

THE Y-DNA PROJECT

July 2019

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

I'm delighted to report that we have passed the 300 mark for number of participants by now. It's great to see the project continue to expand.

Earlier this year, Family Tree upgraded their Big Y test to cover more of the Y-chromosome and provide more information, both of SNPs and STRs. It is now called the Big Y-700, meaning that 700 STRs are being identified, rather than 500, along with an increased number of SNPs. As well, the results are overall more consistent – in the past, not all markers had a clear result, and not every test provided reliable data for each of the participants, sometimes making it difficult to compare apples and apples.

Family Tree offered introductory prices that were hard to refuse...and a number of our participants availed of an upgrade from the Big Y-500 to the Big Y-700, in addition to some ordering a Big Y for the first time. We are just beginning to see the results from those early orders. For those who already share a terminal SNP, meaning they are on the same branch of the haplotree, we hope to see a further demarcation, giving us a clearer idea of how closely they are related. For new orders, the participant will be placed with more specification within his branch of the tree.

Further branches have been identified in some groups. For instance, kits 162289 and 179164 share the SNP BY206958, which is parallel to The Glens chiefly line A914. There are fourteen more Big Y-700 results yet to come in. We should have more news by the next report.

If any of you have received your results and I haven't yet been in touch, please feel free to contact me and ask any questions you may have. If you haven't already, you should certainly join the appropriate haplogroup project, who may have more expertise than I have for your particular group. Just let me know if you are not sure what to do.

I'm still hoping for some help with the project. You don't need to be a scientist! I certainly wasn't when I began helping out.

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