



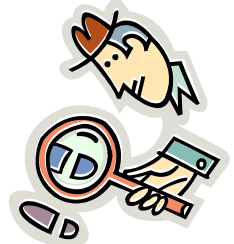
Mitchell M. Holland, Ph.D.

Professor, Biochem & MolBio

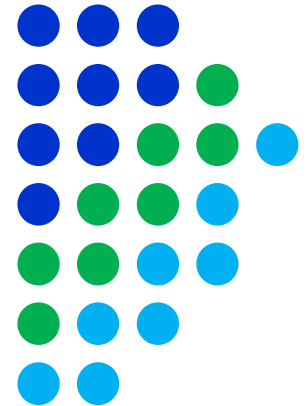
Forensic Science Program

Eberly College of Science


Penn State University, University Park, PA



Advances in Mitogenome Sequencing for Forensic Laboratories



The time is now for ubiquitous forensic mtMPS analysis

Lauren C. Canale¹ | Walther Parson^{1,2} | Mitchell M. Holland¹ 

¹Forensic Science Program, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

²Institute of Legal Medicine, Medical University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria

Correspondence

Mitchell M. Holland, Forensic Science Program, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The Pennsylvania State University, 014 Thomas Building, University Park, PA 16802, USA.
Email: mmh20@psu.edu

Edited by Michael Coble, Editor

Abstract

Mitochondrial (mt) DNA sequence analysis is useful for assessing ancestral origin and migration, identifying human remains, and examining evidentiary material in forensic casework. Conventional Sanger-type sequencing (STS) has been used for more than three decades to address these interests. This paper reviews the methodologies and merits of using a massively parallel sequencing (MPS) approach for mtDNA testing in forensic laboratories, as *The Time is Now for Ubiquitous Forensic mtMPS Analysis*.

This article is categorized under:

Forensic Biology > Haploid Markers
Forensic Biology > Forensic DNA Technologies

KEYWORDS

forensic DNA, massively parallel sequencing, mitochondrial DNA

2021

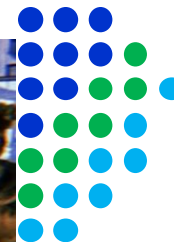
Lauren



Jade



Jen





GCAT
TACG
GCAT
genes

2022 MDPI

Article

Routine Mitogenome MPS Analysis from 1 and 5 mm of Rootless Human Hair

Lauren C. Canale¹, Jennifer A. McElhoe¹ , Gloria Dimick², Katherine M. DeHeer³ , Jason Beckert⁴ and Mitchell M. Holland^{1,2,*}

CURRENT
PROTOCOLS
A Wiley Brand

Massively Parallel Sequencing of the Mitogenome from Human Hair Shafts in Forensic Investigations

Jade T. Korber,¹ Lauren C. Canale,² and Mitchell M. Holland^{1,3,4}

¹Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Forensic Science Program, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

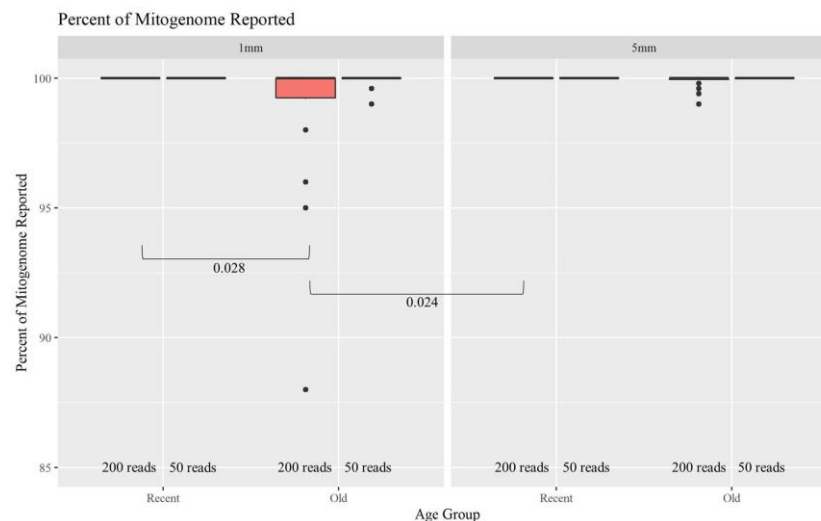
²Department of Justice, Jan Bashinski DNA Laboratory, Richmond, California

³Mitotyping Technologies, State College, Pennsylvania

⁴Corresponding author: mmh20@psu.edu

Published in the Human Genetics section

2023





CASE REPORT

Mitochondrial DNA: State of Tennessee v. Paul Ware

By C. Leland Davis, ADA
District Attorney's Office, Chattanooga, TN

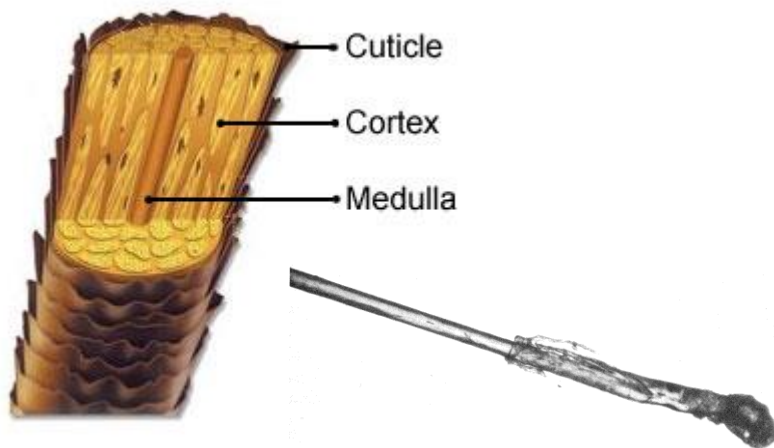
FBI 1996

**Mitochondrial DNA
sequence heteroplasmy in
the Grand Duke of Russia
Georgij Romanov
establishes the authenticity
of the remains of Tsar
Nicholas II**

Pavel L. Ivanov¹, Mark J. Wadhams²,
Rhonda K. Roby², Mitchell M. Holland²,
Victor W. Weedn² & Thomas I. Parsons²
nature genetics volume 12 april 1996

