

# Information Pack

## New Image, New Services, New Name



This pack covers in detail some new and exciting changes to the DNA Clinic services

### The Laboratory

Sequence Biotechnologies Ltd has won no less than FOUR major awards this year so far

### The DNA Clinics

The DNA Clinics are run as the clinical/counselling support division of the laboratories. It has come to our attention, that some internet sites are using the term in the hope of feeding from all the positive press that has been generated about our network of clinics. Unfortunately, they do not have clinics or counselling and this can only serve to cheapen the idea of what a DNA Clinic stands for.

### New Services

Newly emerging technology and our increased capacity means that we are now able to carry out other forms of DNA tests.

### Court Admissible DNA Tests

Company Director Nichola Lawton has for some time been conferring with the Department of Constitutional Affairs and the Department of Health (DH), to obtain permission to use the DNA Clinics for court admissible tests. The main issue was that to date, only registered GPs and Nurses were allowed to legally identify the individuals involved in the DNA testing process. This would usually involve a five minute consultation with no support or counselling in place. Nichola has succeeded in demonstrating to the Department of Constitutional Affairs and the Department of Health, that our DNA Clinics are just as well equipped (if not better) to deal with these clients and that they actually have a much better understanding of the whole procedure.

Each test participant will need to bring two passport photos and two forms of identification to the clinic session. The case manager will identify the person in the photo as having a true likeness to the person they take the swab from. Identification will be photocopied and attached to that persons form. The kit will be sealed with tamper proof tape (supplied) and the sampler will sign their signature across the tape. The kit will be sent via recorded delivery.

### Prenatal DNA Tests

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006, the laboratories will begin offering prenatal DNA tests.

These tests are both rare and expensive. To date we have refrained from offering these tests due to the invasive procedures needed to obtain prenatal DNA samples from the unborn child i.e. Amniocentesis or Chorionic Villi Sampling. However, internet companies make these tests readily available and clients determined to go ahead with prenatal tests are very much in need of the type of support offered by the DNA Clinic service.

Prenatal tests will be coordinated through the laboratories. Anyone enquiring about this form of test should be immediately referred to your clinic scientific advisor. The scientific advisor will always recommend that they wait until the child is born to carry out the test and will explain the procedures and risks to them.

Role of DNA Clinic – If clients are determined to go ahead with a prenatal DNA test, then the unborn child's DNA sample will be obtained at a private medical centre. However, it will be recommended to the parents/other test participants that they attend a DNA Clinic for their mouth swabs to be taken.

### Separate Clinic Sessions

In some sensitive cases it becomes necessary to conduct separate clinic session for participants of tests and there are also rare occasions when members of the family live quite a distance apart and wish to visit different clinics. As a result of this there is an additional charge of £50 for the time booked

When all clients are visiting the same DNA Clinic. This charge can be added to the overall test fee or it can be paid separately at the additional appointment.

### Missed Clinic Appointments

As with any appointment based service, 'no shows' are rare but inevitable. A deposits to secure appointments may be required and if the client does not attend, they will still be billed for the time booked – £50

### Results and Result Packages

**ALL** test participants over the age of 16 will be entitled to a result letter if they wish to receive one. This will be included in the price of the test.

**However**, these reports will not include the technical data (spikes). This is because generating this data is the most time consuming and expensive part

of the result package. Instead, the clients will all receive a covering letter and the DNA test report that contains the result, allelic table and statistical probability reading.

(For comparison – the results issued by all our internet competitors contain a single letter with the conclusion printed. They do not issue the allelic table as standard and certainly do not offer technical data). We will be the only company to provide more than one result letter as standard.

The covering letter sent to the client with their results will state that full technical data (allelic spikes) can be ordered directly from the laboratory. This will incur a fee of £20 but will show all the spikes at all locations for each person

Therefore to summarise, the cost of any test now includes as many result packages as necessary but the technical data will not be produced as standard.

### **Telephone Results**

DNA test results will no longer be offered via telephone as standard as everyone involved in a case will receive a result package and it is felt that this is not the way that sensitive results should be given – if it is avoidable. If you receiving the result in this manner (due to a time restriction etc) then your clinic manager can enter this onto the test booking form in the comments section. Please state whether you would like the clinics scientific advisor to contact the client or whether you would like to receive the feedback from your clinic manager

Exception – Telephone results will still be issued by the clinic scientific advisor for express cases if this is what the client wants.

### **Emailed Results**

Clients can opt to have their result package emailed to them. This is quicker than waiting for the post. Please ensure you provide the correct e-mail address.

### **Confidentiality**

Only the individuals directly involved in a test are entitled to test results. If the laboratory, scientific advisor or DNA Clinic is contacted by anyone else e.g. the alleged fathers mother, details of the test CANNOT be discussed with them and it should not even be acknowledged that there is a case being undertaken in the names provided.

Exception: If the clients themselves would like a third party involved, then they must sign a consent form to this effect.