

***The Green Mountain DNA Conference provides a forum for the promotion of education and research while improving practice and encouraging collaboration in the field of forensic sciences.***

In support of this mission statement, the Green Mountain DNA Conference organizers are committed to:

- Providing a service to the research and development community in the forensic sciences. Each Conference has a recurring thematic topic and strives to be the overall best meeting in its field.
- Providing an open application process for attendance at conferences by active analysts and educators from government, academia, and industry.
- Assuring a format and site locations that encourage extensive formal and informal discussion and a sense of community among the attendees.
- Placing a premium on the "off the record" presentation of previously unpublished scientific results and on the consequent *ad hoc* peer discussion with the intention that presentations will not be a forum for the advertisement of particular commercial products.
- Using the Conference as a positive influence on the culture of science as reflected in openness to a diversity of new ideas and concepts, outreach to global science, and establishment of an egalitarian environment for scientific debate.
- Providing a forum for the synthesis and evaluation of new concepts as a means to clarify and crystallize new research directions.
- Making the Conference available to the worldwide scientific community.

## **ORIGIN, PURPOSE & COMMITMENT OF THE CONFERENCES**

The Green Mountain DNA Conference was initiated by Dr. Eric Buel, of the Vermont Forensic Laboratory, who recognized the difficulty in establishing good, direct communication between scientists, whether working in the same subject area or in interdisciplinary research. The Green Mountain DNA Conference promotes discussions and the free exchange of ideas at the research frontiers of forensic science. Scientists with common professional interests come together for three days of intense discussion and examination of the most advanced aspects of their field. This Conference provide a valuable means of disseminating information and ideas in a way that cannot be achieved through the usual channels of communication - publications and presentations at large scientific meetings.

## **ADMISSION QUALIFICATIONS**

Attendance at the Conference is determined on a first-come first-serve basis until the maximum number of attendees is reached. At that point, a waiting list is generated in the event of a cancellation. To encourage a wide variety of representation, the maximum number of attendees from a single laboratory/agency/corporation is two. However, if the maximum number of attendees is not reached by a pre-determined cutoff date, then additional attendees from a laboratory/agency/corporation are allowed to attend. As the host, the Vermont Forensic Laboratory provides the staff required to conduct the meeting and will be allowed to exceed the maximum number of attendees per laboratory/agency.

## **CONFERENCE FORMAT**

To encourage open communication, each member of the Conference agrees that any information presented, whether in a formal talk, poster session, or discussion, is a private communication from the individual making the contribution and is presented with the restriction that such information is not for public use. The recording of lectures by any means, the photography of slide or poster material, and printed reference to Green Mountain DNA Conference papers and discussion is prohibited. Scientific publications are not to be prepared as emanating from the Conference. Authors are requested to omit references to the Conferences in any publication. Guests are not permitted to attend the Conference lectures and discussion sessions. Each member of the Conference acknowledges and agrees to these restrictions when registration is accepted and as a condition of being permitted to attend the Conference. Although Green Mountain DNA Conference staff will take reasonable steps to enforce the restrictions against recording and photographing Conference presentations, each member of the Conference assumes sole responsibility for the protection and preservation of any intellectual property rights in such member's contributions to the Conference.