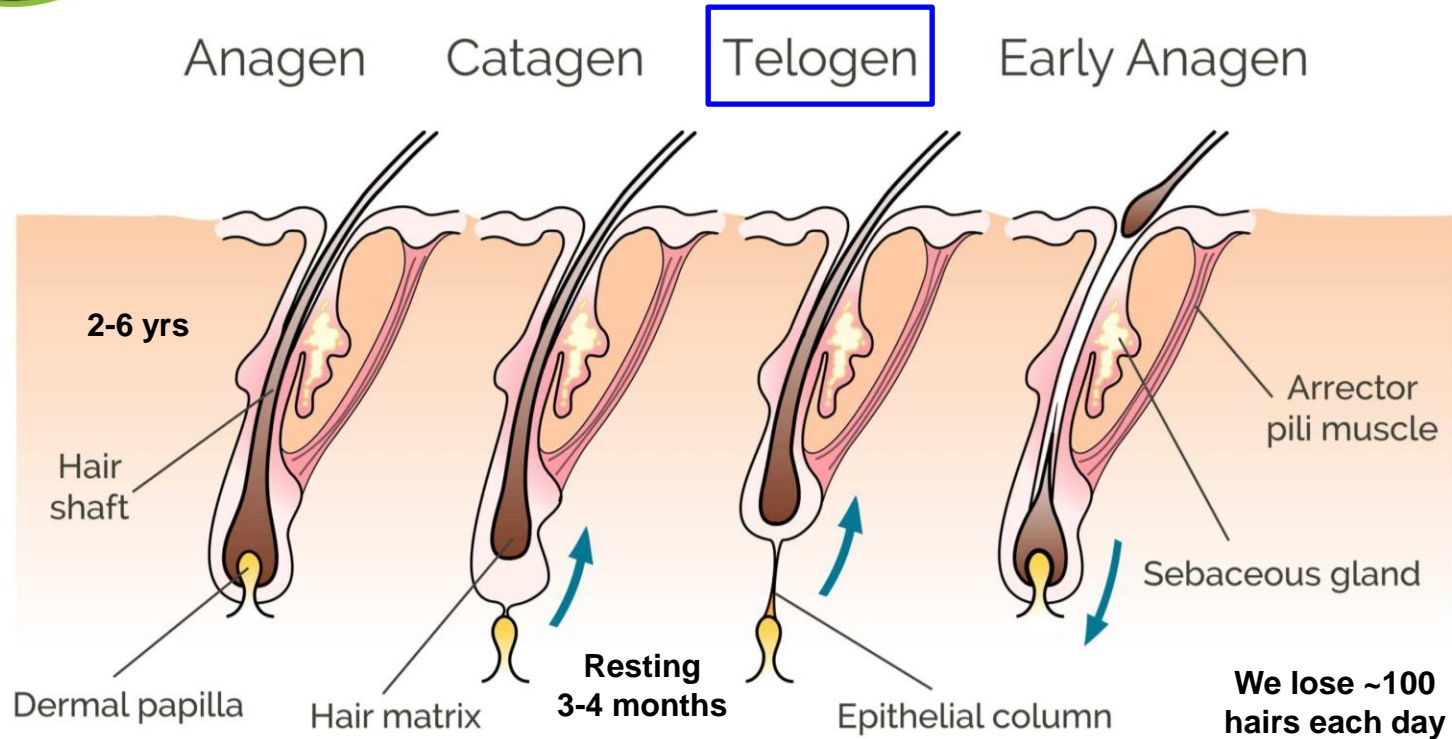


mtDNA sequence analysis is a useful tool for testing **hair shafts** and old skeletal remains associated with criminal and identification cases





Hairs are the most common biological evidence type found at crime scenes



Shed hairs (telogen) represent up to 90% of evidentiary hairs



While chromosomal DNA typically accounts for >95% of the DNA content in hair shafts, the nucDNA is highly degraded with an average fragment length of 40-70 bps, more degraded than mtDNA

Table 11. Sequencing statistics for recent single hairs.

Extracts	# Unique Human Reads	# mtDNA Unique Reads	# Unique nuDNA Reads	% mtDNA/% nuDNA (bp)	% mtDNA/% nuDNA (Reads)
R1	34,909	1,865	33,044	11.95/88.05	5.3/94.7
R2	327,165	1,707	325,458	0.59/99.41	0.5/99.5
R3	42,308	2,287	40,021	9.29/90.71	5.4/94.6
R4	196,737	4,790	191,947	2.88/97.12	2.4/97.6
R5	94,969	10,997	83,972	14.08/85.92	11.6/88.4
R6	952,728	25,575	927,153	3.56/96.44	2.7/97.3

genes

Article

Fragmented Nuclear DNA is the Predominant Genetic Material in Human Hair Shafts

Michael D. Brandhagen ^{1,†}, Odile Loreille ^{1,†}, and Jodi A. Irwin ^{1,*}

DNA Support Unit, FBI Laboratory, 2501 Investigation Parkway, Quantico, VA 22135, USA; mbrandhagen@fbi.gov (M.D.B.); oploreille@fbi.gov (O.L.)

Ed Green
UC Santa Cruz
Astrea





Routine mitoGenome MPS Analysis from 1-5 mm of Human Hair Shaft



Millimeters (mm)
10 mm
0 1 2
Centimeters (cm)



