(11) Application No. AU 2011229918 B2 (12) STANDARD PATENT (19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (54)Title Methods for conducting genetic analysis using protein polymorphisms (51) International Patent Classification(s) C12Q 1/68 (2006.01) Application No: (21) 2011229918 (22)Date of Filing: 2011.03.24 (87) WIPO No: **WO11/119235** (30)**Priority Data** (31) Number (32) Date (33)Country 61/340,918 2010.03.24 US 13/071,249 2011.03.24 US (43)Publication Date: 2011.09.29 Accepted Journal Date: 2015.02.05 (44)Applicant(s) (71) **Parker Proteomics, LLC** (72)Inventor(s) Parker, Glendon John

Davies Collison Cave, Level 14 255 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000

(74)

(56)

Agent / Attorney

WO 2000/063683

Related Art

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date





(10) International Publication Number WO 2011/119235 A1

29 September 2011 (29.09.2011)

- (51) International Patent Classification: C12Q 1/68 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2011/000550

(22) International Filing Date:

24 March 2011 (24.03.2011)

(25) Filing Language:

(26) Publication Language:

English English

(30) Priority Data: 61/340,918

24 March 2010 (24.03.2010) US 24 March 2011 (24.03.2011) US

- 13/071,249 (72) Inventor; and
- Applicant: PARKER, Glendon, John [US/US]; 1033 East 2nd Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103 (US).
- (74) Agents: CROCKETT, Bretton, L. et al.; Morris O'Bryant Compagni, P.C., 734 East 200 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84102 (US).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ,

CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))
- with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))

(54) Title: METHODS FOR CONDUCTING GENETIC ANALYSIS USING PROTEIN POLYMORPHISM

	peptide	free	allelic quency
Desmop		mass	
	NTNIAQK SEQ ID NO: 125	787.418	0.78
1305F	NTNFAQK SEQ ID NO: 126	821.403	0.22
	VOYDLOK SEQ ID NO: 127	892.465	0.79
Y1512C	VQYDLQK SEQ ID NO: 127 VQCCLQK SEQ ID NO: 128	832.411	0.21
Keratin,	type II cuticular Hb2		
	PCVENEFVALK SEQ ID NO: 129	1247.622	0.99
E219Q	PCVQNEFVALK SEQ ID NO: 130 SEQ ID NO: 131	1246.637	0.01
	GAFLYEPCGVSTPVLSTGVLR	2165.119	0.04
E452D	GAFLYIDPCGVSTPVLSTGVLR SEQ ID NO: 13	2151.103	0.68
M458T	GAFLYIDPCGVSMPVLSTGVLR SEQ ID NO: 133		0.27
Keratin,	type I cuticular Ha2		
	MVVNIDNAK SEQ ID NO: 74	1002.516	0.93
1171T	MVVNTDNAK SEQ ID NO: 75	990.48	0.05
	ADLEAQUESIK SEQ ID NO: 134	1201.619	0.46
5222Y	ADLEAQVEYLK SEQ ID NO: 135	1277.65	0.54
	DSLENTLTESEAR SEQ ID NO: 58	1463.673	0.99
T339M	DSLENMLTESEAR SEQ ID NO: 59	1493.666	0.01
	I FIGHINTYR SEQ ID NO: 3	1093.54	0.63
T395M	LEGENVITIK SEQ ID NO: 4	1123.533	0.37
	LPCNPCSTPSCTTCVPSPCVTR SEQ ID NO: 130 LPCNPCSTPSCTTCVPSPCVPR SEQ ID NO: 130	2264.972	0.19
T427P	LPCNPCSTPSCTTCVPSPCVPR SEQUENCE IS	2260.977	0.78
	LPCNPCSTPSCTTCVPSPCVTR SEQ ID NO: 130	2264.972	0.79
R428C	LPCNPCSTPSCTTCVPSPCVTCTVCVPR	2867.227	0.05
	SEQ ID NO	D: 138	

(57) Abstract: Methods and processes for conducting genetic analysis through protein polymorphisms, including identification of individuals, establishment of paternity and measurement of genetic diversity and distance. Some illustrative embodiments of methods of the present invention include the identification of peptide biomarkers using proteomic techniques, including liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry from biological samples, using hair, dentin, or bone as a source of the protein to be analyzed. Other illustrative embodiments include the determination of allelic frequency and feasibility of protein polymorphism peptide biomarkers, and the application of these frequencies to allow statistical analysis and population genetics to be applied to collected biological samples.



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METHODS FOR CONDUCTING GENETIC ANALYSIS USING PROTEIN POLYMORPHISMS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

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This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/340,918, filed March 24, 2010, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

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The invention relates to biotechnology and the fields of genetics and proteomics generally, more particularly to the use of marker polypeptides containing polymorphisms to identify individuals and measure genetic relationships.

BACKGROUND

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Genetic analysis has evolved and become a prevalent component in society. It is used to establish paternity, to identify individuals or human remains and conduct anthropological analysis of genetic diversity within populations and genetic distance between populations. It is used to determine susceptibility to hereditary diseases and in treatment protocols for somatic disease, such as cancer.

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Molecular genetic analysis however, is almost totally dependent on analysis of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). DNA technology has become increasingly sophisticated, sensitive and the threshold for its use has become continually lowered. DNA technology has matured and includes such disparate technology as sequencing technology, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), microarray, and construction and use of DNA libraries. The complete sequence of many genomes has been achieved including human, primates (chimpanzee and orangutan), model organisms (mouse, rat, zebra fish, *drosophila, Caenorhabditis elegans*,) and pathogens. Human genomics has identified genetic structures including genes with, exons, introns, and promoter regions and other coding regions responsible for RNA structures. The genome includes non-coding DNA including long interspersed nuclear elements (LINEs), short interspersed nuclear elements (SINEs), retrovirus-like elements and DNA transposon copies. It also includes chromosomal structures such as centromere and telomere-specific sequences.

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DNA also exists in mitochondria. This DNA contains fundamental differences to nuclear DNA, it is circular, has a different genetic code and produces only two RNAs, one in each direction, that contain the code for several genes. These features support the accepted hypothesis that mitochondrial DNA originated from endosymbiotic bacteria. The genetics of mitochondrial DNA are matrilineal.

DNA is the basis of genetic variation, which in turn is the basis for the unique phenotype of each individual. Mutations accumulate over each generation and through recombination, independent assortment and zygote formation result in a unique combination in each individual. The variation occurs within each nucleic structure, ranging in size from single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), element insertion, deletion or expansion to chromosomal duplications, deletions and inversions. As it is inherited, this variation maintains a record of an individual's genetic history.

Technology that detects and records genetic variation can provide information for several purposes. It can determine genetic relationships, such as paternity testing, confirming that an individual is descended from two given individuals. DNA can be used to confirm whether a suspect was at a crime scene. A record of unique genetic markers is also used to provide a measure of genetic diversity within a population and a measure of genetic distance between populations. It is also used to determine if an individual is a carrier for a genetic disease or is predicted to be susceptible to a genetic disease. Matching specific DNA markers with a specific inherited disease phenotype has resulted in the discovery of the specific disease genes and the role of many genes in specific disease pathways and physiological mechanisms.

Extensive efforts have been made to record and annotate the human genome and measure the full extent of genetic variation. This resulted in the human genome project and the dbSNP database (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/SNP/), which records human DNA polymorphisms. Using the National Council of Biotechnology Information SNP database it is now possible to obtain the allelic frequency of each SNP in a population-specific manner.

The use of DNA has distinct limitations. If it is collected from volunteers and isolated and stored appropriately it maintains its quality and can be used indefinitely. For many applications however, DNA collection is not ideal. The backbone of DNA consists of phosphodiester bonds that are vulnerable to hydrolytic attack and oxidation. The nucleobases are susceptible to oxidation, alkylation and condensation

reactions. Environmental samples from biological remains, forensic samples or anthropological material contain DNA that has not been kept in ideal conditions and is susceptible to chemical and environmental degradation, reducing the quality and integrity of the resulting data. Many applications of DNA, such as use of forensic material, are limited by the frequent absence of DNA or inability to eliminate environmental contamination.

Accordingly, methods of performing analysis on biological samples that utilized a material other than DNA to allow for the collection and preservation of biological samples in circumstances where DNA may not be present or may be degraded, which enable the investigation, establishment, or exclusion of genetic relationships at a level of precision approaching that of DNA analysis would be an improvement in the art. Such a system allowing for the determination of DNA polymorphisms in a biological sample without DNA analysis would further be an improvement in the art.

SUMMARY

The present invention is directed to methods of conducting genetic analysis through protein polymorphisms, including identification of individuals, establishment of paternity and measurement of genetic diversity and distance. Some illustrative embodiments of methods of the present invention include the identification of peptide biomarkers using proteomic techniques, including liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry from biological samples, using hair, dentin, or bone as a source of the protein to be analyzed. Other illustrative embodiments include the determination of allelic frequency and feasibility of protein polymorphism peptide biomarkers, and the application of these frequencies to allow statistical analysis and population genetics to be applied to collected biological samples.

