

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACCELERATED TRAINING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN AUTOMATED, HIGH-THROUGHPUT, SINGLE-SOURCE DNA SAMPLE PROCESSING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

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International demand for expanded DNA databases and more efficient sample processing has rapidly increased in recent years. Fortunately, emerging technologies such as direct amplification and automated instrumentation have enabled more laboratories to handle high-throughput single-source DNA sample processing.

Foreseeing the need for a training program capable of integrating these emerging technologies and enabling laboratories to expand their own facilities, the Center for Human Identification at the University of North Texas Health Science Center has partnered with and received a generous grant from Life Technologies to establish the Life Technologies Center for Forensic Excellence. The Center will offer an eight-credit, four-week accelerated certificate program to train forensic professionals from laboratories across the world in a hands-on, fully automated, operational laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment. The program will consist of a high level curriculum incorporating comprehensive forensic genetics lectures, the latest QA/QC procedures, fundamentals of ISO accreditation and laboratory training sessions focused on automated instrumentation and validated workflow.

Upon successful completion of the program, trainees will be knowledgeable in the function and operation of multiple automated instruments; capable of integrating the designed workflow into their laboratories; and able to provide technical support and training to other laboratory personnel.