1 mm



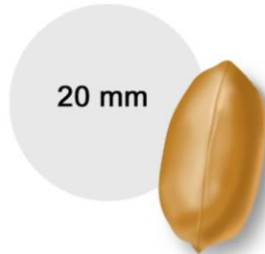
2 mm



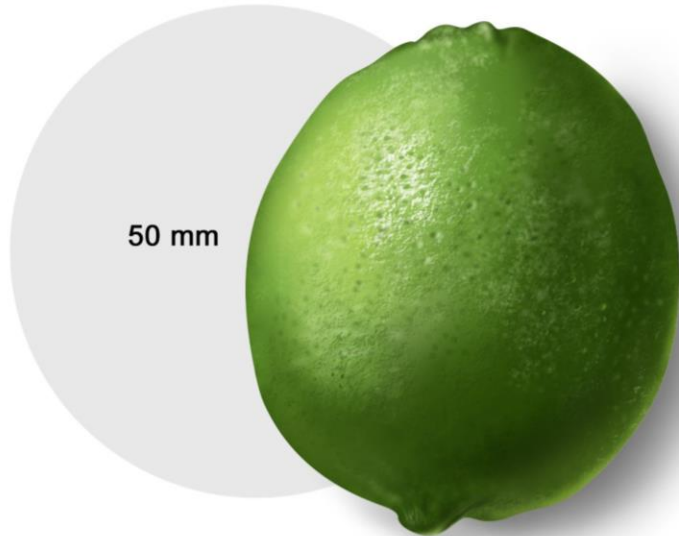
5 mm



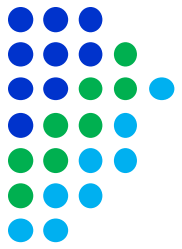
10 mm



20 mm



50 mm

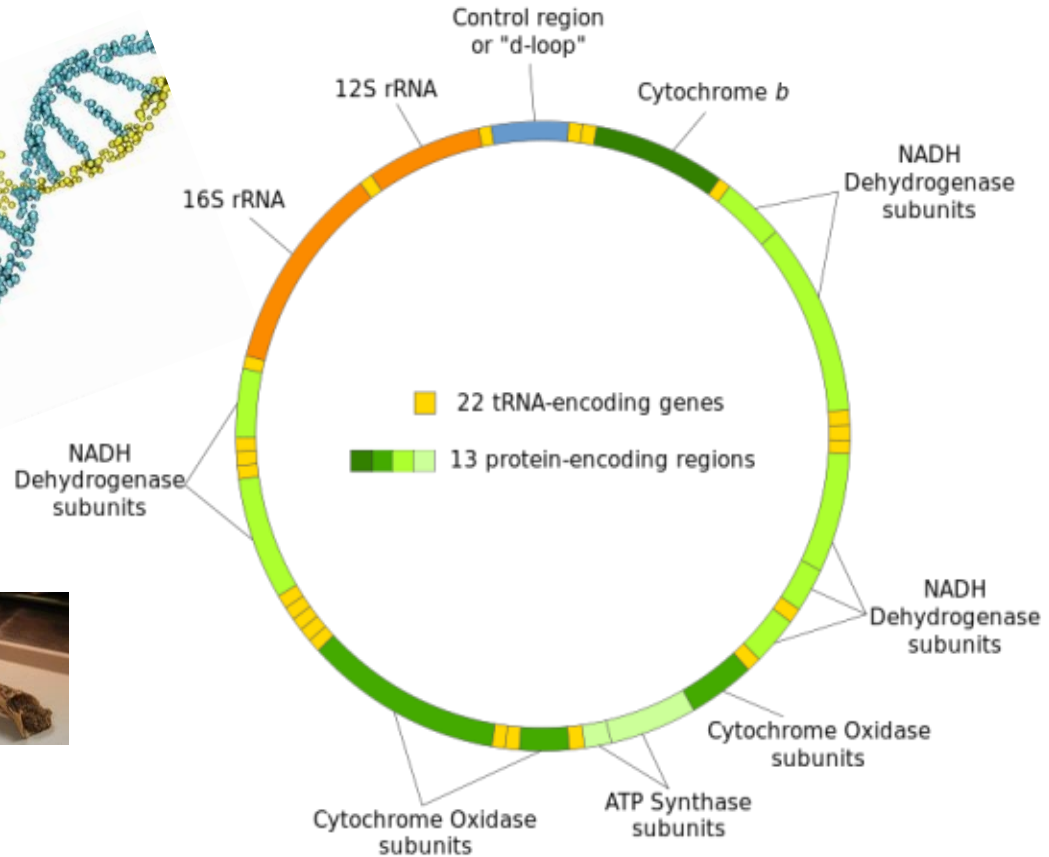
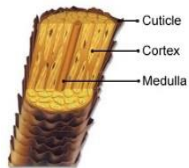


What most crime labs focus on

HV1/HV2 = 610 bps

CR = 1122 bps

Help me, I'm degrading



Where the field is likely to move

mitoGenome = ~16,569 bps



Populations	n	HVI/HVII		mtGenome	
		RMP	GD	RMP	GD
AFA	87	2.42%	98.72%	1.31%	99.84%
CAU	83	3.12%	98.06%	1.20%	100.00%
HIS	113	3.33%	97.53%	0.98%	99.91%
Mean ± SD		2.96 ± 0.48%	98.10 ± 0.59%	1.16 ^c ± 0.17%	99.91 ^d ± 0.08%

Forensic Science International: Genetics 12 (2014) 128–135

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

Journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/bsfig

High-quality and high-throughput massively parallel sequencing of the human mitochondrial genome using the Illumina MiSeq

Jonathan L. King^{a,1,*}, Bobby L. LaRue^{a,1}, Nicole M. Novroski^a, Monika Stojjarova^a, Seung Bum Seo^a, Xiangpei Zeng^a, David H. Warshauer^a, Carey P. Davis^a, Walther Parson^{b,c}, Antti Sajantila^{a,d}, Bruce Budowle^{a,e}

^a Penn State University, ^b University of Jyväskylä, ^c University of Turku, ^d University of Helsinki, ^e University of North Carolina



Amplification Approaches & Kits Available



- Promega
 - PowerSeq CRM (control region, 1 multiplex, 144-237 bps)
 - **PowerSeq WGM (mitogenome, 1 multiplex of 161 amplicons averaging 167 bps, research product)**
- Verogen
 - ForenSeq mtDNA Control Region (2 multiplexes, 18 amplicons averaging 118 bps)
 - ForenSeq mtDNA Whole Genome (2 multiplexes, 245 amplicons averaging 131 bps)
- ThermoFisher
 - Precision ID mtDNA Control Region Panel (2 multiplexes)
 - Precision ID mtDNA Whole Genome Panel (2 multiplexes of 81 amplicons averaging 161 bps)



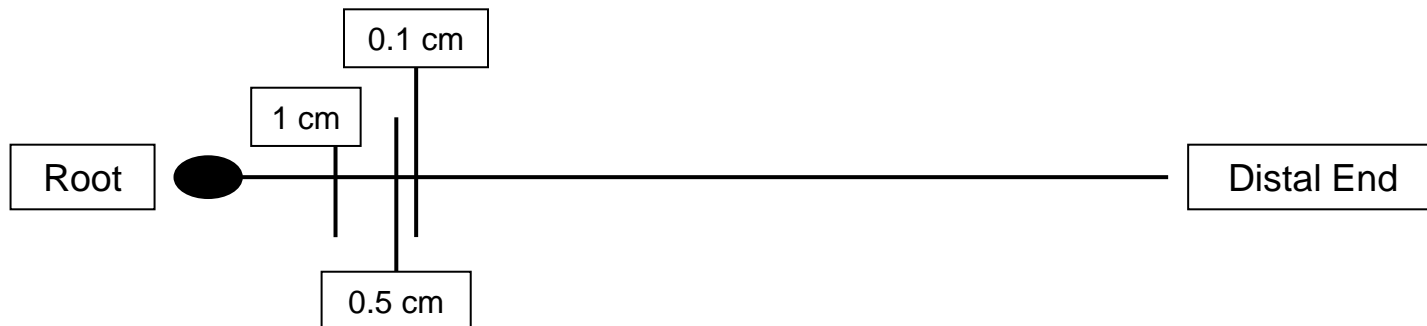
Hair Study



Millimeters (mm)
10 mm
0 1 2
Centimeters (cm)

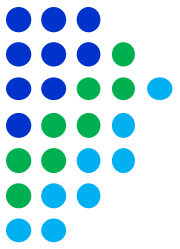


Tested 1 mm and 5 mm cuttings from 60 hair shafts (120 samples).
Approximately 1 cm of the root end was removed, followed by the 5 mm cutting, and finally the 1 mm cutting.