A first aspect of the invention provides a method of using protein polymorphism biomarkers to conduct genetic analysis on a proteinaceous tissue sample, the method comprising:

extracting a mixture of proteins from the proteinaceous tissue sample; digesting the extracted mixture of proteins with trypsin;

identifying a pattern of polymorphic tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins; and

analyzing the identified polymorphic tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins to make a determination as to a genetic relationship of a source of the proteinaceous tissue sample.

A second aspect of the invention provides a process for conducting genetic analysis on a hair sample, comprising:

extracting a mixture of proteins from the hair sample;

digesting the extracted mixture of proteins with trypsin;

identifying a pattern of tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins; and

analyzing the identified pattern of tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins to identify protein polymorphisms of interest to make a determination as to a genetic relationship of a source of the hair sample.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

It will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that the drawings are for illustrative purposes only. The nature of the present invention, as well as other embodiments of the present invention, may be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description of the invention, to the appended claims, and to the drawings.

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Figure 1 is a Table of Candidate Peptide Polymorphic Biomarkers Present in Human Hair. Both reference and polymorphic sequences are present, along with masses and predicted allelic frequencies derived from the HapMap database.

Figure 2 is a table of the 24 most abundant proteins (name, UNIPROT identifier, primary protein citation number) as detected from the method described in Example 1A. Natural variants occurring in each of these gene products are indicated by amino acid missense or nonsense mutation, reference SNP number (rs#), and SwissProt natural varient identifier (FTId#).

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Figure 3 is an identification of male specific trypsin-digested peptides in the Y-chromosome isoform of amelogenin.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Before the present method is disclosed and/or described, it is to be understood that it is not limited to specific tissues, method of obtaining protein samples or method of protein measurement or detection. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments and is not intended to be limiting.

As used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms "a", "an", and "the" include plural reference unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. For example, reference to "a host cell" includes a plurality of such host cells, and reference to the "antibody" is a reference to one or more antibodies and equivalents thereof known to those skilled in the art, and so forth.

As used herein "Peptide," "Polypeptide" and "Protein" include polymers of two or more amino acids of any length, and includes post-translational-modification, without restriction on length unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

As used herein, "comprising," "including," "containing," "characterized by," and grammatical equivalents thereof are inclusive or open-ended terms that do not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps, but also includes the more restrictive terms "consisting of" and "consisting essentially of."

As used herein, "a subject" means a vertebrate, such as a fish (salmon, trout, eel), poultry (chicken), or a mammalian (human, cat, dog, mice, rats, guinea pigs, or other small laboratory animals, or farm animals like ruminants or pigs).

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Ranges can be expressed herein as from "about" one particular value, and/or to "about" another particular value. When such a range is expressed, another embodiment includes from the one particular value and/or to the other particular value. Similarly, when values are expressed as approximations, by use of the antecedent "about," it will be understood that the particular value forms another embodiment. It will be further understood that the endpoints of each of the ranges are significant both in relation to the other endpoint, and independently of the other endpoint. It is also understood that there are a number of values disclosed herein, and that each value is also herein disclosed as "about" that particular value in addition to the value itself. For example, if the value "10" is disclosed, then "about 10" is also disclosed. It is also understood that when a value is disclosed that "less than or equal to" the value, "greater than or equal to the value" and possible ranges between values are also disclosed, as appropriately understood by the skilled artisan. For example, if the value "10" is disclosed the "less than or equal to 10" as well as "greater than or equal to 10" is also disclosed. It is also understood that the throughout the application, data is provided in a number of different formats, and that this data, represents endpoints and starting points, and ranges for any combination of the data points. For example, if a particular data point "10" and a particular data point 15 are disclosed, it is understood that greater than, greater than or equal to, less than, less than or equal to, and equal to 10 and 15 are considered disclosed as well as between 10 and 15. It is also understood that each unit between two particular units are also disclosed. For example, if 10 and 15 are disclosed, then 11, 12, 13, and 14 are also disclosed.

In this specification and in the claims which follow, reference will be made to a number of terms which shall be defined to have the following meanings:

"Optional" or "optionally" means that the subsequently described event or circumstance may or may not occur, and that the description includes instances where said event or circumstance occurs and instances where it does not.

The term "suitable" as used herein refers to a group that is compatible with the compounds, products, or compositions as provided herein for the stated purpose. Suitability for the stated purpose may be determined by one of ordinary skill in the art using only routine experimentation.

The term "biomarker" as used herein refers to a biological artifact, particularly protein and/or peptide, that is detectable and contains a polymorphism.

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The term "detect" as used herein refers to identification of biomarkers and / or properties and / or parameters of the biomarkers including mass, charge, statistical correlation with reference peptides and probability scores.

The term "tissue" refers to all biological tissue, including human samples, human remains or mummies, or non-human sources, such as zoological and /or preserved remains.

The term "polymorphism" refers to allelic variation in nucleic acid and/or corresponding protein sequences.

As discussed previously herein, the use of DNA for genetic analysis of collected biological samples has distinct limitations. Environmental samples from biological remains, forensic samples or anthropological material contain DNA that has not been kept in ideal conditions and is susceptible to chemical and environmental degradation, reducing the quality and integrity of the resulting data or even the ability to perform analysis. Many applications of DNA, such as use of forensic material, are limited by the frequent absence of DNA in the available biological samples or by the inability to eliminate environmental contamination.

Protein, the translated product of DNA, reflects in an absolute manner the variation present in the coded regions of the genome. Therefore it maintains the genetic variation within the DNA in the form of mutations in the amino acid sequence. It is more abundant than DNA and it has a peptide bond in its backbone resulting in greater chemical stability and longer life in the environment compared to the more fragile DNA. While the earliest credible sequences of DNA are from a 50,000 year old frozen mammoth, proteins have been detected and sequences determined from a 40 million year old hadrosaur.

DNA is often not available in human remains that have been exposed to the environment for prolonged periods. However proteins are present beyond the threshold time point of DNA utility. Human remains have proteins present in hard tissues, such as hair, teeth (dentin) and bone that have the potential to be analyzed for polymorphisms, and as such could be used to identify an individual based on parent or sibling DNA, or identity based on other protein samples from the individual. Samples would be obtained from a range of tissues and a wider range of tissue samples. Identification of protein polymorphisms can help determine the genetic distance from a given genetic population, such as a sub-Saharan population.

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While protein cannot be amplified, it can be measured with high precision and great sensitivity using mass spectrometry. Protein samples are digested with trypsin, which cleaves the protein into smaller detectable peptides. The peptides are then resolved using very low flow rate liquid chromatography and are ionized and vaporized using electrospray ionization. The charged peptide is then funneled using electric fields into the mass spectrometer where its mass is measured. It is then fragmented using either collision-induced or electron transfer dissociation and the resulting fragment masses are also measured. Both of these fragmentation methods break the peptide backbone at regular points. This allows the amino acid sequence to be determined. The current technology is sensitive enough to detect attomole levels of material at 1 ppm accuracy.

The process of fragmentation data deconvolution has two basic methods. Information may be interpreted using the data within the sample, based on the intrinsic properties of peptide fragmentation, to provide *de novo* sequence information. Alternatively, fragmentation data may be compared with predicted sequences derived from genomic databases. This method provides a statistical measure of probability that any fragmentation dataset is the predicted amino acid sequence. This provides accurate interpretation of fragmentation data and is more reliable than *de novo* sequencing. The accuracy however depends on the presence of the peptide amino acid sequence being in the reference protein database.

The accuracy of amino acid sequencing depends on several factors. The actual sequence needs to be in the reference database. The other factor is the mass accuracy of the mass spectrometer instrument. Ambiguity in the mass data from less accurate instruments results in ambiguity in interpreting the amino acid sequence.

In illustrative methods in accordance with the present invention, biological samples are analyzed by mass spectrometric analysis to obtain peptide sequence data for known proteins in the biological samples. Peptide polymorphisms in the peptide sequence data are then analyzed. In simple situations, the presence or absence of polymorphisms can be used for exclusionary analysis. Where available, the polymorphism data can be compared to known population frequencies using appropriate statistical tools to determine the likelihood of matches and the relative strength of the exclusionary analysis. Suitable biological samples may include hair, bone, dentin, skin or other tissues for which the protein polymorphic data can be assessed.

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The following factors need to be considered in identification of peptide polymorphic biomarkers. Suitable biomarkers need to be readily identified in mass spectrometry, as a significant portion of any protein is either not ionized or volatilized resulting in its lack of detection. Preferred polymorphic biomarker peptides should also have a measured informative allelic frequency. Biomarkers should be present in sufficient quantities to be detected in any population. Heterozygosity is also a factor as it may result in non-uniform distribution of polymorphism peptide biomarkers. Several samples therefore should be used to eliminated or confirm the presence of protein polymorphisms, as the utility of allelic frequencies and resulting protein polymorphism biomarkers are a function of degree of sampling taken in the reference population. Since reference databases need to be developed, a lack of adequate sampling could result in inaccurate allelic frequencies leading to inaccurate statistical measurements of identity. Such a shortcoming could be addressed by using multiple markers from a single sample, by use of technique for exclusionary purposes (similar to the rough application of A, AB, B, and O blood types) and ultimately by the continued development of databases containing the requisite frequency data for suitable markers of various proteins in the available samples, as discussed in more detail in the following paragraphs.

