

2019 Family History Conference Syllabus

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1-2 Introduction to DNA for Genealogy

Synopsis

Genetic genealogy has emerged as an important tool for genealogists and family historians. This session will get you started on how to use DNA for genealogical research. We will explore the types of DNA tests (autosomal, Y, X, and mitochondrial tests), admixture and ethnicity results, and testing companies.

Session Description

This introductory DNA class will discuss basic DNA types, concepts, and test companies.

Where to Start: What are DNA tests, and which one should you take? Which company should you test with? This session will compare the major DNA testing companies and explain the various types of tests.

Understanding the Basics: This session will explain Y, Mitochondrial, and Autosomal DNA. You will learn the elementary concepts and have the necessary groundwork to understand your test results.

What you get in your Results: This session will explore the results that are received after a DNA test is taken. These include your raw DNA data, your matches to other test-takers and your deep ancestry/ethnicity/admixture estimates.

4-2 Third-Party DNA Tools

Synopsis

Getting the most out of your DNA tests may require more than the tools provided by testing companies. There is an ever-expanding array of third-party tools that have been developed to help expand your understanding of your test results. This class will explore some of these new resources and describe how they can be used to further your research.

Session Description

This session will examine Third Party DNA Tools. These are additional tools that help analyze DNA results and supplement test company features. In recent months, more third-party tools have been introduced to augment current company tools. These are the innovative products developed by creative individuals that fill a technical or analytical void in company tools. Many offer additional capabilities, enhanced analysis methods, visual enrichment, and improved compilation systems to help understand your genetic results. These sites provide another layer of understanding to DNA analysis that augments interpretation of DNA results and matching relationships. Many of the old techniques, including triangulation, visual mapping and segment analysis spreadsheets, are now automated, saving time and effort. But to appreciate the output still requires an awareness of the principles behind them. We will survey the major Third-Party tools including **GEDmatch**, **DNA Painter**, **DNAGedcom**, **Genetic Affairs** and other developers. Third Party Tools are valuable resources that can lead to a richer understanding of DNA results and discovery of new relationships.