

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

July 2014

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

For the past several months I've indicated that there was little happening in the Society Y-DNA Project. As I mentioned in an email to the whole project, I've been spending a great deal of energy with the R1b-CTS4466 Plus Project, which is producing some fascinating data for those who match the Irish Type II haplotype – The Glens tribe. Family Tree has been hard pressed to keep up with the plethora of information becoming available, with questions to their helpdesk being delayed; and the new Haplotree they have produced has a number of glitches/issues accompanying its launch in May. Participants' Haplotree & SNPs page has posed challenges to anyone trying to decipher the details they have there, and Family Tree's earlier recommendations for possible SNP testing was grossly inadequate if not just plain misleading in its suggestions for further testing. Fortunately that has been corrected somewhat.

Everyone also has a new haplogroup label now. The numbers and letters of earlier versions – eg R1b1a2a1a1b4, etc – were becoming too cumbersome with so many new SNPs and downstream subclades being discovered through the BIG Y (and to a degree Ireland's DNA Chromo 2.0 test) so they now display R-CTS4466, etc instead. The majority of new SNPs do not display on the Haplotree, so anyone wishing to test for them must use the orange Order an Upgrade icon at the top banner of their home page at Family Tree to order one of the new ones.

Perhaps I should have emailed the project earlier when the BIG Y and Family Finder sale began, since no one made the decision (perhaps time was just too short) to order a BIG Y. I had approached The Glens and his Tainiste requesting they order a BIG Y test to represent their tribe in the project, and they agreed, so there is a BIG Y test underway for The Glens. Though a few of you have ordered SNPs of one kind or another independently of discussing it with me, I highly recommend that no Glens participants order anything until The Glens results arrive. We should then have one or more SNPs that are specific to the O'Donoghues and make further testing an educated likelihood of being positive. While there are some participants in The Glens tribe who have already joined the R1b-CTS4466 Plus Project, seen at <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/R1b-CTS4466Plus/>, I encourage more of you to do so. It will help our research – the more data we have the better – and should be beneficial to any of you personally as well.

Now, to get back to the activity in the project over the last six months... In the past, Family Tree always automatically notified me when someone new joined the project and when STR results arrived. Since the project details are mainly housed on the Society website, I didn't often refer to the Family Tree website unless I was alerted that there was new information there. With the upheaval the BIG Y tests have caused Family Tree, this was a bad decision over these last months. Family Tree have not been consistent in updating the administrators of new members/data. As it turns out, over these recent months, we have had two new participants in the Glens group, three in the Cavan groups and one in Group II of the Other Clusters. In

addition, there are upgraded STR results in for a Glens participant (funded by the project) and one in the Unaffiliated R1b1a2 group.

Though I've personally apologized to those gentlemen for neglecting them, I do so here again. It's quite embarrassing to realize you've been derelict in your duty to the project. I will make every effort to keep current going forward. I will suggest that anyone who might be interested in participating in the administration of the project is most welcome to contact me. A bit of assistance would be most welcome.

Those of you who are in other haplogroups and subclades should not feel left out. There is a tremendous amount of research in progress for any and all haplogroups, and if any of you are interested in pursuing SNP testing to further identify your heritage and who else is closest to you in your genetic history, it's certainly worthwhile to investigate a bit more. Feel free to contact me and I can advise you and/or guide you to other haplogroup projects that would be happy to have you join them and assist in their research.

I haven't updated the spreadsheets on the Society website for a bit now (with the little activity I thought there was...) but I hope to do so quite soon. I upgraded my Microsoft package to a more recent version of Excel, which provides a greater selection of colours to use to highlight the cells of the spreadsheet, so I am nearly finished with reorganizing the worksheets. When they are released, if any of you have difficulty accessing them or the display looks odd, let me know. It's hard to know how a computer with older software may react to the newer version of a document.

I again reiterate that all participants should keep the email address on their personal pages updated so they will receive any messages I need to send, either individually or the whole group through the bulk email facility at Family Tree. There are fewer emails being bounced back than there used to be, for which I am grateful. Completing the Beneficiary Information under My Account is another item that should not be forgotten. If we fall under a bus (Rod's charming way of expressing the inevitable for us all), then someone who can continue the process has access to your files. Otherwise, Family Tree just lets them go into limbo and they will no longer give the group administrators access, even if they are aware that the person has passed. Privacy issues no doubt are the reason for this, though I think it goes a bit too far. A similar situation is present with Joe Donohoe's Breifne Clans project since his passing. I just wouldn't have the time to administer it myself on my own, though I've offered to be a co-administrator. But the designated person to replace Joe has not yet come on board, so I have no access, and anyone attempting to contact the project only has Joe's inactive email address to use, so they receive no reply. If anyone would be interested in getting involved in that project, do let me know and we'll see what we might do.

Rod will let you all know when the spreadsheets are updated on the Society website. Thanks for your patience.

Enjoy the summer. We are having a heat wave in Ireland!