In order to be used as a peptide biomarker for a single nucleotide polymorphism ("SNP"), the resulting polymorphic peptides need to be detected. The peptides need to be unique, an issue when investigating the highly homologous family of intermediate filament proteins. Peptides must be unique for a single gene product and nucleotide polymorphism. To be detected peptides need to be within a mass / charge ratio of 400 to 2000. The peptides also need to be volatilized and ionized. Even under ideal conditions coverage of proteins is not 100%, usually being less than 80%. The trypsinized peptides also compete for occupancy for the ion-traps and quadrupoles in the instrument, so detection of given peptides is often contingent on the ionization status of other peptides.

The potential silencing of heterozygotic alleles may also limit the detection of genetic variation. The spatial pattern of gene silencing has the potential to result in non-representative transcription and translation of genetic variation. It also raises the possibility that different hairs from different regions of a single individual may have different expression of polymorphic proteins. Discrimination between homozygotic and hetrozygotic alleles may require more than several hair samples from different

regions of the body. Non-detection of another corresponding protein polymorphism cannot be used as evidence of homozygosity. Dependence on allelic frequencies to determine genetic probabilities is not altered by the absence of other allelic variants and therefore provides a more conservative estimate of exclusion or identity.

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The dependence on single nucleotide polymorphisms reduces the exclusionary power of the genetic analysis. Only four options are available at any loci, almost always only two options occur. The frequencies of these polymorphisms are generally high and rarely at the ideal frequency of 0.5. More instances of polymorphisms are therefore required to reach equivalent powers of exclusion.

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Currently, the determination of amino acid sequence of peptides is dependent on comparison with predicted sequences from reference databases. The dependence on reference databases therefore results in difficulty in detecting the unexpected. The absence of amino polymorphisms in reference databases results in the absence of polymorphic peptides in the analysis. Detection of polymorphic peptides not in the reference database will require the use of custom databases where whole polymorphic protein variants are incorporated. Careful analysis of error-tolerant searches may also provide insight into polymorphisms in an unbiased manner. Environmental and chemical modifications, such as oxidation and hydrolysis also result in changes in peptide mass and difficulty in interpretation of fragmentation data.

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The allelic frequencies associated with each nucleotide and amino acid polymorphism are a product of the reference populations used in the single nucleotide polymorphism databases. These can be arbitrary in terms of distribution and sample size. Refinement of allelic frequencies will improve over time as sample sizes of relative populations become sufficient to reduce statistical variation and increase confidence in allelic frequencies for each SNP and respective amino acid polymorphism.

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Maximum discriminating power of this analysis will depend on maximum detection of polymorphic peptides, which is a function of maximum detection of unique peptides in any given sample. To maximize accurate yield of peptides two approaches can be taken, physical detection of peptides may increase and reference databases and their use can become more sophisticated. Broadened detection of peptides results from increased resolution using liquid chromatography, increased frequency of data acquisition, more efficient fragmentation and increased mass accuracy that reduces ambiguous data interpretation. These criteria are currently met

in the latest generation of ultra high resolution quadrapole-time-of-flight mass spectrometry instruments.

Genetic Analysis Using Variation in Human Hair Protein

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Human hair protein is ubiquitous, continually shed, and chemically stable, lasting in the environment long after DNA has degraded. It is very common at crime scenes. Preliminary data shows that hair contains over 300 detectable proteins. The genes of these proteins contain functional Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) that manifest as missense mutations and occur at measurable allelic frequencies. Therefore, any strand of hair has the potential, in its intrinsic amino acid sequences, to provide a statistically conclusive link to any given individual.

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In methods in accordance with the present invention, proteins from hair samples are digested with the protease trypsin, cleaving the protein into peptides with molecular weights of roughly 400 to 4000. The resulting complex peptide mixture is then resolved with reversed-phase liquid chromatography, ionized and volatilized, and directed into a mass spectrometer where masses are determined (MS). The instrument then fragments individual peptide backbones and measures the resulting pieces, which have a distinctive pattern (MS²). The information from mass spectrometry, therefore, has three dimensions: time of retention on reversed phase, peptide mass (MS) and individual peptide fragmentation masses (MS²). Mass spectrometry has matured to the point where over 10,000 peptide fragmentations can be obtained per run. The mass accuracy of peptide and fragmentation masses is now 1ppm in both MS and MS², removing ambiguity from the analysis.

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Proteomic analysis of a hair sample identified 319 proteins at an average of 17.6% coverage. The human genome contains 129,000 non-synonymous or functional single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), 16,766 of which have known allelic frequencies using the Utah and Northern European populations (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/snp/). This is an average of 0.7SNPs per gene which calculates to approximately 230 per the 319 identified proteins. Assuming mass spectrometry coverage of 17.6% we should expect to identify 41 polymorphic peptides per run allowing for meaningful statistical analysis of the resulting discovered polymorphisms. For example, such analysis can be used to confirm or exclude that a hair sample found at a crime scene belongs to a suspect without requiring DNA analysis with a precision comparable to current forensic DNA analysis, to identify human remains when no DNA is available, or to establish genetic relationships such as paternity. Other potential uses include tissue matching to genetically distinctive populations, and providing measures of genetic distance.

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Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and insertion / deletions (indels) are also highly abundant in the genome. A recent paper focusing on the use of SNPs to generate measures of identity demonstrated that 30 highly polymorphic SNPs were able to generate a combined mean match probability of 4.83 x 10⁻¹³[1]. Every 5 additional loci would increase the discriminatory power ten-fold. The 1000 genome project records 15,275,256 SNPs and 1,480,877 indels. These are collated in the dbSNP database (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP/) that has a total 30,443,446 Homo sapiens SNPs (as of March 18, 2011). 161452 of which are non-synonymous, with 41,928 having an annotated allelic frequency (14,887 when restricted to the Utahn and Northern European population). Assuming that there are 21,000 gene products in the human genome that is an average of roughly 2 genetically informative SNPs per protein. The average protein coverage of the 319 identified proteins from the hair proteome was 17.9%. Therefore the theoretical yield of informative SNPs is roughly 114 (319 x 2 x 0.179). SNP variation is not evenly distributed however with the 100 most abundant proteins in the hair proteome having 1294 non-synonymous SNPs with 384 having allelic frequencies (70 when restricted to the Utahn, Northern European CEU database). Preliminary analysis of that data, based on the 18 most

Genetic Analysis Using Variation in Human Bone and Teeth Protein

abundant proteins, identified 61 polymorphic peptides from 52 SNPs.

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Human bone and teeth are often all that remains in many archeological and forensic contexts. Protein, however, can be preserved in the collagen/hydroxyapatite mineral matrix of these tissues. There are several ways to extract peptide information from such tissues, including a hand-drill, crushing a block of material under liquid nitrogen and demineralization with EDTA or 1.2 M hydrochloric acid. Extracted proteins may be digested with the protease trypsin, cleaving the protein into peptides with molecular weights of roughly 400 to 4000. The resulting complex peptide mixture may then be resolved with reversed-phase liquid chromatography, and

analyzed similar to the analysis of hair protein previously discussed herein with the identification of suitable proteins for SNP analysis.

In one example, the sex of sub-adult skeletons cannot be identified where other materials are not present as sexually dimorphic skeletal markers develop during adolescence. This is a major barrier to interpretation and analysis of pre-adult remains in anthropological contexts and can be an impediment to the identification of remains in a forensic context. The development of a consistent, reliable sexing protocol has been described as a "Holy Grail" of osteology and physical anthropology for more Tooth dentine usually provides material for identification of than 70 years. matrilineal mitochondrial DNA haplotype and haplogroup, estimates of nucleotide and gene diversity, and the mean number of pairwise differences but contains no information reflecting biological sex. The Y-chromosome however contains an isoform for amelogenin, which plays a major role in the biogenesis of teeth and has several unique peptides, and has identified male-specific trypsin-digested peptides. (FIG. 3.) By examining the proteomic profiles of teeth and bone tissues, the relative proportions of each isoform of amelogenin may be determined. Once a base line for the relative proportions in samples of known sex is established, tissue from remains of unknown sex may be analyzed to determine the sex thereof.

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Example 1A. Identification of an individual from a human hair sample and development of allelic frequency comparative database for human hair proteins peptide polymorphisms

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Human hair consists of an outer cuticle surrounding a shaft consisting primarily of keratin and keratin associated proteins. Hair is made by specialized keratinocytes in the hair follicle. Internal intermediate filaments build up and encase non-keratin proteins before the cell dies, creating a component of the hair shaft that then progresses toward the skin surface. The insoluble component of hair contains over three hundred proteins, a considerable amount of proteomic information.

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Hair is significant forensically because it is prevalent at crime scenes and has the potential to physically link an individual to a particular space and time. The evidence is biological and as such, is highly complex. The current methodology however, struggles to fully utilize the information within hair, which up until now has

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been either morphological or genetic. Each type of information has issues however, morphological analysis is intrinsically subjective and genetic information is limited by the low levels and compromised nature of DNA.