Hair Study



Head Hairs in Three Different Age Ranges:

Recent (**R**) = <5 years of age (13 hairs)

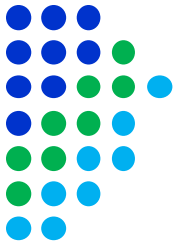
Old (**O**) = 5-27 years, avg of **13.6** (24 hairs)

Older (**VO**) = 41-46 years, avg of **43.4** (23 hairs)

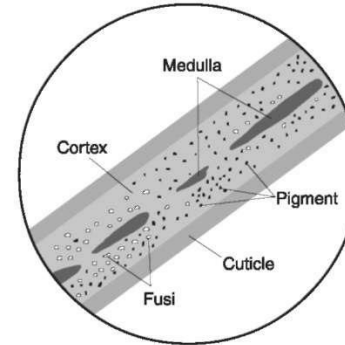




Microscopic Characterization



- Characterized on a Leica FS 4000 comparison microscope
- Medulla structure
- Diameter
- Other characteristics such as pigment, ovoid bodies, cortical fusi, cuticle structure, physical damage





Hair Extraction



LMB

1x Terg-a-zyme Wash

Qiagen ATL buffer

Proteinase K

DTT

Qiagen AL Buffer

Magnetic Beads

Isopropanol

PrepFiler Wash Buffer A

PrepFiler Wash Buffer B

PrepFiler Elution Buffer

LMB = Lyse
(dissolve) &
Magnetic **B**eads

40 uL extract

Custom mtqPCR assay to
assess both quantification
and degradation


Forensic Science International: Genetics 32 (2018) 7–17

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

 Forensic Science International: Genetics 

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/fsigen

Research Paper

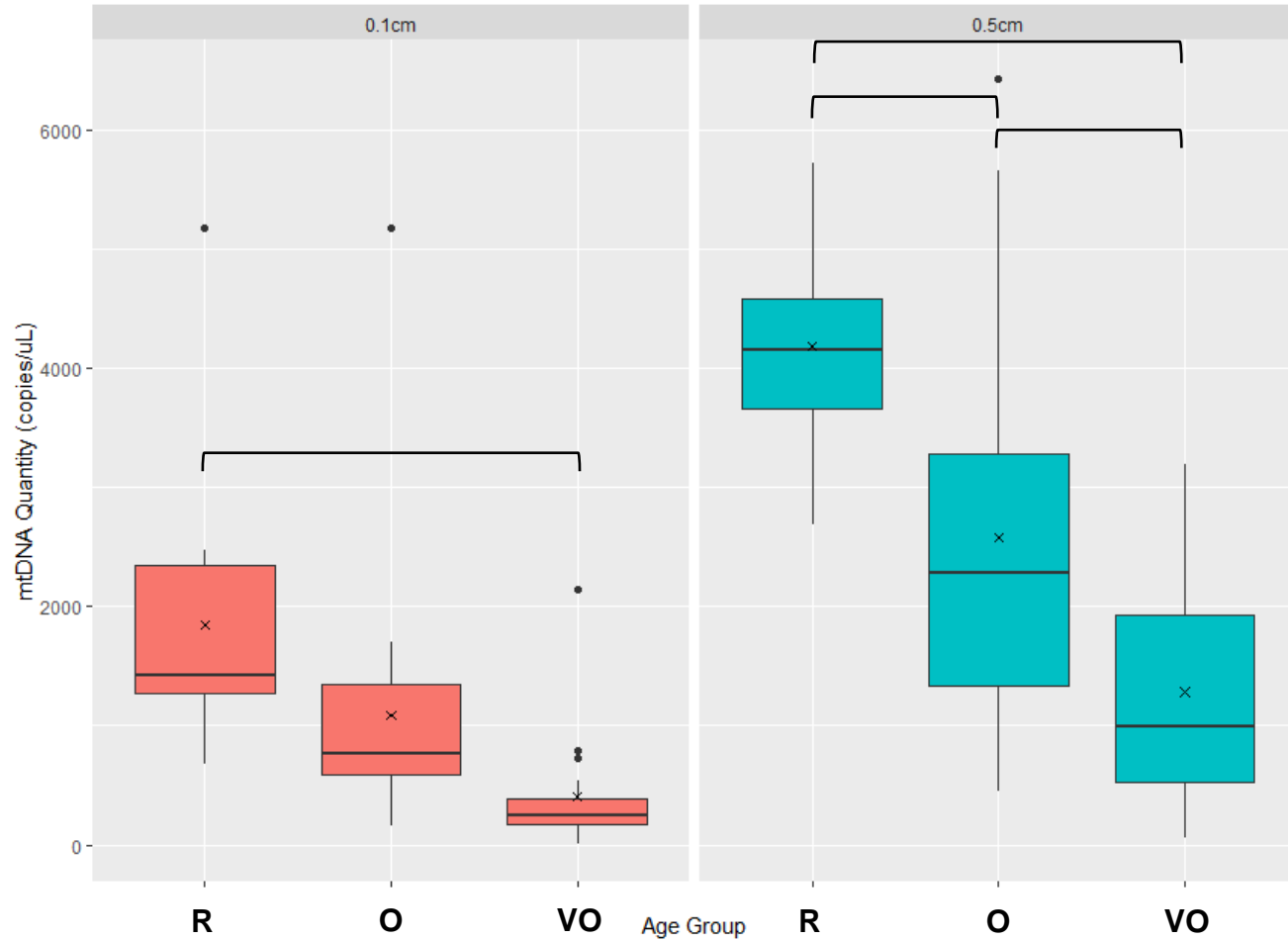
Assessing heteroplasmic variant drift in the mtDNA control region of human hairs using an MPS approach 

Jamie M. Gallimore, Jennifer A. McElhoe, Mitchell M. Holland*

Forensic Science Program, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The Pennsylvania State University, 014 Thomas Building, University Park, PA 16802, United States



