

### Why don't I get any information back?

Federal regulations in the United States require that research studies involving human subjects must be anonymous and protect the privacy of those that are taking part in it. For this reason, each sample is coded and no personal identifiers of individuals born within the last 100 years are used in building the database. Personal genetic or genealogical information submitted to the MGRP database that might jeopardize the privacy of the participants in the study will not be shared with others, including the participants.

Biological samples submitted to the MGRP database will not be used to answer individual genealogical questions. General findings from this work will be published on a regular basis in scientific journals without disclosing the identity of the participants. Through these findings, new applications for those interested in using genetics in their genealogical research will become available in the years to come.

### Why should I participate in this study, if I will not receive any information back?

1. Desire to help others with their genealogical research;
2. Satisfaction of knowing that you are part of a worldwide project;
3. Preservation of your genetic information for posterity.

Additional information and updates on the research progress are available on the project Web site at [www.smgf.org](http://www.smgf.org).



## The Molecular Genealogy Research Project

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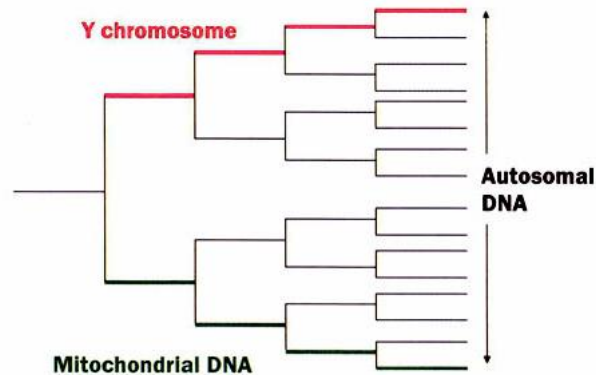


## The Molecular Genealogy Research Project

The Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation has been developing a new genealogical database. This study is known as the Molecular Genealogy Research Project (MGRP).

Molecular genealogy links individuals together in "family trees" based on the unique identification of genetic markers. This is accomplished by using the information encoded in the DNA of an individual and/or population to determine the relatedness of individuals, families, tribal groups, and populations. Pedigrees based on genetic markers can reveal relationships not detectable in genealogies based only on names, written records, or oral traditions. A genetic identification is unique and can even discriminate between closely related individuals. The fact that DNA is inherited and that each individual's genotype is the product of his/her progenitors means that DNA can be used not only to create unique identifications, but also to identify members of the same family, the same clan or tribal group, or the same population.

At this time, the use of genetics in the genealogical field is primarily limited to tests involving the Y chromosome (which follows the paternal line) and the mitochondrial DNA (which follows the maternal line). The use of these two genetic tests can detect the presence of a common male or female ancestor between any two



individuals that have reason to believe they belong to the same paternal or maternal line (the two outermost lines found on a pedigree chart). These two methods of testing alone are not sufficient to answer more complex genealogical questions concerning additional family lines.

The majority of people living in the United States today descend from immigrants of foreign countries. About eighty percent of these immigrants originated from the British Isles, Scandinavia and Germany. Genealogical investigation has shown that through the process of immigration, or because of adoptions, illegitimacies, or other causes, genealogical records have often been changed, lost, destroyed, or never kept in the first place. As a result, many individuals cannot find a country of origin for one or more of their ancestors. What can be done to restore the link to their rightful heritage?

The first objective of the MGRP is to create a database of correlated genetic and genealogical information representative of worldwide populations. To accomplish this goal, the MGRP will collect hundreds of thousands of samples from all over the world. It is the goal of the database to continue to grow until every population of the earth will be properly represented, both genealogically and genetically. Tens of thousand of people have already volunteered to participate in the MGRP by donating a

DNA sample and a biological pedigree chart with four or more generations. These samples have been collected in many parts of the world including North and South America, Europe, Africa, Oceania and the Middle East. Many findings and the related applications to genealogical research are expected from the study on a regular basis for years to come. Participants in the first stage of the project will not receive any information back because of confidentiality issues.

### Who can participate in the MGRP?

Participation in the MGRP database is free and voluntary. To be eligible to participate you must:

1. Be 18 or older
2. Read and sign a consent form (a copy of the consent form is available on the project Web site at [www.smgf.org](http://www.smgf.org)).
3. Provide a complete biological pedigree chart with names, places and dates of birth with four or more generations. It can be submitted on paper or on a diskette as a GEDCOM file.
4. Donate a biological sample for the DNA analysis.

A list of options on how to become a participant in this study is available on the project Web site.

Individuals that cannot provide at least four complete biological generations are advised not to participate in the collection stage of the study. DNA samples and pedigree charts are collected for the construction of the database and not to answer individual genealogical situations.

