

Special Issue

Advances and Challenges in Forensic Genetics

Message from the Guest Editors

Forensic genetics is one of the most important areas of forensics. It is based on DNA analysis, which allows for the unique identification of individuals, except for identical twins, who share the same genetic profile. The most commonly used method is the analysis of short tandem repeats (STRs), which is considered the gold-standard approach to DNA profiling. In recent years, new methodologies and laboratory techniques have greatly improved DNA analysis, making it more efficient, more accurate, and faster. Advances such as massive parallel sequencing (MPS), rapid DNA analysis, artificial intelligence, and 3D genomics, while offering many benefits, also add challenges to forensic geneticists' routine casework, requiring them to constantly learn new skills and adapt to employing novel techniques. Our main aim for this Special Issue is to provide in-depth knowledge on the advances and challenges in forensic genetics, focusing on laboratory advances and the emerging field of forensic epigenetics. We hope that this Special Issue will encourage further research in this evolving field.

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Genes is central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fast-moving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised. Why not consider *Genes* for your next genetics paper?

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