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Introduction and Issue Summary

Volume 18 of *Forensic Science International: Genetics* is a special issue of the journal covering new trends in forensic genetics. The authors of each of the 13 articles contained herein were invited in June 2014 to provide a review of where the field has come from in a specific area and if comfortable to provide a perspective on where their area is likely going. While predicting the future is never foolproof, knowing where we came from and what challenges lie before us should help us move the field of forensic genetics forward more effectively. The invited authors provide perspectives from top forensic research laboratories around the world and come from Austria, Australia, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Collectively these review articles cite more than 1500 sources providing access to a wealth of information beyond what is contained in the 165 pages of this issue.

Since the formation of our journal in 2007, we have published by my count 14 individual review articles [1-14] in 43 issues prior to this one. Thus, with this special issue we effectively double the number of review articles available in *Forensic Science International: Genetics*. Several previous special issues (**Table 1**) have contained manuscripts mostly based on presentations made at DNA in Forensics conferences, which are held biannually in alternate years from the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG) meetings.

This special issue represents the first time we have attempted to gather invited reviews covering a variety of topics relevant to forensic genetics. We hope that these articles will be of benefit to the forensic genetics community and provide a launching pad for even greater work in the future. The articles in this issue are briefly summarized below by topic in the order that they appear in print.

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