mtDNA Yield v. Age of the Hair

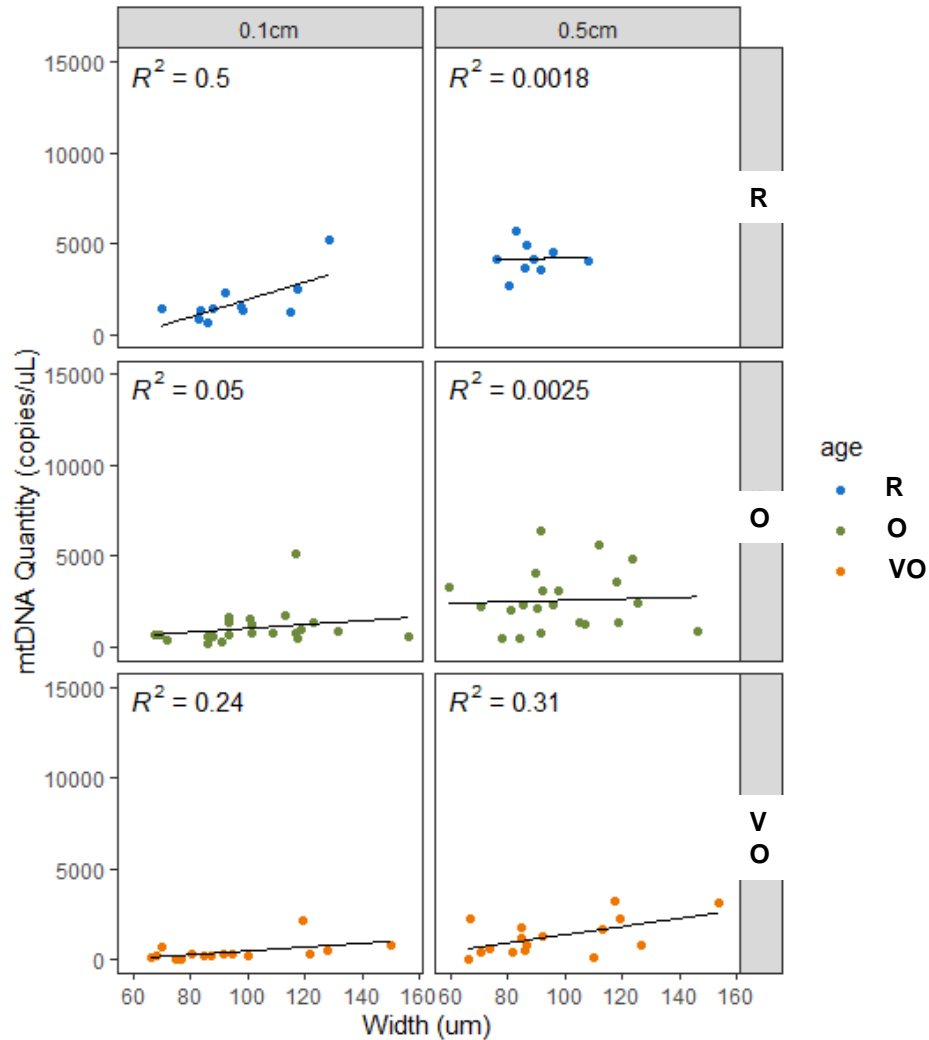


┌───┐ p-value < 0.05 (within)