Human hair originates in papilla cells, which reside in the base of the hair follicle in the hair bulbus. These cells produce large amounts of different keratin proteins that displace cellular contents and ultimately result in the cell undergoing apoptosis. This process includes degradation of nuclear DNA. Prior to apoptosis the keratin molecules develop extensive covalent bonds with neighboring keratin molecules, primarily disulphide bonds and transglutamation between glutamtic and lysine residues. This extensive level of covalent bonding is responsible for the chemical toughness and resilience of hair. The transglutamation process is indiscriminate however, many other proteins including metabolic, structural and nuclear proteins, also become covalently attached to, or emmeshed within, the extensive keratin matrix. As described in the literature, there are over 300 proteins detected in the hair shaft, including many proteins that are not normally associated with hair. The keratinization extends beyond the cell through desmosomes and hemidesmosomes. The resulting hair shaft has a variety of anatomical features.

Hair growth can be subdivided into three phases: anagen or growth phase, katagen or transitional phase and the final telogen phase. There are about 100,000 hairs on a (non-bald) human scalp of which 70 to 150 telogen hairs are lost per day. As many hairs again are found on the remainder of the body. Most hairs found at a crime scene are almost always telogen hair shafts that do not have follicular cells and have nuclear DNA levels typically below the level of detection. Several groups have tried to analyze the efficacy of obtaining complete or partial nuclear DNA profiles from hair. The use of mini-STRs, dithiothreitol to break disulphide bonds, and novel DNA extraction techniques has had some success with 60% of samples hair providing partial information on some STR loci. Unfortunately, the DNA is typically found to be highly degraded and yields are particularly vulnerable to chemical treatments such as hair dye or bleaching.

A comparative database of human hair was developed by analyzing the 24 most abundant proteins in human hair for suitable polymorphisms. Using the UNIPROT database that contains a section of natural variation and provides the associated single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP). Accessing the SNP database

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through the UNIPROT database allows the allelic frequency of each particular polymorphism to be determined relative to the reference sequence. This allowed several pieces of information to be obtained about candidate biomarker polymorphism: the Reference SNP (refSNP) Cluster Report number, the single nucleotide polymorphism, the resulting missense mutation or amino acid polymorphism, the predicted peptide amino acid sequence for both reference and missense trypsin-digested peptides (along with their respective masses), and finally the calculated allelic frequency for the SNP that accounts for the amino acid polymorphism.

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The information obtained from the UNIPROT database allowed for a determination as to the presence of nucleotide polymorphisms in the genome of a given individual based purely on the presence of a biomarker peptide in a hair sample, with no application of DNA-based methodology. Furthermore, the determined allelic frequencies of detected biomarker, as recorded in the NCBI SNP database, were used in combination with other polymorphic peptides to calculate the probability that any hair sample comes from the same individual as another hair sample. Likewise, in additional embodiments, a predicted combination of peptide biomarker polymorphisms could be determined using DNA-based methodology, such as SNP microarray chips or polymerase chain reaction, which could then be confirmed using proteomic methodology.

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Method for obtaining allelic frequencies of protein polymorphisms

Human hair proteins identified from literature, or from the sample obtained from a volunteer, provide a description of proteins present in human hair in order of relative probability. Confirmed members of the hair proteome were submitted to the UNIPROT database, which contains a section on Natural Variation listing all known nucleotide variants in the open reading frame of the gene that result in missense mutations. Each missense mutation is annotated along with the responsible single nucleotide polymorphism, with its single nucleotide polymorphism reference number. These numbers are hyperlinked to the National Council of Biotechnology Institute SNP database, which is a general catalog of genetic polymorphism maintained by the NCBI that is publically accessible through the URL:

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www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP/. Reference numbers herein are from build

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release dbSNP build 133, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

This database contains, in the geneview section, the annotated nucleotide polymorphism along with the annotated amino acid residue change. The population diversity section of each entry in the database includes information required to derive the allelic frequency of both the nucleotide and amino acid polymorphism. The information comes in several forms, either the frequency of the allelic variant is provided in each reference population or a collated value derived from all populations analyzed. In the case of the former format, the collated value for all populations is determined manually.

As shown in FIG. 1, the UNIPROT and SNP database were used as discussed above to analyze three of these proteins for mis-sense mutations with established allelic frequencies to establish that hair proteins contain evidence of genetic variation. The allelic frequencies of each alterative peptide sequence are depicted in **bold** and the peptides detected with mass spectrometry are indicated in italics.

Preparation of Protein Samples and Mass Spectrometric Analysis

Hair was treated by washing twice for 2 hours in 50 ml of 10% methanol and once with 100% water. Hair was removed and ground with clean exterior of an Erlenmeyer flask on a glass plate. The powder was collected and treated with 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate containing 1% ProteaseMax and DTT (30 mM). The sample was centrifuged and separated into supernatant and insoluble hair fraction. Trypsin (600 ng) was added to both supernatant and the insoluble hair fraction and incubated at 37°c temperature overnight. Digested peptide mixture (1 μL of 150 μL) was injected directly on to the ESI Ion-Trap/FTMS hybrid mass spectrometer (LTQ-FT, ThermoElectron, Corp., Waltham, MA) without further purification.

An aliquot of 1µl of the sample was injected onto a nano-LC column (75 µm ID x 10 cm, Atlantis C18 RP, 3 µm particle size, Waters, Milford, MA) using a nano-LC system (NanoLC 1D, Eksigent Technologies, Dublin, CA) with a gradient of 9% to 60% acetonitrile in 0.1% formic acid at 400 nL/min (Supplemental Table 1A) over 120 minutes. Primary mass spectra were acquired in the FTMS portion of the instrument and MS/MS sequence information was collected in the linear ion trap using collision-induced dissociation (CID). Primary mass spectra were acquired with

typically better than 2 ppm mass accuracy; CID fragmentation spectra were acquired with less than 0.3 Da mass error.

Data Analysis

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Peaklists for database searching were generated for peptide precursor ions (i.e. +1, +2 and/or +3 charge states) and corresponding CID fragmentation data using SEQUEST (BioWorks Browser, revision 3.2, ThermoElectron Corp.) with the default parameters. Resulting DTA files from individual LC/MS/MS runs for each species are concatenated into a single file and analyzed using MASCOT (software version 2.1.03, Matrix Science, Inc., Boston, MA). The following MASCOT search parameters were used in the analysis: tryptic-specific peptides, maximum of 3 missed cleavages, no fixed modifications, variable methionine oxidation, mass tolerances of 5 ppm for precursor ions and 0.3 Da for MS/MS CID fragment ions. A significance threshold of p < 0.05 for identified proteins was used. Individually identified peptides with expectation scores below 0.05 were considered significant and included. Any protein or peptide with greater than a 5% chance of false assignment were excluded. In order to be classed as a glycogen-associated protein, two unique peptides, with different primary sequence and expectation scores less than 0.05, were required to be identified from the gene product.

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The probabilities of identity using allelic frequencies were then determined and polymorphic tryptic peptides were identified. The output from proteomic analysis depends on comparison of peptide and fragmentation masses with those in the reference genomic and proteomic databases. Each match is amenable to statistical analysis, resulting in a probability that the match is incorrect (expectation score <0.05 = significant) and a score of likelihood (MOWSE score). Raw mass spectrometric data, usually in an application specific format, is therefore converted to peptide sequences, which in turn are matched to proteins present in the reference databases. The peptides present in the sample can then be matched to those predicted to represent polymorphic variation as described in the above paragraph. The associated frequencies of these polymorphic peptides are depicted in TABLE 1 and can be statistically assessed to provide a probability that a particular hair is associated with a given individuals. One assessment that can be used is Random Match Probability, which is useful as a method of stating the rarity of a genetic profile, as set forth beginning at page 243 of the reference manual Fundamental of Forensic DNA Typing

by John M. Butler, Elsevier 2010, the contents of which manual are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

TABLE I

Desmoplakin		
R1738Q	SEADSDK SEQ ID NO: 1	0.758
G5492A	GQSEADSDK SEQ ID NO: 2	0.234
rs6929069	•	
Keratin, type	I cuticular Ha2	
T395M	LEGEINTYR SEQ ID NO: 3	0.629
C1245T	LEGEINMYR SEQ ID NO: 4	0.371
rs2071563		
Plakophilin-1	L	
R116H	FSSYSQMENWSR SEQ ID NO: 5	0.975
G598A	HFSSYSQMENWSR SEQ ID NO: 6	0.024
rs34626929		
Stratifin		
M155I	SAYQEAMDISK SEQ ID NO: 7	0.998
G536A	SAYQEAIDISK SEQ ID NO: 8	0.003
rs11542705		
	e I cytoskeletal 39	
L383M	QNQEYEILLDVK SEQ ID NO: 9	0.876
C1183A	QNQEYEILM DVK SEQ ID NO: 10	0.124
rs17843023		
_	amine gamma-glutamyltransferase	
G843A	SWNGSVEILK SEQ ID NO: 11	0.821
S249N	NWNGSVEILK SEQ ID NO: 12	0.133
rs214814		
	II cuticular Hb3	
C900G	DLNMDCIVAEIK SEQ ID NO: 13	0.981
I279M rs2852464	DLNMDCMVAEIK SEQID NO: 14	0.019
Bleomycin hy		
I443V A1564G	HVPEEVLAVLEQEPIILPAWDPMGALA	0.646 0.305
rs1050565	HVPEEVLAVLEQEPIVLPAWDPMGALA SEQ ID NO:	16
	d	
L-lactate der S161R	nydrogenase A chain VIGSGCNLDSAR SEQ ID NO: 17	0.276
C755G	GCNLDSAR SEQ ID NO: 18	0.724
rs5030621	SEQ ID NO. 10	31727

Example 1B. Further development of an allelic frequency comparative database for human hair proteins peptide polymorphisms

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A volunteer's hair was washed thoroughly with water and 20% methanol and digested with trypsin in the presence of Protease-Max (Promega Inc.). The resulting peptides were applied to a Thermo-Finnigan Hybrid LC/LTQ/FT MS. The resulting data file was submitted to the MASCOT algorithm using a custom reference database that incorporated some protein polymorphisms. 319 proteins were identified (from 7400 peptides) with an average protein coverage of 20%. The resulting data was searched for polymorphic peptides corresponding to the 40 identified proteins. The results of which are depicted in TABLE II.

