



SIEF supports John Stocker Postgraduate Scholar to study low template DNA profiling for forensic human identification

the challenge Traces of DNA profiles in fingerprints are frequently too small to be of any value to forensic researchers because a high percentage of DNA is often lost through standard extraction procedures.

the response A SIEF John Stocker Postgraduate Scholarship supported Dr Jennifer Templeton, to identify a methodology—direct polymerase chain reaction ('direct PCR')—capable of obtaining DNA profiles from finger marks on a variety of substrates including wood, glass, and metal. The method was shown to be reliable and reproducible, with a faster turnaround, reduced contamination, and higher success rate in meeting standards required for uploading data to the Australian DNA Database than standard methods.

the collaboration The research was a successful collaboration between Flinders University and Forensic Science South Australia. Dr Templeton was supervised by Forensic Science expert Professor Adrian Linacre at Flinders University.

the impact The outcomes of this project will have important projected impacts, including:

- Offering a methodology that is more reliable, robust, and reproducible; thus, reducing error rates and improving the efficiency of a variety of forensic analysis resources.
- Supporting the career development of Dr Jennifer Templeton, an Australian early career researcher, in the field of forensic science; as well as providing training in science communication and publishing.

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What is SIEF?

Spanning a history of over 90 years, the Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF) provides grants to science and scientists for the purposes of assisting Australian industry, furthering the interests of the Australian community and contributing to the achievement of Australian national objectives. This unique and esteemed funding arrangement received a substantial gift from CSIRO made possible from proceeds of its fast wireless local area network (WLAN) technology, facilitating the rejuvenated Fund to be a mechanism for significant support of science in Australia.