topic at the National AABB Meeting. Forward topic suggestions to [nikkib@aabb.org](mailto:nikkib@aabb.org)
- 2) Questions encountered during an onsite assessment can be addressed immediately by calling 301.215.6492.

- ✚ You can obtain a list of Accredited Relationship Testing Laboratories at the following link:  
[http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Parentage\\_Testing\\_Accreditation\\_Program/AABB\\_Accredited\\_Parentage\\_Testing\\_Laboratories/aboutptlabs.htm](http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Parentage_Testing_Accreditation_Program/AABB_Accredited_Parentage_Testing_Laboratories/aboutptlabs.htm)
- ✚ The AABB Annual Meeting Preliminary Program has been mailed. For a more detailed version of the program, please click on the following link:  
[http://www.aabb.org/Content/Meetings\\_and\\_Events/Annual\\_Meeting\\_and\\_TXPO/Educational\\_Program/education.htm](http://www.aabb.org/Content/Meetings_and_Events/Annual_Meeting_and_TXPO/Educational_Program/education.htm)

## Got a question about the AABB Logo?

AABB logos, which include the AABB Accredited logo and the association logo and tagline, are the intellectual property of AABB. Maintaining logo integrity preserves the strength of AABB's identity.

If you would like more information about how you can utilize the AABB logos, download [AABB Trademark Usage Guidelines](#) from [www.aabb.org](http://www.aabb.org).

Should you have information about our logo's misuse, please email us at [marketing@aabb.org](mailto:marketing@aabb.org).

# WANTED

## Assessors

Have you ever considered becoming an assessor? The AABB Relationship Testing Program is looking for assessors. Please consider becoming one.

The requirements for an assessor are as follows:

- Must hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree.
- Must be an active AABB individual member.
- Must possess the appropriate experience and training.
- Must agree to the defined commitments.
- Must possess defined attributes.
- Must agree to the defined continuing education and competence requirements.

New assessor training is held at the AABB Annual Meeting and at Regional Workshops offered during the year. For a complete workshop schedule and details on the requirements/qualifications contact Kim Charity at [kcharity@aabb.org](mailto:kcharity@aabb.org) or visit [http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Become\\_an\\_Assessor/becomeassess.htm](http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Become_an_Assessor/becomeassess.htm)

## RTAPU or RTSPU Member

Are you currently an assessor? Would you like to be involved in planning the AABB Assessor Day Relationship Testing breakout session? Would you like to review corrective action plans for process non-conformances? Would you like to be involved in the newsletter? If these issues are of interest to you, the Relationship Testing Accreditation Program Unit would like to have you as a member.

Are you currently an AABB Member? Would you like to be involved in creating and revising the Relationship Testing Standards? Would you like to review the requests for variance from the Standards? Would you like to be involved in creating and revising the Guidance for the Standards? If these issues are of interest to you, the Relationship Testing Standards Program Unit would like to have you as a member.

Please contact Pam Lubel at the AABB National Office at [plubel@aabb.org](mailto:plubel@aabb.org).

### 2006-2007 RTAPU Members:

**Mary Mount, MT(ASCP)  
Chair**

Amarjit Chahal, PhD  
Karen S. Miller, MT(ASCP)  
Sudhir K. Sinha, PhD  
Vicki Yarnell, MT(ASCP),  
CHS(ABHI)  
Michael L. Baird, PhD  
George Maha, JD, PhD

Board Representative:  
Kathleen Houston,  
MT(ASCP)SBB

### 2006-2007 RTSPU Members:

**George Maha, JD, PhD  
Chair**

Jane Pritchard, BS,  
MT(ASCP), CLSp(MB)  
James Mason, PhD  
Michael L. Baird, PhD  
Susan Greenspoon, PhD  
Mary Mount, MT(ASCP)  
David Gjertson, PhD  
Marilyn S. Pollack, PhD  
Bruce Wilder, MD, JD  
Neils Morling, MD, DSc

Board Representative:  
Joy Fridey, MD, MBA