

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

Quarterly report from Elizabeth O'Donoghue, the Society's Group Administrator

This last quarter, we have had a new member in the Glens and the Mór tribe and a new Hg I member, an upgrade in the Glens (thanks to a kind donation), the Breifne Group I tribe and an R1a1 member, and two new SNP results, both L21+.

Our new member from last quarter, Melvin Donahoo, was included in the 'Unidentified' cluster at that time, since his haplotype was most similar to theirs. We were awaiting his Deep Clade Test results, which have since come in. He is R1b1b2a1b5 / L21+, joining those in the Glens, Mór, Cavan and possible Ruis Airgit/Irish Type III tribes who are also L21+.

Till now, the only gentleman in the 'Unidentified' cluster who was Deep Clade tested was Hugh Donnachie. His subclade is R1b1b2a1b4, which clearly indicates that though the haplotypes seemed similar, in fact, they are separated by differing SNP's, which places them in different subclades of R1b1b2a1b (a dreadfully long designation, isn't it?!). Hence, I've separated Melvin Donahoo from the cluster of five which included Hugh Donnachie and placed Melvin with Thomas O'Donoghue, who has only a twelve marker test taken but matches Melvin exactly at those twelve markers.

This is an example of how 'convergence' can occur across Hg R1b, which is so huge as to have unrelated haplotypes appear on the surface to be connected more closely than they actually are.

I have relabelled the smaller unidentified clusters, since we now have five of them, and I've decided to include the Hg for everyone in Spreadsheet B as well as in Spreadsheet A, to make it more apparent in which subclade the growing number of SNP results belong.

Those of you in America may have heard of the efforts of the FDA (Federal Drug Administration) and the AMA (American Medical Association) to attempt to legislate DTC (Direct to Consumer) DNA testing. There was a recent uproar and press gotten about a set of lab results at 23 and Me getting mixed up and incorrect results being given to a number of people before it was brought to their attention that things didn't seem correct (a son apparently not related to his mother, for instance). This caught the legislators' notice and they are beginning to demand information and clarification about procedures and methods of several companies who offer DNA tests, include 23 and Me, who are mainly focused on medical conditions rather than genetic genealogy like Family Tree. Among various possibilities, they are suggesting that a medical doctor would be required to authorize any testing to be done and that a genetic counsellor be available to the customer when the results come in. This type of legislation would increase the costs for such testing dramatically and probably end the possibility of individuals having their DNA tested as they so wished for any type of reasonable cost.

This sort of legislation would more than likely eventually jeopardize the genetic genealogy community as well, since such things tend to spiral once in motion. If you have an opportunity to make your congressman aware of your opinion – if you have one – I would recommend you do so.

The summer sale from Family Tree for reduced prices for upgrades has been announced. Any participants who are eligible will have been informed directly from Family Tree. For those of you who are eligible, please consider taking this opportunity to upgrade, if not to 67, to at least increase the markers you have. Anyone at only twelve markers is not included in the TMRCA spreadsheets. Even increasing to 25 markers will enable you to join the rest of your cluster in the calculations.

I am working towards the possibility of having The O'Donoghue of the Glens tested through Family Tree's 'Walk the Y' program. This test covers an extensive section of the Y chromosome, mainly to identify any SNP's which may be unique to that person's haplotype. To date, no one from the South Irish haplotype (the Glens line) has been tested. With funds already donated and a commitment of more funds for the purpose, we have \$550 of the \$750 needed to have the test done. Any additional donations would be most appreciated if anyone has the means to help us.

The spreadsheets will be updated shortly.