— = median, * = mean



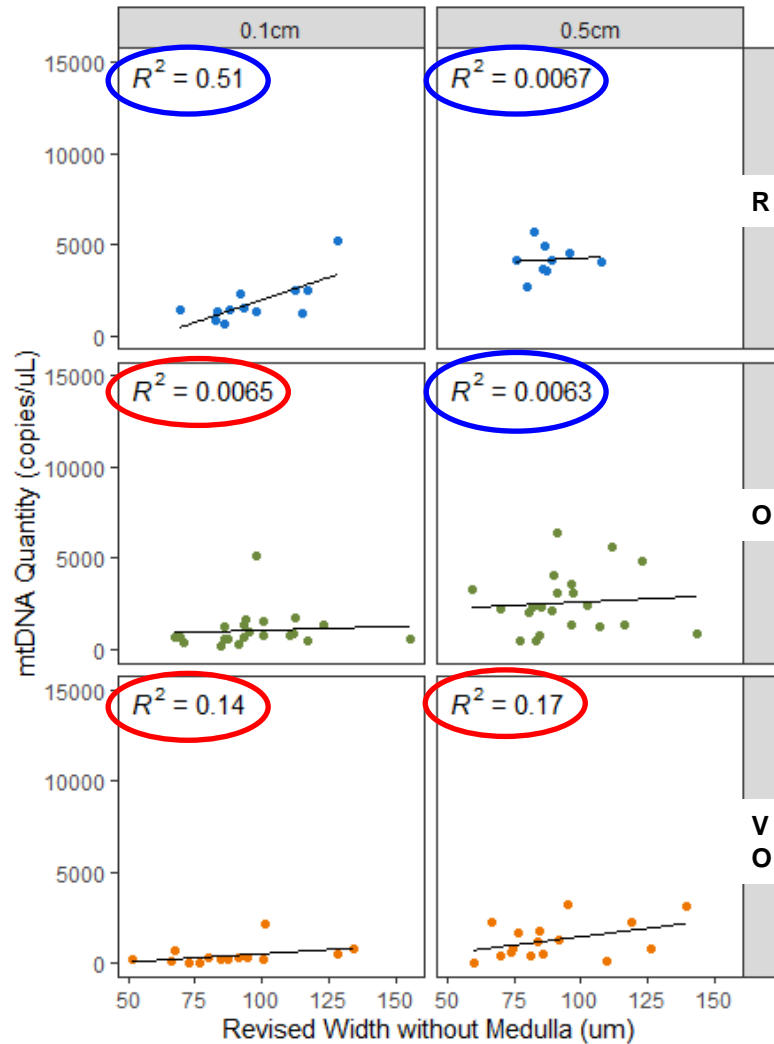
mtDNA Yield v. Width of Hair



R = <5 yo
 O = 13.6 yo
 VO = 43.4 yo



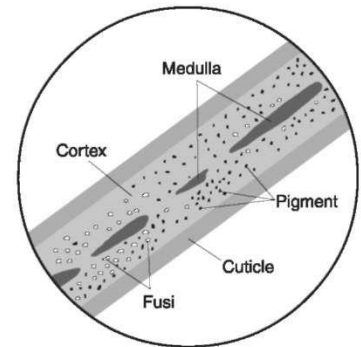
mtDNA Yield v. Width of Hair



 = Better

 = Worse

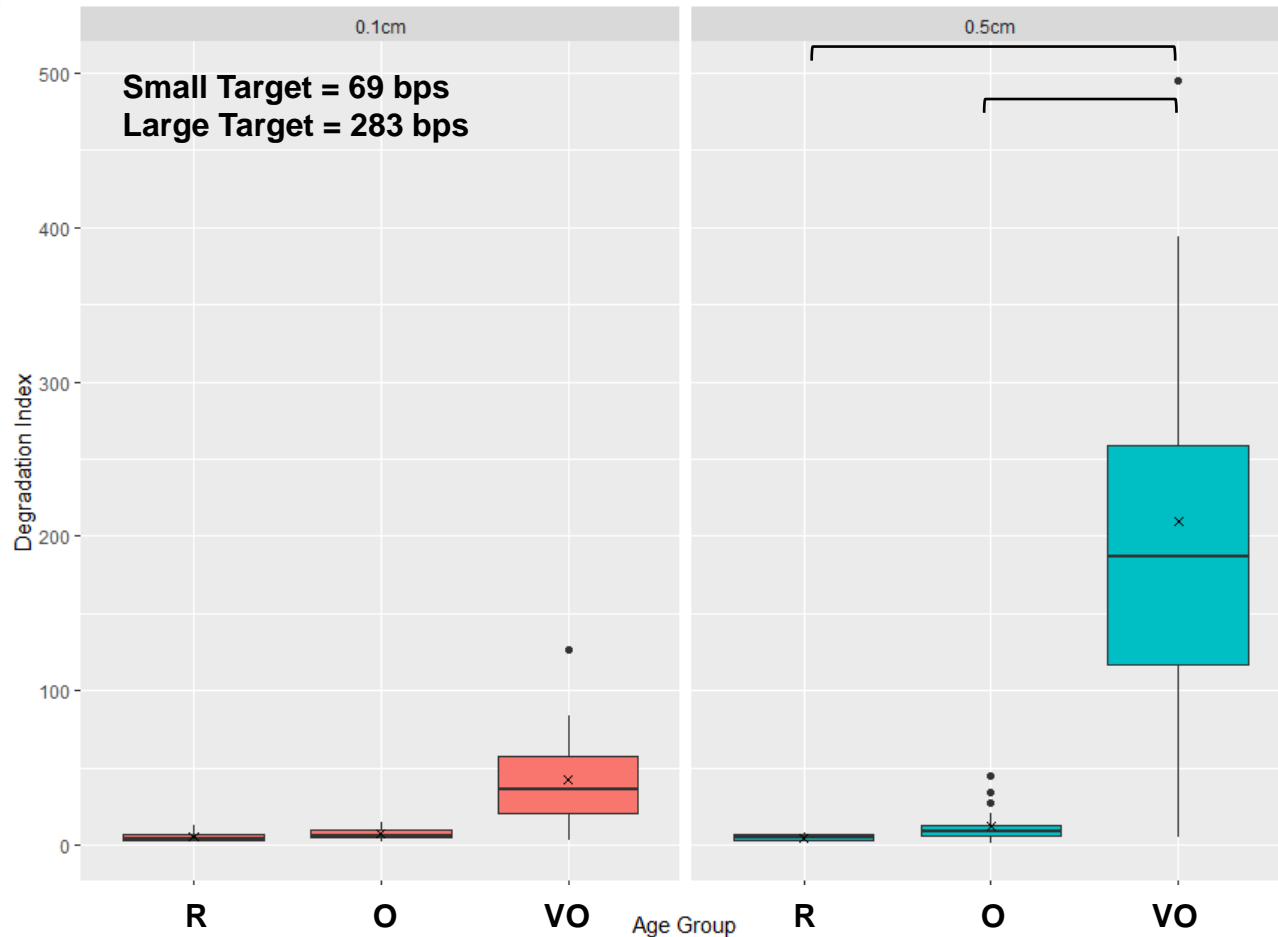
age
 ● R
 ● O
 ● VO



Width without a medulla



Degradation Index (DI) v. Age



┌───┐ p-value < 0.05 (within)

R = <5 yo
O = 13.6 yo
VO = 43.4 yo

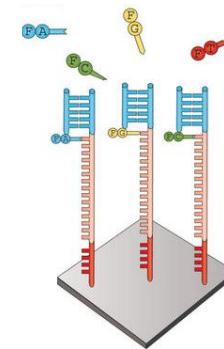
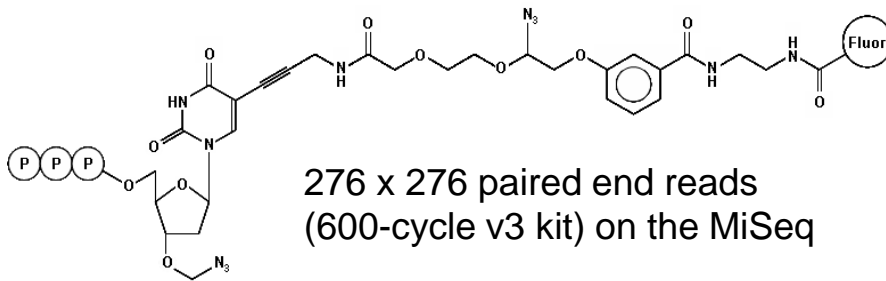


Reverse Terminator Sequencing

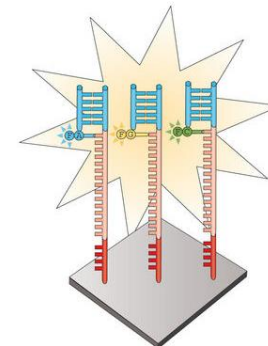


PowerSeq WGM (mitogenome,
1 multiplex of 161 amplicons
averaging 167 bps)

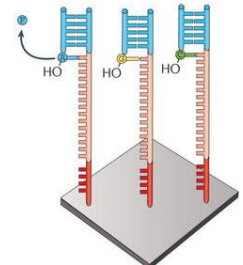
Sequencing on the **Illumina MiSeq**



Nucleotide addition
Fluorophore-labelled, terminally blocked nucleotides hybridize to complementary base. Each cluster on a slide can incorporate a different base.



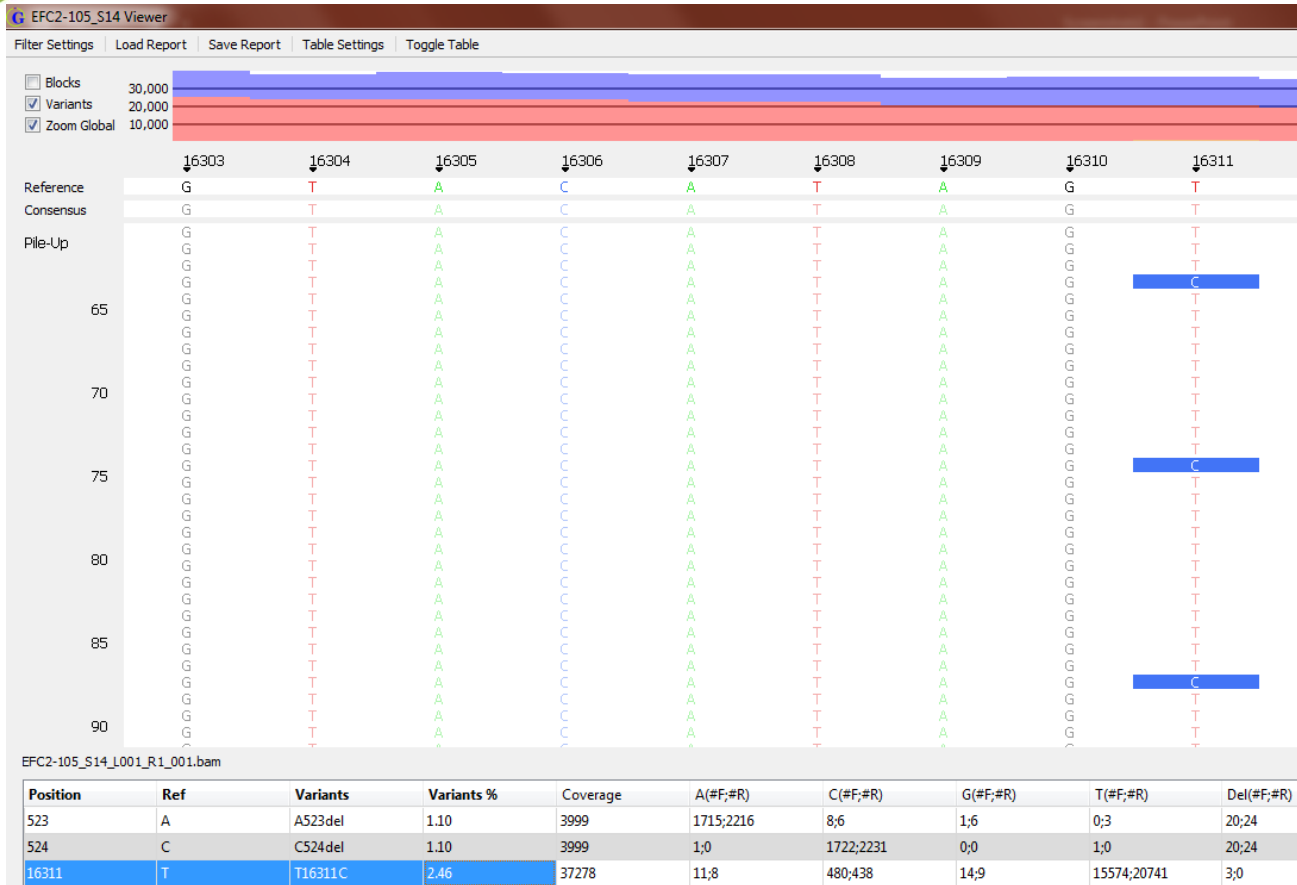
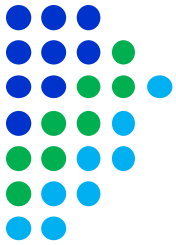
Imaging
Slides are imaged with either two or four laser channels. Each cluster emits a colour corresponding to the base incorporated during this cycle.