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In TABLE II, the polymorphic peptides identified in the sample are listed along with the biallellic sequence and the responsible non-synonymous single nucleotide polymorphism (rs#). Allelic frequencies are indicated where known. Each peptide was analyzed for quality of assignment (expectation scores below 0.05 that indicates acceptably low probability of incorrect peptide assignment (p = 0.05)), and was submitted to the PROWL database to determine if the sequence could be unambiguously assigned to a single gene. Peptides that were correctly assigned and unambiguous are indicated by allelic frequencies being boxed and in bold. These frequencies may be assessed by Random Match Probability to determine the rarity of a profile. In doing such assessment, it may be advantageous to discard frequencies greater than 0.65 in order to remove the most commonly shared alleles from the analysis to improve the sensitivity of the assessment. Using the data from TABLE II in such an analysis calculates a Random Match Probability of 0.025 or 1 in 40.

TABLE II

Detected Poly	morphic Hair Peptides	alielic frequency	Keratis type I	cuticutar Ha3-11 Q1	14525
Desmostakia.	isaform L	P15924		DNAELENLIR SEQ ID NO: 51	`0.5
	NUMSERS OF SEC ID NO: 19	0.96	rs12450621	DNAFLK: NUR SEQ ID NO: 52	0.5
rs80325569:	NEMSEISSK SEQ ID NO: 20	0.04:	13234334	,	
	THE R. P. LEWIS CO. P. LEWIS CO.	0.94		SEQ ID NO: 53	0.974
6777E0E76	THINGLIMOK SEG ID NO: 21	0.94	rs61741663	LNVEVDAAPAVDLNR-VLNETR	0.026
\$777,5857,4	TTIHOLIMOKEEDTSCTR SEO ID NO. TTIHOLSMOK SEO ID NO. 23	0.05	1302742003	SEQ ID NO: 54	
		C********		QVVSSSEQLQSYQAEHELRSEQ ID NO	o: 50 _{N.D.}
	ANSSATETINK SEQ ID NO: 24	0.788	rs79296577	QVVSSSEQLQSYQVERELR SEO ID N	10: 56
s 2 87 63 965.	ANSSATETIKK SEQID NO: 25	0.212			
	VOEQELTRER SEQ ID NO: 25	0.701		TYNALEIELQAQHNLR SEQ ID NO: S	7 0.983
x28763967	VOEQELTCLR SEQ ID NO: 27	0.299	rs114488848	TENALEIELOADHAILR SEQ ID NO: 58	0.017
6929069	SEADSDKNATILELR SEQ ID NO:			YSLENTLITESEAR SEQ ID NO: 59	0.9
	LEYDLRRGQSEADSDK SEQ ID N	0: 29 0.5	rs71373411	DSLENTLTESEAR SEQ ID NO: 60	0.1
	ISITEGIER SEQ ID NO: 30	0.975	13/23/3411	DECRICIESEAR SEC IO NO. 60	0.1
116888866	ISTTEGUCULVOSITGOR SEQ ID N			YSSQLSQVQSLITNVESQLAEIR	NO: 61 '0.5
3220000000	in the second se				, , , ,
			rs34771986;	YSSQLSQVQSLTNVESQLAEIHSDLE F SEQ ID N	
eratin, type	li cuticular Hb6	043790		dia di manda la d	3228
	LYEEETR SEQ ID NO: 32	1	Seteman-our	ding protein 1 Q1	2448
1111425470	WLYEEEIR SEQ ID NO: 33	0			
	VLOSHISDTVVVX SEQ ID NO: 3	4 N.D.:		GGPVQVLEDEELK, SEQ ID NO: 63	0.992
c61914259	ILOSHISDTVVVK SEQ ID NO: 35		m72710112	GGPVQVLEDK SEQ ID NO: 64	0.008
			·	4	
eratiolype	Louticular Hb5	P78386	Keratin, type	ti cuticular Hb2	NS84
	EAECVEADSGR SEQ ID NO: 36	0.5		FLOVDGILATIK SEQ ID NO: 65	0.986
s11255445D	EAECVEANSGR: SEQ ID NO: 37	0.5	rs61730589	- ELDVOSIAEIX SEQ ID NO: 66	0.014
	DVDCAYUR SEQ ID NO: 38	0.959		,	
61740813	DVDGAYLR SEQ ID NO: 39	0.541		NEILEMNK SEQ ID NO: 67	0.989
			rs74942852	K:EILEMNK SEQ ID NO: 68	0.011
	SSSFSCGSSR SEQ ID NO: 40	0.983			
117675131	OITSGPSAIGGSITVVAPDSCAPCO SSSFSCGSSR SEQ ID NO: 41	PL 0.017	Bleomyc'n hy	₫ro/asse_	
erotta, type i	ll cuticular NB1	Q14533		SEQ ID NO: 15 EEVLAVLEQEPIILPAWDPMGALA	0.646
	LYEEEILILOSHISOTSVVVK	0.173			
56580873	LYEEEIR SEQ ID NO: 43	0.627	A1564G HVF	EEVLAVLEQEPIVLPAWOPMGALA	0.305
	ILOSHISDTSYVVK SEQ ID NO: 4	4 0.827		SEQ ID NO: 16	•
	MGETLR SEQ ID NO: 45	1			
s4761786	HGETLER SEQ ID NO: 46	0			
	PERSONAL PROPERTY.	U			
	GLTGGFGSHSVCGGFR SEQ ID N	10: 47 1.			
s207 1588	GLTGGSGSHSVCGR SEQ ID NO:	48 n	I		

N.D.

LLEGEEOR SEO ID NO: 49
657419521 LLEGK:EOR SEO ID NO: 50

TABLE II (cont.)

