

*FSI: Genetics* is specifically devoted to Forensic Genetics. This branch of Forensic Science can be defined as the application of Genetics (in the sense of a science with the purpose of studying inherited characteristics for the analysis of inter- and intraspecific variations in populations) for the resolution of legal conflicts. This includes paternity testing, criminal casework, and identification of human remains. Although protein and enzyme polymorphisms were firstly used to fulfill the aims of the field they have been substituted nowadays by DNA polymorphisms analyzed by a variety of molecular biological typing technologies. The amount of work in this field has increased enormously with no signs of slowing down with many new applications such as the application to non-human DNA material (crime scene, illegal trade in endangered species evidences, and bioterrorism) and the building and appropriate management of DNA databases.

The scope of the journal includes:

- Forensic applications of human polymorphism: testing of paternity and other family relationships, immigration cases, typing of biological stains and tissues from criminal casework, identification of human remains by DNA testing methodologies.
- Description of human polymorphisms of forensic interest, with special interest in DNA polymorphisms. This includes autosomal DNA polymorphisms, mini- and microsatellites (or short tandem repeats, STRs), single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), X and Y chromosome polymorphisms, mtDNA polymorphisms, and any other type of DNA variation with potential forensic applications.
- DNA typing methodologies and strategies.
- Population genetics of human polymorphisms of forensic interest. Population data, specially from DNA polymorphisms of interest for the solution of forensic problems.
- Biostatistical methods in forensic genetics: Including the evaluation of DNA evidence in forensic problems (such as paternity or immigration cases, criminal casework, identification), classical and new statistical approaches.
- Standards in Forensic Genetics. Recommendations of regulatory bodies concerning methods, markers, interpretation or strategies or proposals for procedural or technical standards.
- Quality control: Quality control and quality assurance strategies, proficiency testing for DNA typing methodologies.
- Non-human DNA polymorphisms for crime scene investigation, illegal trade in endangered species evidences, and bioterrorism
- Criminal DNA databases: technical, legal and statistical issues
- General ethical and legal issues related to forensic genetics

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