

# The Human Identity Trade Association



In 1992, representatives from private industry and private DNA testing laboratories organized the Human Identity Trade Association (HITA). The purpose of this association is to promote the general welfare of the human identity testing industry and to enhance contributions from this industry to the public welfare. To this end, HITA cooperates with federal, state and local agencies who have responsibilities in the area of human identity testing. The goals of HITA are to encourage public awareness, understanding, education and acceptance of the human identity testing industry's products and services, to develop and assist formulation of standards for human identity testing and to gather, as appropriate, statistics relating to the human identity testing industry.

The HITA board of directors is comprised of a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, a Treasurer and up to three other Directors. Past Presidents include Daniel Garner, Cellmark Diagnostics and Kristine Garvin, Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems Division.

One of HITA's first major accomplishments was to have the language contained in the Omnibus Crime Bill, passed in October 1994, modified to state that one member of the DNA Advisory Board be from the private sector. As a result, the original membership of the DNA Advisory Board included Marsha Eisenberg from LabCorp of America. A second effort was made to have a HITA representative at the biannual TWGDAM (Technical Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods) meeting held at the FBI Academy. The current HITA representative to TWGDAM is David Bing, CBR Laboratories.

An ongoing activity of HITA is to support, as well as sponsor, open forums and meetings on both scientific and business issues. For example, in 1994 HITA organized an open panel discussion to address licensing issues with regard to key patents on PCR, chemiluminescence, STRs and AMPFLPs. The members of the panel included representatives from Roche Molecular Systems, Lifecodes Corporation, Promega Corporation, the Public Crime Laboratories and the FBI. In September 1996, HITA co-sponsored a technical workshop on new developments in the area of DNA-based paternity testing as well as DNA proficiency testing.

In the area of education, HITA has participated in a wet workshop on DNA testing for judges organized by the Einstein Institute and supported in part by the Human Genome Project. HITA is also exploring ways to support the educational programs of the National Forensic Science Training Center.

HITA welcomes membership from companies which manufacture and sell products or provide services in the area of human identity testing. HITA also encourages those wishing to join as individual members. For information on membership dues or for general information on HITA, please contact Richard Rubin at the address given on this page.

HITA is dedicated to support and help meet the needs of all members of the human identity testing scientific community, when feasible and appropriate. The HITA board encourages anyone in this field to contact any board member or director with questions, suggestions and requests for support. The board meets on a regular basis to carry out the business of HITA. It is, however, willing to consider requests for action or support at any time. Furthermore, if the matter warrants immediate action, HITA will bring the

issue to its entire membership as well as other concerned members of the human identity testing scientific and business community. The names and addresses of the current board members follow:

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