



In This Issue

- Immigration:
IDENTITY THEFT
- RT Program Partnership
- 2008 Annual Meeting Highlights
- Great Resources
- Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have an interesting case or question you would like to share? Email us at nikkib@aabb.org

Identity Theft in U.S. Immigration to Conceal the Impersonation of Relatives

Officials of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) adjudicate family-based immigration petitions using legal documents and church records. USCIS gives highest immigration priority to spousal, parental and sibling relationships. If documentation is missing or suspected as counterfeit, judgment as to whether or not two people are blood relatives depends on relationship test results performed by AABB accredited laboratories¹.

Identity theft is the deceptive use of a victim's name or ID numbers, usually for economic gain², but in immigration, the gain is admittance to the U.S. Of immigration cases, mostly involving Africans and Caribbeans, tested with 15-STRs (PowerPlex 16, Promega Corporation, Madison WI) during two years of study (2005-2006), we found 15.5% with evidence of either parentage exclusion or with half-sib LR's less than "suggestive"³ (<4:1). Six (1 in 200) of these impersonations of blood relatives were complicated by unexpected recollection of specimens and/or subsequent attempts to misidentify a petitioner, a beneficiary or a specimen. All six cases were detected by the laboratory. In one case a person's 15-test result profile was identical to the filed result of a person with another name, thus showing the utility of computer matching of each tested person's results to a lab's database in the detection of identity theft. The second case of fraud was detected when different results were obtained for one named person in separate tests. Investigation and supervised recollection of specimens confirmed identity theft and fraud in the 6 cases.

REFERENCES

1. USCIS Adjudicator's Field Manual. Distributed by AILA Publications 2008. American Immigration Lawyers Association. <http://lib.store.yahoo.net>
2. Identity Theft and Identity Fraud. U.S. Department of Justice. <http://www.usdoj.gov>.
3. Hummel K. On the theory and practice of Essen-Moller's W value and Gurtler's paternity index. *Forens Sci Int.* 1984 May; 25(1): 1-17.

Danielle Sewell
Francis A. Chiafari
Robert E. Wenk
Richard Hackney
BRT Laboratories
April 5, 2008

**NOW
AVAILABLE**

*8th Edition Standards for
Relationship Testing*

&

*8th Edition of Guidance for
Standards for Relationship
Testing Laboratories*

TO ORDER A COPY

JUST CLICK:

<http://www.aabb.org/eServices/Marketplace/ProductListing/tabid/56/Category/STANDQUAL/SubCategory/STANDARDS/Default.aspx>

**The AABB Relationship
Testing Annual Report
Summary**

To obtain a FREE copy

JUST CLICK:

http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Parentage_Testing_Accreditation_Program/ptprog.htm

Relationship Testing Accreditation Program Partnership

As you are all aware, the AABB board of directors instructed AABB staff to evaluate and develop a long term strategy for the Relationship Testing (RT) Accreditation Program and to ensure that the program is budget neutral. To this end, a number of options are being considered including partnering with another similar organization.

AABB has been investigating partnerships with organizations interested in working together to administer the Relationship Testing Accreditation program. AABB has identified several accrediting bodies that have shown interest in further evaluation of possible options. The AABB has had discussions with these organizations and has already begun the process of due diligence. Due diligence involves an in-depth analysis of each organization's program and financial information. Once this process is complete, both AABB and each of the other organizations will be able to determine if the program is consistent with the mission and vision of the other organization. After review of the information, the next steps will include development of a framework for partnering on the program. These negotiations will most likely continue into the coming year but resolution should be complete by the end of 2009. Originally, the entire process was expected to be resolved by the end of 2008, however, AABB and the potential partners want to ensure that involved organizations have the same quality oriented philosophy.

With regard to dues, last year, the RT accredited laboratory's dues were increased significantly to cover the cost of the program. For 2009, while the accreditation fees for facilities accredited for all other activities will be increased due to the increased cost of travel, the dues for RT facilities will not be increased but will remain at the same level as 2008. If you have any questions regarding the membership dues please contact (membership@aabb.org).

All other questions, suggestions or comments can be addressed to George Riley (griley@aabb.org) or (301-312-0347), or Holly Rapp (holly@aabb.org).



MONTRÉAL 2008
ANNUAL MEETING & TXPO
OCTOBER 4-7

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

To Register for the
2008 Annual
Meeting
Visit www.aabb.org

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 2007* ANNUAL
MEETING BY VISITING
THE

**AABB LIVE
LEARNING CENTER**

JUST CLICK:

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

*CONTENT FROM 2002- 2007
SESSIONS ARE STILL
AVAILABLE

Session: Relationship Testing SIG I:
Held: Saturday, October 4, 2008 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Event Description:

This session covers administrative issues affecting Relationship Testing Laboratories. One part will include a discussion of the 8th Edition of Relationship Testing Standards that became effective January 1, 2008 as well as a summary of the most recent annual report of relationship testing. Another part will cover the assessment process and findings of any pattern of problems encountered. The last part will discuss findings from the AABB/CAP Relationship Testing Proficiency program.

