



DNA FINGERPRINTING IN FORENSICS MEDIA ROUND TABLE

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Public Understanding of Biotechnology Programme

DR CAROLYN HANCOCK

Carolyn studied at the University of KwaZulu-Natal where she obtained a B.Sc. Agriculture degree, followed by a Masters and Ph.D. in Genetics. She has extensive knowledge of the fields of genetics and science education and has specialized in population and quantitative genetics. She has been involved with numerous research projects in these fields and has considerable experience in curriculum development, research into students' understanding of concepts in the life sciences and the design and implementation of innovative teaching strategies.

Her career started as a field officer for Taurus co-operative. Her position at Taurus primarily involved advising farmers on the use of biotechnology in their breeding programmes. She then joined the University of KwaZulu-Natal as a lecturer at the start of 1990 where she was responsible for the development and teaching of genetics modules. She remained a genetics lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal until 2005. During this time, she was also involved with the mentoring and supervision of many M.Sc. and Honours students who were conducting research in the field of science education and the applied life sciences.

Thereafter she became a quantitative genetics lecturer for the African Centre for Crop Improvement; an organization funded by the Rockefeller Foundation that trains Ph.D. students from all over Africa to become proficient researchers in the field of Plant Breeding.

In 2007 she joined the DNA Project and is now a Director of this non-profit organization. The aim of the DNA Project is to facilitate the expansion of the South African Criminal Intelligence DNA Database. She is currently primarily concerned with the development of a post-graduate qualification in Forensic Biology that will equip graduates for employment by Forensic Science Laboratories.



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