

My DNA Results are Here; Now What?

Best Practices Checklist

Preparation and Set-up

- Create a DNA log. Be prepared to track correspondence, research, and successes.
- Add your pedigree to your DNA profile (AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage).
- Consider adding your pedigree to more online trees:
 - WikiTree
 - Family Search Family Tree
 - Ancestry.com
 - MyHeritage
 - GEDmatch.com
- Add your ancestral surnames and ancestral locations (FamilyTreeDNA; 23andMe).
- Add a short blurb (a bio or an “About Me”) and a profile picture.

Matches – Work with Matches to Determine MRCA

- Review your matches for commonalities (surname, location, pedigree).
- Utilize “In Common With” tools for clues:
 - DNA Circles (Ancestry)
 - In Common With (FamilyTreeDNA)
 - Relatives in Common (23andMe)
 - ADSA (DNAgedcom.com)
 - GEDmatch.com
- Contact your matches, even those without a tree, surnames, or location.
- Be sure to follow up with your matches if you believe you have found the MRCA.

Test Plan & Goals

- Define your research goals & create a DNA test plan.
- Consider additional DNA tests:
 - More tests for yourself
 - Invite more cousins to test
- Consider upload of raw data to:
 - Gedmatch
 - FamilyTreeDNA
 - MyHeritage DNA
 - Living DNA