THE Y-DNA PROJECT

January 2018

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

In my July 2017 report, I asked for more active input and assistance within the project to maintain the appropriate level of interaction with the members and expansion of its goals. I am sorry to say that no one with the necessary wherewithal and interest to do so answered my call, and I am still left to manage the project alone. Practically speaking, this cannot continue indefinitely. With other commitments, I cannot manage as actively as I once did.
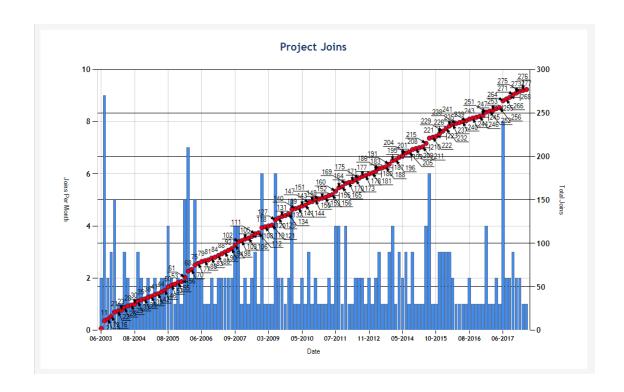
I repeat what I said in July - that The O'Donoghue Society and our Y-DNA Project participants deserve an active management team to process the data from the test results and keep the project pages, both at the Family Tree website and the Society website, up to date.

Some of the various responsibilities are contacting new participants to welcome them and obtain their family history, checking for new results coming in and amending the spreadsheet when necessary, updating the information pages at times, compiling the periodic reports and such. Perhaps someone might assume responsibility for the genetic group to which they belong and have the most interest.

None of these items are rocket science, and it would be very helpful to me if I had a hand or two to share the responsibility. Eventually, the time will come when I will no longer be in a position to head the project, and without other co-administrators in place, the project could flounder. As I said before, we really do need your help! I hope that some of you will consider joining me at some level of participation. You can email me directly at elizabethod@eircom.net or contact Rod at rod@odonoghue.co.uk if you have any questions or ideas.

There are some folks who have only tested Family Finder. We're happy to include them in the project, but since my focus has always been the Y-DNA, I have limited expertise in that type of testing. As I mentioned in the last report, if someone in the group who has tested autosomal DNA would be interested in joining me as an admin and getting involved with those in the project who have tested aDNA and helping them explore those relationships, that would be a wonderful addition to the project.

Onto other things, I thought you might all be interested in seeing this chart from Family Tree shows how many project joins we've had since the beginning of the project. Over the last six months, there hasn't been a great deal of new activity, mainly Family Finder/autosomal DNA. But, overall, it has been a steady increase since June of 2003. We've been at work a long time now!

Project Joins

Family Tree has updated their reporting of the raw data for the BIG Ys, and all the 14 BIG Ys in the project have been re-run. I don't foresee that the new format will affect the results in any significant way, but for anyone who received their results after June 2015, it would be worthwhile to resubmit their VCF folder for review of the raw data since Family Tree changed their reporting format back then and results after that date may not contain quite as much information. On the Group Administrator Pages (GAP) it's difficult to tell when the results originally came in since they now show the current re-run date, so can I leave it to all of you who tested the BIG Y to check yourselves?

I managed any of those who are CTS4466+ through the R1b-CTS4466 Plus project, and I believe that any of you in that haplogroup already presented your data the original way. But, some of you are in different haplogroups, and I presume you are in the appropriate haplogroup project, where the admins there would have helped you similarly.

If you did not submit your raw data for review previously or are not sure about what you might need to do, please contact me directly and I'll help get you sorted.

In addition, there have been 16 SNP Packs tested that have helped place those individuals into the appropriate known group within their haplogroup.

I will add that there are relatively few participants who have added the map coordinates of where their family originated. While I realize that some folks don't know, for those who do, it would be great if you could add that data to your personal pages. To do so, click on the orange

'Manage Personal Information' link on the left of your home page, go to your 'Personal Profile' tab, then click 'Edit Earliest Known Ancestors', and click the orange 'Update Location' button.

Also, I recommend all of you check the first tab that comes up when you click the 'Manage Personal Information' link - the 'Account Settings' tab, to see which choice is ticked for 'What info can we show to non-matches?' Family Tree sets the default as 'Private', which hides any of your details in the public project pages. Since most of you are interested in finding matches, keeping your data completely private prevents that from happening. Your results won't display on the public Results spreadsheet for researchers to review, and any matches will only see your surname and not be able to contact you. Family Tree recommends the 'Basic profile', but I am of the opinion that the 'Full profile' provides the most details for you – the same of which applies to your matches if they are not in our project.

I hope 2018 will be another great year – and I'll have some help!

*The usual reminder - if anyone sees mistakes or omissions in any of the text we have about the project or on the Family Tree website, please let me know. Suggestions are always welcome.