Keratin, type	cuticular Ha2	Q14532	rs76349777	QADFHYSVASQFQMNPTPVR SEQ ID N	IO: 102
	ETMOFUNDS SEQ ID NO: 69	0.992		• •	
rs117304287	EIMQFLNDR SEQ ID NO: 70	0.017		SEO ID NO: 103 GSSLLNYVLGTYTAIDLDTGNPATDVR	0.983
	TIEELOOK SEQ ID NO: 71	1	rs35378785	SSLLNYVLGTYTAIDLDTGNPATDVR SEQ ID NO: 10	0.017
rs1111168	TIDELQQK SEQ ID NO: 72	ō		SECTIONO: IO	•
rs1111169	TIEQLOOK SEQ ID NO. 73	N.D.		SSTMGTLR SEQ ID NO: 105	0.942
131111103	HEREIGE SECTIONS	14.04	rs61734847	SSTMGALR SEQ ID NO: 106	0.058
	MVVNIDNAK SEQ ID NO: 74	0.996	130213404	STATE OF THE PARTY	
rs2071560	MVVNTDNAK SEQ ID NO: 75	0.004	ATD combines	subunit alpha, mitochondrial	25705
			AIF SYRLIBAC	ILGADTSVDLEETGR SEO ID NO: 107	
	TVNTLEIELOAQHSLR SEQ ID NO: 76	0.975			
rs57682233	CTVNTLEIELQAQHSLR'SEQ ID NO: 7		rs11541932	ILGADTSVDIEETGR SEQ ID NO: 108	0
	DSLENTLTESEAR SEQ ID NO: 78	0.996		AVDSLVPIGR SEQ ID NO: 109	0.903
rs16966929	DSLENMLTESEAR SEO ID NO: 79	0.004	rs76002505	AVDŠEVPIGR [®] SEQ ID NO: 110	0.097
_	SEQ ID N	NO: 80.			
•	YSSQLAQMQCMITNVEAQLAEIR	0.925		TSIAIDTIINOK SEQ ID NO: 111	0.986
rs11078993	YSSQLAQMQCMITNVEAQLAEIQADL SEQ ID N	ER 0.075 IO: 81	rs77958705/r	S!TSIAVOTIINQK SEQ ID NO: 112	0.014
		0.9		SEQ ID NO: 113	
	ADLER SEQ ID NO: 82	0.1		EVAAFAQFGSDLDAATQQLLSR	1
rs2604956	AELER SEQ ID NO: 83		rs11541934	EVAAFAQ SEQ ID NO: 114	0
	AELERQNQEYQVLLDDVR SEQ ID NO	D: 84 0.1		950 /D NO. 445	
	LEGEINTYR SEQ ID NO: 3	0.492		SEQ ID NO: 115 QGQYSPMAIEEQVAVIYAGVRGYLDK	0.847
rš2071563	ARLEGEINTYR SEQ ID NO: 85	0.492	rs75974428	QGQYSPMAI SEQ ID NO: 116	0.153
1320/2505	LEGEINMYR SEO ID NO: 4	0.508		SEGIDINO: NO	
		-:	Annovin A2	,	207355
	SLIENEDCK SEQ ID NO: 86	0.308	Annexin A2		
rs2604955	SLIESEDCK SEQ ID NO: 87	0.692		DALNIETAIK SEQ ID NO: 117	0.917
.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	SECTION O. OF	0.032	rs75993598	DALNIK:TAIKSEO ID NO: 118	0.083
14-3-3 proteir	n sigma	P31947			T
	SAYQEAMDISK SEQ ID NO: 88	0.998		SALSGHLETVILGLUK SEQ ID NO: 119	0.865
rs11542705	SAYQEAIDISK SEQ ID NO: 89	0.002	rs17845226	SALSGHLETLILGLLK SEQ ID NO: 120	0.135
	NLLSVAYK SEQ ID NO: 90	N.D.	rs1059588	TRI EVALUATE CARRY	N.D.
		14.0.		TOLEKDIISOTSGDFRK SEQ ID NO: 121	M.M.
rs7.7608477	NLLSAAYK SEQ ID NO: 91		rs41307613	DIISGTSGDFR SEQ ID NO: 122	
	SAYQEAMDISK SEQ ID NO: 88	1	touring deb	repeat-containing protein 15	DSTF66
rs78707984	LAYOEAMDISK SEC ID NO: 92	N.D.	- Delicate-ticat	ELSLGIFGPMPNLR SEQ ID NO: 123	0.7
rs11542705	SAYQEAIDISK SEQ ID NO: 93	0			0.3
			rs13070515	ELSPGIFGPMPNLR SEQ ID NO: 124	0.3
	EMPPTNPIR SEQ ID NO: 94	N.D.	1		
rs77755255	EMPPSNPIR SEQ ID NO: 95	N.D.			
rs75914997	EMPPTNTIR SEQ ID NO: 96	N.D.			
		000015			
Desmoglein-4	GEOLERPLEUR SEQ ID NO: 97	Q86SJ5 0:992			
rs76399598	GEDLESPLELR SEQ ID NO: 98	0.008			
		0.000			
	VLOVNONFPTLEK SEQ ID NO: 99	N.D.			
rs28380082	VLDVNDNFPALEK SEQ ID NO: 100				

	NQADFHYSVASQFQMHPTPVR SEQ ID NO:	N.D. 101			

The human hair proteins identified from this analysis are added to the comparative database of abundant proteins in human hair with suitable polymorphisms. Accessing the SNP database through the UNIPROT database allows

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the allelic frequency of each particular polymorphism to be determined relative to the reference sequence. This allowed several pieces of information to be obtained about candidate biomarker polymorphism: the Reference SNP (refSNP) Cluster Report number, the single nucleotide polymorphism, the resulting missense mutation or amino acid polymorphism, the predicted peptide amino acid sequence for both reference and missense trypsin-digested peptides (along with their respective masses), and finally the calculated allelic frequency for the SNP that accounts for the amino acid polymorphism. The inclusion of the additional suitable proteins allows for a higher degree of accuracy when analyzing hair samples.

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Example 1C development of additional database

An initial comparative database of human hair was developed by analyzing the 24 most abundant proteins in human hair for suitable polymorphisms as detected from the method described in Example 1A. Using the UNIPROT database that contains a section of natural variation and provides the associated single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP). Accessing the SNP database through the UNIPROT database allows the allelic frequency of each particular polymorphism to be determined relative to the reference sequence. This allowed several pieces of information to be obtained about candidate biomarker polymorphism: the Reference SNP (refSNP) Cluster Report number, the single nucleotide polymorphism, the resulting missense mutation or amino acid polymorphism, the predicted peptide amino acid sequence for both reference and missense trypsin-digested peptides (along with their respective masses), and finally the calculated allelic frequency for the SNP that accounts for the amino acid polymorphism.

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The information obtained from the UNIPROT database allowed for a determination as to the presence of nucleotide polymorphisms in the genome of a given individual based purely on the presence of a biomarker peptide a hair sample, with no application of DNA-based methodology. Furthermore, the determined allelic frequencies of detected biomarker, as recorded in the NCBI SNP database, were used in combination with other polymorphic peptides to calculate the probability that any hair sample comes from the same individual as another hair sample. Likewise, in additional embodiments, a predicted combination of peptide biomarker polymorphisms could be determined using DNA-based methodology, such as SNP

microarray chips or polymerase chain reaction, which could then be confirmed using proteomic methodology.

A Table of the 24 most abundant proteins (name, UNIPROT identifier, primary protein citation number) is set forth in FIG. 2. Natural variants occurring in each of these gene products are indicated by amino acid missense or nonsense mutation, reference SNP number (rs#), and SwissProt natural varient identifier (FTId#). This preliminary data may be further built upon, as shown by the results of Example 1B. To further build the database a comprehensive study on a cohort of samples is conducted. Hair and DNA are obtained from 12 unrelated volunteers and two parents and four children. Hair samples are processed as set forth above in Examples 1A or 1B including trypsin cleavage and mass spectral analysis.

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The protein identity and peptide coverage in hair samples are confirmed and the polymorphic peptides are identified to create a reference database with all possible missense mutations. The identified polymorphisms are then confirmed using DNA SNP analysis. A custom chip of equivalent responsible SNPs (384 SNPs) is designed once protein polymorphisms are detected and DNA from all human subjects analyzed.

A list of different DNA variants that may be used for identification of individuals using human hair protein follows below. Each is identified by a reference SNP number (rs#) from the NCBI SNP database, build release dbSNP build 133, which is publically accessible through the URL: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP/ and the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety. These have been identified by searching the database for SNPs related to hair proteins that relate to an by amino acid missense or nonsense mutation resulting in a peptide difference that may be detectable in a hair sample using a method in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

rs121913414, rs121913415, rs121913414, rs121913413, rs121913412, rs121913411, rs121913410, rs121913409, rs121913408, rs121913407, rs121913406, rs121913405, rs121913404, rs121913403, rs121913402, rs121913401, rs121913400, rs121913399, rs121913398, rs121913397, rs121913396, rs121913395, rs121913394, rs121913228, rs118203897, rs118203896, rs118203895, rs113994177, rs113994176, rs114998364, rs113905463, rs45581032, rs7272340, rs52800893, rs6048066, rs1126816, rs1126815, rs1042617, rs17313209, rs58885596, rs214830, rs57982162, rs214814, rs60904394, rs52815802, rs3844903, rs214803, rs116974883, rs114174651, rs113688813, rs76914868, rs76252955, rs35987350, rs35967493,

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	rs59267781,	rs59065411,	rs59040894,	rs59026483,	rs58978449,	rs58932704,
5	rs58922911,	rs58917027,	rs58912633,	rs58850446,	rs58789393,	rs58727209,
	rs58672172,	rs58571998,	rs58541611,	rs58436778,	rs58389804,	rs58362413,
	rs58327533,	rs58133342,	rs58105277,	rs58100028,	rs58048078,	rs58034145,
	rs58013325,	rs57983345,	rs57966821,	rs57920071,	rs57883991,	rs57877560,
	rs57830985,	rs57793737,	rs57747780,	rs57730570,	rs57629361,	rs57520892,
10	rs57394692,	rs57318642,	rs57207746,	rs57077886,	rs57048196,	rs57045855,
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	rs56699480,	rs56694480,	rs56673169,	rs56657623,	rs41269939,	rs61742250,
	rs41264827,	rs36059053,	rs35507614,	rs35396382,	rs34777960,	rs34704938,
	rs34626929,	rs34195769,	rs61726476,	rs28933093,	rs59963467,	rs28933092,
15	rs57128252,	rs28933091,	rs61675528,	rs28933090,	rs60789642,	rs28928903,
	rs58312630,	rs28928902,	rs58044833,	rs28928901,	rs60711478,	rs28928900,
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	rs11549669,	rs11549667,	rs11549666,	rs11542705,	rs11539467,	rs10920171,
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20	rs1043860, rs1043857, rs1043849, rs61070979, rs13768					

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Example 2. Identification of human remains using hair

Human remains are found for which DNA is not available due to the condition of the remains, as from prolonged environmental exposure and the discovery of partial remains. Since DNA is not present, but proteins present in the hard tissue of hair are available, hair samples from such remains are analyzed for polymorphisms. Investigatory samples are prepared and analyzed for polymorphisms as set forth in Examples 1A and 1B. At the same time known reference samples from potential individuals who are suspected to be the source of the remains (such as missing persons from the area where the remains were discovered) are similarly prepared and analyzed. Alternatively, samples from relatives of such persons (such as siblings or parents) are used as reference samples, particularly usings SNPs from DNA samples from the prospective parents. Comparison of suitable peptide polymorphisms in the investigatory samples are compared to those of reference samples to exclude potential

identified individuals. For non-excluded individuals, data from comparative databases, such as those developed in accordance with Examples 1A through 1C, may be used to calculate the probability of a positive identification.

