

HANDBOOK OF DNA FORENSIC APPLICATIONS AND INTERPRETATION. By Amit Kumar, G.K. Goswami and Edwin Huffine (2022). Published by Springer Verlag, Singapore; 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022 pp. 191. Price 12909/-.

The “Handbook of DNA Forensic Applications and Interpretation”, edited by Kumar, Goswami and Huffine is welcomed to the forensic field since it comes to fill some gaps, but also to reinforce, with a new point of view, established practices and protocols.

The authors are experienced forensic scientists and law experts and practitioners, and therefore the chapters in this book go straight to the point; the reader can easily learn how to proceed, what to do and what not to do, and can learn from the long-time experience of the authors in similar cases.

It is therefore an excellent tool to understand and to face daily casework and routine cases. But it is also a unique tool on how to face the most challenging and difficult situations. It covers the whole process of genetic biological analysis, from sample collection until DNA analysis (extraction, amplification, interpretation of results). It includes chapters focused on forensics bioinformatics, LIMS, RFID, all of them of the highest interest in modern and high-throughput laboratories.

Special interest has, in my personal opinion, the chapters dedicated to study how to report the results of the DNA analysis in different cases: paternity, sibling, sexual assaults, missing persons identifications, *etc.* There are also a remarkable number of pages devoted to databases, a topic of the highest interest. DNA databases in both the criminal and civil fields must be developed in the different countries, but the highest interest comes from the possibility to share data between different countries.

This book also includes a relevant number of historical and classical examples and cases where DNA was the main tool to solve the cases, including the case solved by Alec Jeffreys in 1986, that it's considered as the first case, where DNA showed its unique power to identify a person.

To conclude the author like to mention the complete review of the ethical and legal aspects related to DNA analysis, with special mention to the situation in India and in the rest of the world, including the use of DNA to exonerate previously sentenced people. These chapters are of the greatest importance to be able to pass new, necessary laws that could allow the use of DNA analysis and the creation of DNA databases according to each country legislation but considering that other countries can be used as a reference specially if we want to keep in mind that in the future it'll be necessary to share data among countries.

The author believes that to have this book is a “must” for forensic scientists, for geneticists, for lawyers, for students and for anyone interested in learning and understanding how this field works and moves forward looking for a better service to justice and to the whole society.

Congratulations to all the authors, special congratulations to the editors.

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