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This volume of the International Congress Series (**1261**) contains mainly 3-page manuscripts of the 239 poster and 58 oral presentations from the 20th International ISFG Congress, Arcachon, France, 9–13 September 2003. It stands in the long tradition of ISFG congresses that are followed by such collections of manuscripts (formerly titled “Advances in Haemogenetics”) and provides an overview of the most recent developments in the active field of forensic genetics: e.g., new technologies such as SNP typing, mass disaster victim identification, mtDNA and Y-chromosomal analysis.

For all attendees of the congress this book is a valuable addition to the collected Abstracts; and all those who were not able to attend will profit from the high scientific level of the manuscripts.

The volume itself has two helpful indexes (author and keyword), and the publisher has made a great effort to provide Internet access to this and the previous volumes (<http://www.ics-publishing.com/periodicals/ics/content>) with a convenient full-text search option. After registration, all ISFG members can have access to the full texts in the PDF format. Only a Medline implementation is now missing.

These proceedings and particularly this volume should not be missing in any laboratory that is dedicated to forensic genetics.

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