

Report by Lynn Nichol, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

The need for Sequence based typing in our laboratory was becoming more and more obvious. We perform volume testing on potential bone marrow donors using DNA obtained from buccal swab samples. We perform rSSOP testing using One Lambda LABType™ methods. Periodically, we are required to resolve ambiguities or confirm some of our findings and SSP is not a good alternative test when dealing with buccal swab DNA.

We had investigated other methods of SBT testing in the past 4 years but had not officially decided on one over the other. We use ABI Big Dye Terminator Cycle Sequencing kits for various research studies in our laboratory. The use of the Cycle Sequencing kits in SBTExcellerator makes this method an excellent choice for our laboratory.

We began the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) validation process in December of 2009. In January of 2010 I saw the announcement of the SBTEngine® Training School offered in March of 2010. I thought that it would be beneficial to attend a formal training session in the method we were attempting to validate in our laboratory, so I applied for one of the scholarships that were offered.

We worked on our validation of the technology throughout January and February completing it in early March.

Attending the workshop after I was familiar with the technique and software analysis was extremely beneficial.

Evaluation:

The overall pace of the workshop was well executed. The class size was ideal for the work to be done.

The laboratory work served as a stimulus for trainee interaction. Review of the protocol as a group allowed exchange of ideas and troubleshooting techniques

There was sufficient access to computers to perform software analysis individually and as a group.

The group carried with it a varied experience background making for interesting discussion.

The presentations were well organized and very informative.

I would recommend this training session to anyone performing Sequence based typing. I also attended a one day workshop at the ASHI national meeting in Toronto 2008. We hadn't used SBTExcellerator® or SBTEngine® at the time and I still came away for the workshop with knowledge that I didn't have before.

I would also like to thank everyone at Genome Diagnostics for allowing me the opportunity to attend this workshop and wish you all continued success.