Cleavage
Fluorophores are cleaved and washed from flow cells and the 3'-OH group is regenerated. A new cycle begins with the addition of new nucleotides.

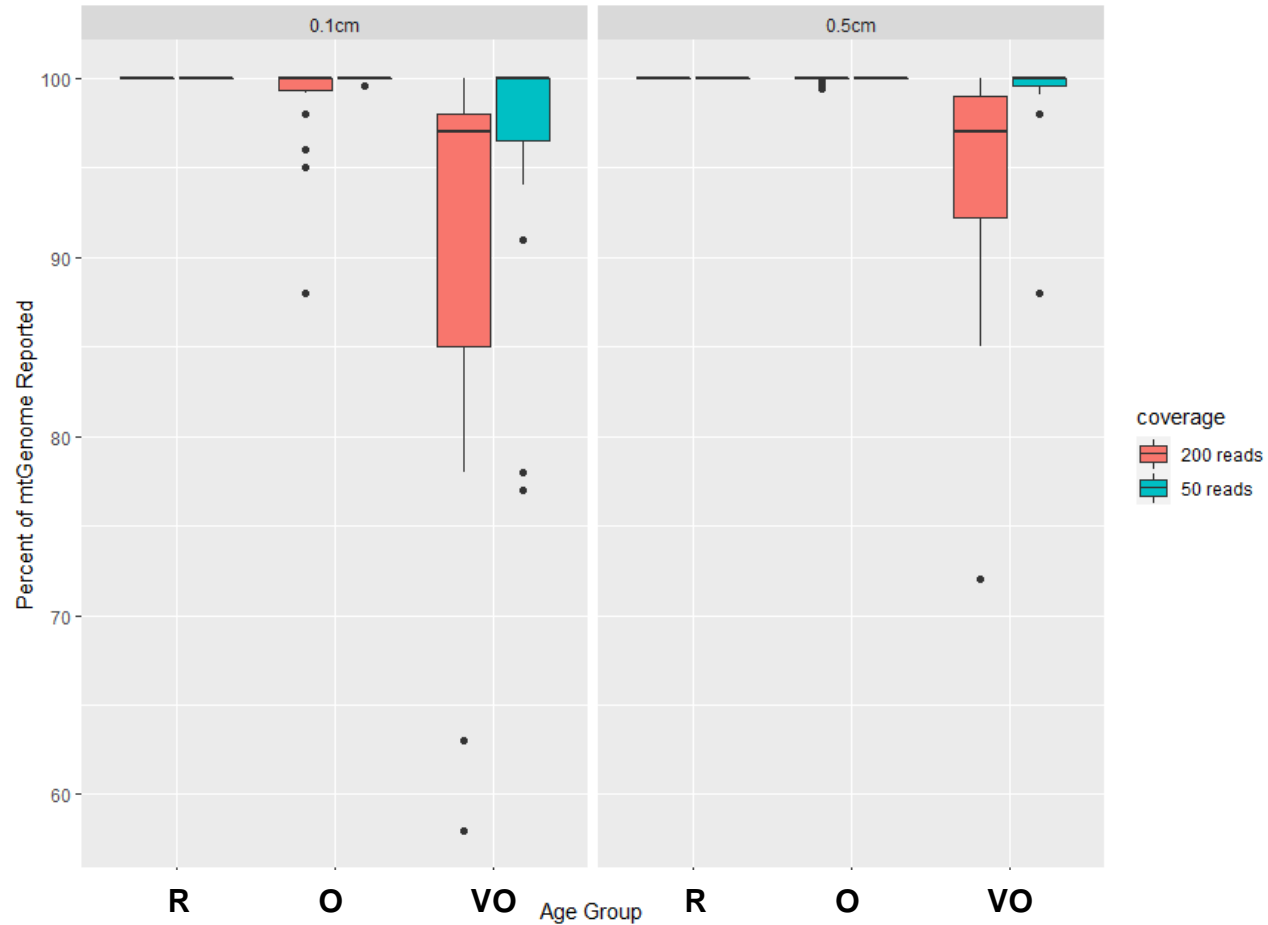


Data Analysis



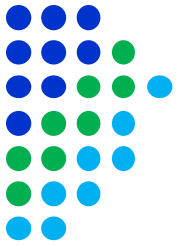


Percent of the mitoGenome Reported v. Age





If mitogenome sequencing is to be adopted by the forensic community, a database of haplotypes will be required to provide weight estimates for a match



The screenshot shows the EMPPOP website interface. At the top, there are logos for EMPPOP YEARS (mtDNA database, v4/R13), TMI, and ISFG. Navigation links include Home, Updates, Use, Methods, EMPPOP Stats, Contributors, Meet, Terms of Use, and Funding. A search bar and login/register options are also present.

The main content area features a circular diagram of the mitogenome with the following labels:

- HVS2 46,963
- CR 38,361
- HVS1 48,572
- MTgenome 4,289

Other labels on the diagram include 73, 16365, 16024, 340, and 576.