Session: Relationship Testing SIG II:
Held: Saturday, October 4, 2008 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Event Description:

This session will be devoted to genetic markers useful in resolving issues encountered in relationship and genealogy analysis. One part of the session will include a discussion of genetic loci useful for relationship analysis beyond those currently included in commercial kits with examples of use in cases. Another part of the program will attempt to establish a consensus on the appropriate method for the incorporation of non-autosomal data into calculations for likelihood ratio. The growing field of genealogical analysis will be presented with the genetic systems currently used.

Session: New Directions in Forensic Science
Held: Sunday, October 5, 2008 10:30 am – 12:00 Noon

Event Description:

This workshop will highlight recent advances in several traditional disciplines in forensics including familial searching as an investigative tool, total automation systems and microchip technologies, and obtaining DNA from fired bullet casings or exploded IEDs. Three leading experts from the forensic science field will present on topics related to these subjects.

Session: New Molecular Typing/Matching Approaches
Held: Sunday, October 5, 2008 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Event Description:

The session will be an overview of the molecular approach to red blood cell, platelet and HLA typing. Speakers will give a description of microarray genotyping, identify the types of patients for which red cell genotyping may be appropriate and discuss the use of epitope matching to help prevent organ rejection.

GREAT RESOURCES

- ✚ You can obtain a list of Accredited Relationship Testing Laboratories at the following link:
http://www.aabb.org/Content/Accreditation/Parentage_Testing_Accreditation_Program/ptprog.htm
- ✚ The AABB Career Link is a good way to bring together great job opportunities and great candidates. To find out more information visit the following link:
http://www.aabb.org/content/Professional_Development/CareerLink/careerlink.htm

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
- 2) Questions encountered during an onsite assessment can be addressed immediately by calling 301.215.6492.

Misleading Claims of Accreditation and Logo Misuse

With the explosion of advertising on the internet, there has been increasing misuse of AABB's trademarked logos and misleading claims of AABB accreditation. We are renewing our efforts to stop such practices and are actively searching out these organizations so that we can address this problem on a more global scale. These efforts benefit accredited laboratories by preserving the strong value of AABB accreditation and by ensuring that customer attention is focused on laboratories that actually *are* accredited. Our facilities work hard to achieve and maintain accreditation and deserve the maximum benefit of that accreditation. Increased vigilance will also benefit laboratories' customers by ensuring that they get the accredited-laboratory test that they have paid for. You can aid these efforts by bringing to our attention instances of logo misuse or misleading statements regarding accreditation. Please advise AABB's Accreditation Department (accrediation@aabb.org) by providing the offending Web site and briefly describing the issue. It would be particularly helpful if you copy and email the actual link from your browser's address bar, as some offending organizations maintain multiple Web sites. The AABB policy on logo use is posted on the AABB Web site under the *Terms of Use* link at the bottom of the home page.

WANTED

RTAPU or RTSPU Members

Are you currently an assessor? Would you like to be involved in planning for sessions at the AABB Annual Meeting? 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.

2007-2008 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**

2007-2008 RTSPU Members:

**Michael L. Baird, PhD
Chair**

**George Maha, JD, PhD
Jane Pritchard, BS,
MT(ASCP), CLSp(MB)
James Mason, PhD
Susan Greenspoon, PhD
Mary Mount, MT(ASCP)
David Einum, PhD, BS
Bruce Wilder, MD, JD
Neils Morling, MD, DSc**

**Board Representative:
Joy Fridey, MD, MBA**

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.

The Committee Volunteer Form can be found on the AABB website under Professional Development and Volunteer Opportunities. If have any questions, please contact Pam Lubel (plubel@aabb.org) at the AABB National Office.

Suggested Changes to Standards

Work on the 9th edition of *Standards for Relationship Testing Laboratories* will begin shortly. We would like to invite assessors and accredited laboratories to submit any suggested revisions or other comments to the AABB Relationship Testing Standards Program Unit. Please remember that each set of *Standards* undergoes a public comment period, and that this is just a preliminary opportunity to help the program unit identify areas in the *Standards* that might need revision. The comment period will take place in early 2009. Comments can be sent to the AABB Standards Development department (standards@aabb.org)

Articles

Do you have an interesting case or question you would like to share through this newsletter? Or is there a topic or issue you would like us to write about? Email us at (nikkib@aabb.org)

VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT OFFICIAL AABB POLICY AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED ON FOR LEGAL ADVICE.