The Power of Biometric Profiling: Unlocking Genetic Identity and Solving Crimes

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Introduction

Biometric profiling, also known as Biometric fingerprinting, is a powerful forensic tool that revolutionized the field of criminal investigations. This article explores the concept of DNA profiling, its methodology, applications, and the significant impact it has had on solving crimes and establishing genetic identities. DNA profiling is a technique used to analyse and compare specific regions of an individual's DNA to create a unique genetic profile. The process involves extracting DNA from biological samples, such as blood, saliva, or hair, and amplifying specific regions of the DNA through Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). The resulting DNA profile, composed of distinctive genetic markers, is then analyzed and compared with other profiles to determine relatedness or identity [1].

Description

The methodology of DNA profiling primarily relies on analysing Short Tandem Repeat (STR) regions within the DNA. These regions contain repetitive sequences of DNA that vary in length among individuals. PCR amplification targets specific STR loci, and the resulting DNA fragments are separated using gel electrophoresis or capillary electrophoresis. By comparing the lengths of the STR alleles at multiple loci, a unique genetic profile is generated for each individual. DNA profiling has numerous applications in forensic science, law enforcement, and other fields. In criminal investigations, DNA profiling plays a pivotal role in identifying suspects, linking individuals to crime scenes, and exonerating the innocent. It has been instrumental in solving cold cases, identifying unidentified human remains, and identifying victims of mass disasters. DNA profiling is utilized in paternity testing to establish biological parentage with high accuracy. It has also been employed in immigration cases, where genetic relationship testing is crucial for family reunification and citizenship claims [2,3].

DNA databases, which store DNA profiles from convicted offenders and crime scenes, have proven invaluable in identifying repeat offenders and connecting previously unrelated crimes. The comparison of DNA profiles in these databases can link crimes, identify serial offenders, and enhance the efficiency of criminal investigations. Advancements in technology and the field of genetics continue to enhance DNA profiling capabilities. The utilization of more advanced techniques, such as massively parallel sequencing (MPS), allows for the analysis of a broader range of genetic markers with higher sensitivity and accuracy. This enables the analysis of degraded or trace amounts of DNA, expanding the potential for DNA profiling in challenging forensic scenarios. Moreover, the development of miniaturized and portable DNA sequencing devices has

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Received: 27 March, 2023, Manuscript No. Jbmbs-23-101641; Editor assigned: 29 March, 2023, Pre QC No. P-101641; Reviewed: 12 April, 2023, QC No. Q-101641; Revised: 17 April, 2023, Manuscript No. R-101641; Published: 25 April, 2023, DOI: 10.37421/2155-6180.2023.14.157

accelerated on-site DNA profiling capabilities. Rapid DNA analysis systems now enable real-time identification of suspects or victims at crime scenes or disaster sites, significantly expediting investigations. The use of DNA profiling raises ethical and legal considerations, particularly concerning privacy, consent, and the storage and sharing of DNA profiles. Strict protocols and regulations are in place to ensure the responsible use of DNA profiling, with safeguards to protect individuals' rights and prevent misuse or unauthorized access to genetic information. Legal frameworks vary across jurisdictions, and careful balance must be struck between the potential benefits of DNA profiling and the protection of individual privacy and civil liberties [4,5].

Conclusion

DNA profiling has revolutionized the field of forensic science, providing investigators with a powerful tool for identifying individuals and solving crimes. Its applications in criminal investigations, paternity testing, and disaster victim identification have transformed the way we approach justice and establish genetic identities. On-going advancements in DNA profiling techniques and technologies continue to enhance its accuracy, sensitivity, and portability. By addressing ethical and legal considerations, DNA profiling can continue to be utilized responsibly, ensuring the protection of individuals' privacy while maximizing its potential to solve crimes and establish genetic identities. As the field of genetics progresses, DNA profiling is likely to continue evolving, offering even more precise and comprehensive methods for analysing and interpreting genetic information.

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How to cite this article: Rose, Welina. "The Power of Biometric Profiling: Unlocking Genetic Identity and Solving Crimes." J Biom Biosta 14 (2023): 157