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Example 2A. Exclusion of potential criminal suspects using hair

This technique of Example 2 is used to analyze human hair tissue found at a crime scene against known reference samples taken from known suspects. Comparison of suitable peptide polymorphisms against the reference samples is used to exclude potential suspects. For non-excluded individuals, data from comparative databases, such as those developed in accordance with Examples 1A through 1C, may be used to calculate the probability of a positive identification.

Example 2B. Paternity exclusion testing using hair

This technique of Example 2 is used to analyze human hair tissue as part of paternity testing. Hair samples from a child for which paternity is to be investigated are prepared and analyzed as set forth in Example 1A or 1B. At the same time known reference samples from potential individuals who are suspected to be the fathers of the child are similarly prepared and analyzed. Comparison of suitable peptide polymorphisms against the reference samples is used to exclude potential fathers. For non-excluded individuals, data from comparative databases, such as those developed in accordance with Examples 1A through 1C, may be used to calculate the probability of a positive identification.

Example 3. Identification of human remains using skin, dentin, or bone

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Human remains are found for which DNA is not available due to the condition of the remains, as from prolonged environmental exposure and the discovery of partial remains. Since DNA is not present, but proteins present in hard tissues of skin, dentin, and/or bone are available, a comparative databases of human skin, dentin, and/or bone proteins are developed by analyzing the ten most abundant proteins of each for suitable polymorphisms to use as markers, using the UNIPROT database that contains a section of natural variation and provides the associated single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP), or other relevant literature or databases as known to those of skill in the art. The allelic frequency of each particular polymorphism is determined

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relative to the reference sequence, and an approximate allelic frequency for the SNP that accounts for the amino acid polymorphism is calculated.

Samples of skin, dentin, and/or bone from such remains are analyzed for polymorphisms. Investigatory samples are prepared and analyzed for polymorphisms using a protocol similar to those set forth in Examples 1A and 1B. At the same time known reference samples from potential individuals who are suspected to be the source of the remains (such as missing persons from the area where the remains were discovered) are similarly prepared and analyzed. Alternatively, samples from relatives of such persons (such as siblings or parents) are used as reference samples. Comparison of suitable peptide polymorphisms in the investigatory samples are compared to those of the reference samples to exclude potential identified individuals. For non-excluded individuals, data from the comparative database may be used to calculate probabilities of a positive identification.

Example 4. Determination of relationships for historic human remains

Investigatory hair samples from human remains for a historical group, such as those in archeological or anthropological collections, for which DNA is not available due to the condition of the remains, as from prolonged environmental exposure or otherwise, but for which proteins present in the hard tissue of hair are available, are analyzed for polymorphisms as set forth in Example 2. At the same time known reference samples from present day population groups, or other historical groups, are similarly prepared and analyzed. Comparison of suitable peptide polymorphisms in the investigatory samples are compared to those of the reference samples. Data from comparative databases, such as those developed in accordance with Examples 1A through 1C, may be used to calculate the likely statistics between the groups to examine possible phylogenetic relationships for the study of historical relationships between historic populations and development of modern populations. For example the genetic distance from given genetic populations, such as a sub-Saharan population, can be calculated.

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Identification of non-human remains using hair

Non-human remains are found for which DNA is not available due to the condition of the remains. For example, customs agents find a shipment of products made using the tissues of an endangered species that include hair. Hair samples from

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such products are analyzed for protein polymorphisms, using a protocol similar to those set forth in Examples 1A and 1B. By comparison of suitable peptide polymorphisms from samples of individual products, it can be determined if the products were prepared from more than one individual of the endangered species. Where reference data is available, as by the development of a comparative database as explained previously herein, data from the comparative database may be used to calculate the source of the remains, as by genetic distance to known population groups for the endangered species.

Example 6. Identification of non-human remains using hair

It is often very difficult to obtain usable DNA from a perpetrator in rape kits. This is because the victim's DNA occurs at a much greater percentage than the perpetrators DNA. Some success is achieved through specifically amplifying markers on the male-specific Y-Chromosome. Unfortunately this is patrilineal and has limited genetic power. This sometimes makes it difficult to provide enough probative information to convict. However, genetic polymorphic markers also occur on proteins. Therefore male specific proteins in semen, when detected in a rape kit sample, have the potential to provide genetic information that is autosomal and non-redundant with Y-chromosome specific markers. This will expand the forensically probative information from rape kits.

Male specific proteins from a rape kit sample are analyzed for protein polymorphisms as investigatory samples, using a protocol similar to those set forth in Examples 1A and 1B. At the same time known reference samples from potential individuals who are suspected to be the source of the rape kit sample are similarly prepared and analyzed. Alternatively, samples from relatives of such persons (such as siblings or parents) are used as reference samples. Comparison of suitable peptide polymorphisms in the investigatory samples are compared to those of the reference samples to exclude potential identified individuals. For non-excluded individuals, Random Match probabilities may be calculation using data from a comparative database to calculate probabilities of a positive identification.

While this invention has been described in certain embodiments, the present invention can be further modified within the spirit and scope of this disclosure. This application is therefore intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention using its general principles. Further, this application is intended to cover

such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice in the art to which this invention pertains and which fall within the limits of the appended claims.

All references, including publications, patents, and patent applications, cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each reference were individually and specifically indicated to be incorporated by reference and were set forth in its entirety herein.

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

The reference in this specification to any prior publication (or information derived from it), or to any matter which is known, is not, and should not be taken as an acknowledgment or admission or any form of suggestion that that prior publication (or information derived from it) or known matter forms part of the common general knowledge in the field of endeavour to which this specification relates.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A method of using protein polymorphism biomarkers to conduct genetic analysis on a proteinaceous tissue sample, the method comprising:

extracting a mixture of proteins from the proteinaceous tissue sample;

digesting the extracted mixture of proteins with trypsin;

identifying a pattern of polymorphic tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins; and

analyzing the identified polymorphic tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins to make a determination as to a genetic relationship of a source of the proteinaceous tissue sample.

- 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein identifying polymorphic tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins comprises using mass spectrometry to determine the peptide residues present in the extracted mixture of proteins.
- 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein using mass spectrometry to determine the peptide residues present in the extracted mixture of proteins comprises resolving digested extracted protein with reversed-phase liquid chromatography followed by mass spectrometry to fragment individual peptide backbones within the digested extracted mixture of proteins and then measure the resulting pieces to obtain a distinctive pattern corresponding to the individual peptides present.
- 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein identifying polymorphic tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins comprises identifying polymorphic peptides corresponding to known polymorphic variants of proteins present in the proteinaceous tissue sample that correspond to single nucleotide polymorphisms.
- 5. The method according to claim 4, wherein identifying polymorphic peptides corresponding to known polymorphic variants of proteins present in the proteinaceous tissue that correspond to single nucleotide protein polymorphisms comprises identifying polymorphic peptides corresponding to single nucleotide protein polymorphic variants

selected from the group consisting of desmoplakin; keratin, type I cuticular Ha2; plakophilin-1; stratifin; keratin, type I cytoskeletal 39; protein-glutamine gamma-glutamyltransferase; keratin, type II cuticular Hb1; keratin, type II cuticular Hb3; keratin, type II cuticular Hb6; bleomycin hydrolase; L-lactate dehydrogenase A chain; keratin, type I cuticular Hb2; keratin, type I cuticular Ha3-II; selenium-binding protein 1; 14-3-3 protein sigma; desmoglein-4; ATP synthase subunit alpha, mitochondrial; annexin A2; bleomycin hyydrolase; and leucine-rich repeat-containing protein 15.

- 6. The method according to claim 4, wherein identifying polymorphic peptides corresponding to known polymorphic variants of proteins present in the proteinaceous tissue sample that correspond to single nucleotide polymorphisms comprises identifying polymorphic peptides corresponding to known single nucleotide polymorphisms that are missense mutations.
- 7. The method of claim 4, wherein analyzing the identified polymorphic tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins to make a determination as to a genetic relationship of a source of the proteinaceous tissue sample comprises comparing the presence of the individual protein polymorphism biomarkers identified from the polymorphic tryptic peptides to reference protein polymorphism biomarkers in a database to conduct genetic analysis.
- 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the genetic analysis comprises calculation of a probability that the proteinaceous tissue sample originated with a particular individual, or calculation of a genetic distance between the tissue sample and a known genetic population.
- 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the genetic analysis comprises exclusion of potential individuals, identification of a specific individual, or an identification of paternity.
- 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the genetic analysis comprises calculation of a

Random Match Probability.

