

TOPICS for Talks

Updated: Mar 2025

Third-Party Tools

- What can I use DNAPainter for?
- What is GEDMatch and how can it be useful?
- What is DNAGedcom and how will it help me?
- What is WATO (What Are the Odds)?

Ancestry-Specific Topics

- What is SideView in Ancestry?
- What is Timber in Ancestry and why is it important to me?
- What is ThruLines and how can it help me?
- How can I download a list of my matches in Ancestry?
- How do I link a tree to my kit?
- What is ProTools in Ancestry?
- Saving money by using gift memberships in Ancestry

Working With Genetic Networks

- Working with a genetic network (aka "DNA Island")
- What cluster tools are available (Leeds, autocluster, etc.)?
- What is a DNA relationship diagram and how can I create one?
- How can I use "tag groups", "colored dots", etc., in Ancestry and MyHeritage?
- What are some techniques for identifying mystery matches?

Working With Testing Companies

- Test-taking strategies
- Is it dangerous to upload my DNA kit to another site?
- How can I download and upload my DNA and why would I want to?
- What are the differences between the different testing companies?

Tree Topics

- What are Quick & Dirty Trees and how are they useful?
- What is pedigree collapse?
- What are some good practices for working with family trees?

Relationship Questions

- What's a double cousin and what does it mean in terms of DNA?
- How can I tell if a sibling is half or full?
- How can I tell if my parents are related?

General DNA Topics

- Is YDNA or mtDNA testing for me?
- How can I use the Notes field for DNA matches to good benefit?
- What is a chromosome browser?
- Can I rely on ethnicity estimates?
- What is DNA triangulation?
- What are centiMorgans and why are they important?
- Is it safe to take a DNA test?
- Should I try to message my DNA matches and how?
- Security updates of the different companies