The text box on the right, titled "EMPOP Database", contains the following information:

In total, the EMPPOP Release 13 holds **48,572** quality-controlled mitotypes with at least HVS-I variation (16024-16365). Thereof,

- **46,963** cover HVS-I and HVS-II (16024-16365 73-340)
- **38,361** cover the Control Region (16024-576)
- **4,289** cover the entire mitogenome (ALL)

empop.online

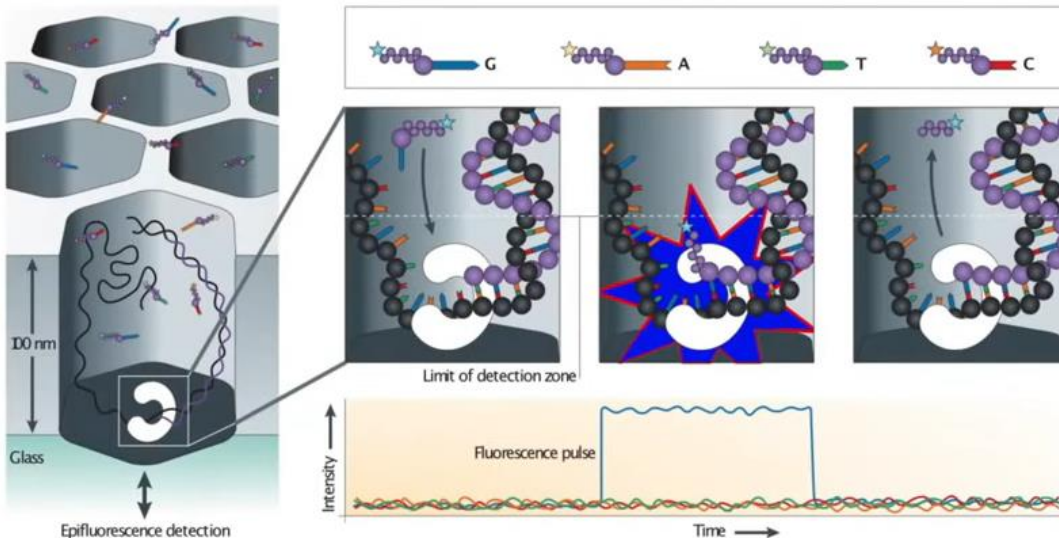
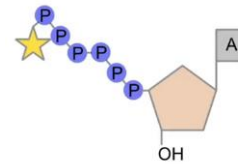
The 10,000 mitogenome project!



PacBio Sequel IIe HiFi Sequencing



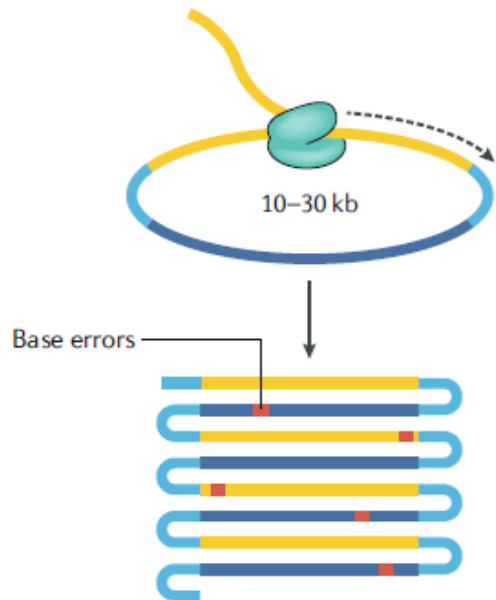
SMRTbell
Single Molecule Real Time



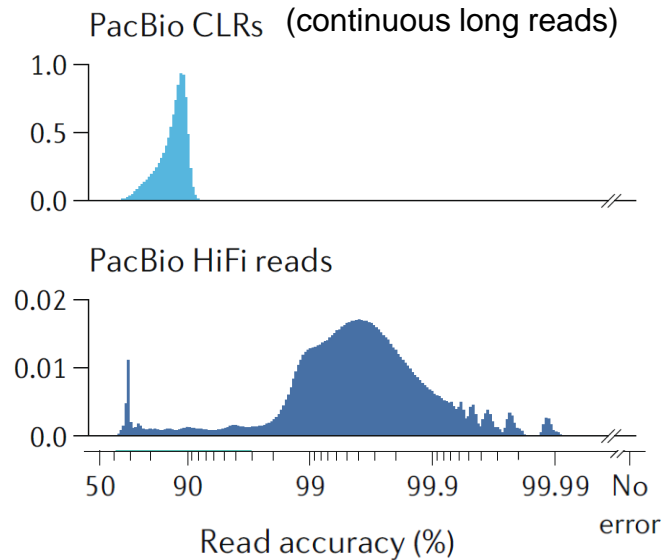
Reaction volume is ~20 zeptoliters (10^{-21} liters). During a single incorporation, the fluorescent dye is detected and released.



PacBio HiFi Accuracy



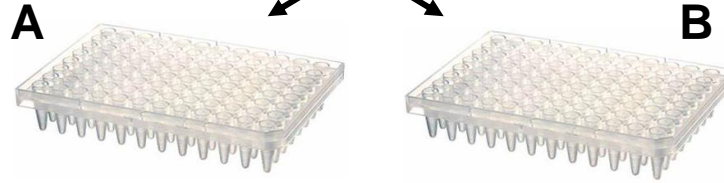
The polymerase sequences the template 8+ times ...



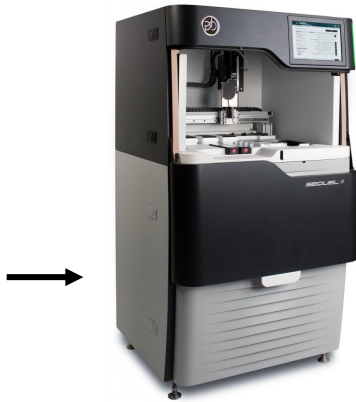
... significantly enhancing read accuracy; i.e., reducing error



Extract liquid blood samples: 22-23 at one time, with 1-2 reagent blanks per set of 24 total samples



Send to the core lab for SMRTbell prep & sequencing of 372 blood samples per run



At a cost of ~\$23 per sample

LR amplify 4 uL of extract. Two amps of ~8.5 kb each (A & B) to cover the mitogenome, with unique sets of indices (barcodes) for each amp. Amplify 93 extracts + 2 RBs + 1 Neg x two plates



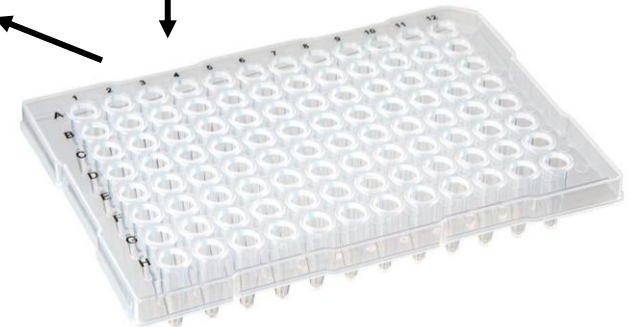
Combine the four runs, concentrate again in a 100k microcon to a final volume of ~150 uL

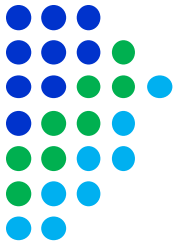
Repeat the process three times, for a total of 372 blood samples, 8 RBs, and 4 Neg controls

Concentrate the eluted products to a volume of ~150 uL with a 100k microcon filter



Combine A & B amps and normalize on a SequalPrep™ Normalization Plate





mmh20@psu.edu