- 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein identifying polymorphic tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins comprises identifying polymorphic peptides corresponding to male specific trypsin-digested peptides in the Y-chromosome isoform of amelogenin.
- 12. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the proteinaceous tissue sample comprises human hair, bone or tooth tissue.
- 13. A process for conducting genetic analysis on a hair sample, comprising: extracting a mixture of proteins from the hair sample; digesting the extracted mixture of proteins with trypsin; identifying a pattern of tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of

proteins; and
analyzing the identified pattern of tryptic peptides present within the extracted
mixture of proteins to identify protein polymorphisms of interest to make a

determination as to a genetic relationship of a source of the hair sample.

- 14. The process according to claim 13, wherein identifying tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins comprises using mass spectrometry to determine the peptide residues present in the extracted protein.
- 15. The process according to claim 14, wherein using mass spectrometry to determine the peptide residues present in the extracted mixture of proteins comprises resolving digested extracted protein with reversed-phase liquid chromatography followed by mass spectrometry to fragment individual peptide backbones within the digested extracted mixture of proteins and then measuring the resulting pieces to obtain a distinctive pattern corresponding to the individual peptides present.
- 16. The process according to claim 13, wherein analyzing the identified pattern of tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins to identify protein

polymorphisms of interest to make a determination as to a genetic relationship of a source of the hair sample comprises identifying polymorphic peptides corresponding to known polymorphic variants of proteins present in hair tissue that correspond to single nucleotide protein polymorphisms.

- 17. The process according to claim 16, wherein identifying polymorphic peptides corresponding to known polymorphic variants of proteins present in hair tissue that correspond to single nucleotide protein polymorphisms comprises identifying polymorphic peptides corresponding to single nucleotide protein polymorphic variants selected from the group consisting of at least one of desmoplakin; keratin, type I cuticular Ha2; plakophilin-1; stratifin; keratin, type I cytoskeletal 39; protein-glutamine gamma-glutamyltransferase; keratin, type II cuticular Hb1; keratin, type II cuticular Hb3; keratin, type II cuticular Hb5; keratin, type II cuticular Hb6; bleomycin hydrolase; L-lactate dehydrogenase A chain; keratin, type I cuticular Hb2; keratin, type I cuticular Ha3-II; selenium-binding protein 1; 14-3-3 protein sigma; desmoglein-4; ATP synthase subunit alpha, mitochondrial; annexin A2; bleomycin hydrolase; and leucine-rich repeat-containing protein 15.
- 18. The process according to claim 16, wherein analyzing the identified pattern of tryptic peptides present within the extracted mixture of proteins to identify protein polymorphisms of interest to make a determination as to a genetic relationship of a source of the hair sample further comprises comparing the presence of identified single nucleotide protein polymorphisms within the hair sample to reference protein polymorphism biomarkers in a database to conduct genetic analysis.
- 19. The process of claim 18, wherein making a determination as to a genetic relationship of a source of the hair sample further comprises calculation of a probability that the hair sample originated with a particular individual, or calculation of a genetic distance between the source of the hair sample and a known genetic population.
- 20. The process of claim 18, wherein making a determination as to a genetic relationship of a source of the hair sample comprises exclusion of potential individuals, identification of a specific individual, or an identification of paternity.

- 21. The process of claim 18, wherein the making a determination as to a genetic relationship of a source of the hair sample comprises calculation of a Random Match Probability
- 22. The process according to claim 13, wherein digesting the extracted mixture of proteins with trypsin comprises digestion in the presence of a protease enhancer.
- 23. A method as claimed in claim 1, and substantially as herein described with reference to the examples.

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_	peptide	fre	allelic quency
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	VOYDLOK SEQ ID NO: 127	892.465	0.79
Y1512C	VQYDLQK SEQ ID NO: 127 VQCCLQK SEQ ID NO: 128	832.411	0.21
Keratin.	type II cuticular Hb2		
,	PCVENEFVALK SEQ ID NO: 129	1247.622	0.99
# 34073	PCVQNEFVALK SEQ ID NO: 130	1247.622	0.99
E219Q	SEQ ID NO: 13 GAFLYEPCGVSTPVLSTGVLR	1 1240.037	
290 1 10 M			0.04
E452D	GAFLYDPCGVSTPVLSTGVLR SEQ ID NO: 1		0.68
M458T	GAFLYD PCGVSMPVLSTGVLR SEQ ID NO: 13	³ 2181.096	0.27
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	ADLEAQUESTK SEQ ID NO: 134	1201.619	0.46
S222Y	SEO ID NO: 135	1277.65	0.54
	SEQ ID NO: 58	1463.673	0.99
T339M	DSLEN MLTESEAR SEQ ID NO: 59	1493.666	0.95
ויופכבו			
	FGFINTYR SEQ ID NO: 3	1093.54	0.63
T395M	LEGEINMYR SEQ ID NO: 3 LEGEINMYR SEQ ID NO: 4	1123.533	0.37
	LPCNPCSTPSCTTCVPSPCVTR SEQ ID NO: 13	6 2264.972	0.19
T427P	LPCNPCSTPSCTTCVPSPCVTR SEQ ID NO: 15 LPCNPCSTPSCTTCVPSPCVPR	³⁷ 2260.977	0.78
	LPCNPCSTPSCTTCVPSPCVTR SEQ ID NO: 13		0.79
R428C	LPCNPCSTPSCTTCVPSPCVTCTVCVPR	2867.227	0.05
·	SEQ ID N	O: 138	

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M4581	rs2658558	VAR_032787	M155I	rs11542705	VAR 048095	A82V	rs650352 /	VAR_046590
E219Q	rs1791634	VAR_018118	141331	(311342.03	1741,,,040033	A377Y	rs34293483	VAR_046991
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15924			OBIUC:			076009		
305F	-17604602	VAD 033063	C1115	rs9636845	VAR_053467	A270V	12027510	VAD 05/433
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₹1738Q	156929069	VAR_023815		pe II cuticular	HD5		pe I cuticular i	Ha3-II
	rs34738426	VSP_005070	KRT85_HU	MAN		KT33B_HUI	MAN	
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		VAR_023616				TGM3_HUM		g
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					ai 39			
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SEQUENCE LISTING

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5 <120> METHODS FOR CONDUCTING GENETIC ANALYSIS
USING PROTEIN
POLYMORPHISMS

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85

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Leu Pro Cys Asn Pro Cys Ser Thr Pro Ser Cys Thr Thr Cys Val Pro

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88

	Met Pro Leu	Pro Pro His F	ro Gly His Pr	o Gly Tyr Ile Asn Phe Ser
	20	25	30	
5	Tyr Glu Val	Leu Thr Pro I	Leu Lys Trp T	yr Gln Ser Ile Arg Pro Pro
	35	40	45	
	Tyr Pro Ser 7	Гуг Gly Туг С	lu Pro Met G	y Gly Trp Leu His His Gln
10	50	55	60	
			·	
	Ile Ile Pro Va	al Leu Ser Glr	Gln His Pro	Pro Thr His Thr Leu Gln
	65	70	75	80
15				
	Pro His His H	His Ile Pro Va	l Val Pro Ala	Gln Gln Pro Val Ile Pro
	85	90	95	O
20				
			Val Pro Gly G	In His Ser Met Thr Pro Ile
	100	105	110	
25	Gln His His (Gln Pro Asn I	∟eu Pro Pro Pr	o Ala Gln Gln Pro Tyr Gln
	115	120	125	
	Pro Gln Pro V	Val Gln Pro G	iln Pro His Gl	n Pro Met Gln Pro Gln Pro
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	Pro Val His F	Pro Met Gln P	ro Leu Pro Pr	o Gln Pro Pro Leu Pro Pro
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	Met Pro Pro M	let Gln Pro Le	eu Pro Pro M	set Leu Pro Asp Leu Thr Leu
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	20	25	30	
25				
	Tyr Glu Asn S	er His Ser Glı	n Ala Ile Ası	n Val Asp Arg Ile Ala Leu
	35	40	45	
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	50	55	60	
	Ser Ser Tyr Gl	y Tyr Glu Pro	Met Gly G	ly Trp Leu His His Gln Ile

Ile Pro Val Val Ser Gln Gln His Pro Leu Thr His Thr Leu Gln Ser His His His Ile Pro Val Val Pro Ala Gln Gln Pro Arg Val Arg Gln Gln Ala Leu Met Pro Val Pro Gly Gln Gln Ser Met Thr Pro Thr Gln His His Gln Pro Asn Leu Pro Leu Pro Ala Gln Gln Pro Phe Gln Pro Gln Pro Val Gln Pro Gln Pro His Gln Pro Met Gln Pro Gln Pro Pro Val Gln Pro Met Gln Pro Leu Leu Pro Gln Pro Pro Leu Pro Pro Met Pro Pro Leu Arg Pro Leu Pro Pro Ile Leu Pro Asp Leu His Leu Glu

> Ala Trp Pro Ala Thr Asp Lys Thr Lys Gln Glu Glu Val Asp 195 200 205