

Regional Technical Specialists Join Promega's Genetic Identity Team

Promega's Regional Technical Specialists (RTS) serve as your principal source of information for Genetic Identity products. We are pleased to announce that Rita Weispfenning and Gabriela Saldanha have joined the Genetic Identity team as Regional Technical Specialists covering Europe and Latin America.



Rita Weispfenning, Ph.D.

RITA WEISPFENNING, Ph.D.

Rita grew up in the South of Germany and concluded her studies of biology at the Eberhard-Karls University in Tuebingen. Her main subject was human genetics and the topic of her diploma was "The optimization of the PCR at the VNTR locus D1S80 and establishment of the most appropriate method for use of this marker in routine work".

After graduation she started her Ph.D. studies at the Institute of Anthropology and Human Genetics in Tuebingen. Her doctorate work included an investigation of STR applications for use in paternity and forensic casework. She developed a multiplex PCR for the STR loci CD4, CYP19, FABP2, F13A01 and LPL for use with manual as well as with automated fluorescent detection platforms. Rita also performed allele sequencing, ascertained mutation rates and carried out a population study within the Southern German population to investigate allele frequencies of the DNA markers. Additionally she conducted theoretical and practical human genetics courses for biology students at the University of Tuebingen.

Rita completed her doctoral thesis in December 1998. Since March 1999 Rita has held the position of Technical Trainer at Promega Corporation. In March of this year she took over the Regional Technical Specialist Position for Europe. Rita lives with her husband near Stuttgart, Germany.



Gabriela Saldanha, B.S.

GABRIELA SALDANHA, B.S.

Gabriela grew up in the South of Brazil where she received her bachelors degree in biology from the the Santa Catarina Federal University. As part of her studies, she worked with isolated populations evaluating genetic polymorphisms and degree of heterozygosity between different populations. Her previous associates are still developing this work and results have been published periodically with her participation.

After graduation Gabriela worked in a private molecular biology laboratory where she initially performed infectious disease detection by PCR, advancing to applications for the use of DNA in paternity and forensic casework. Eventually she became the technical and scientific manager of the laboratory.

Since January 2000 Gabriela has been employed by Promega Corporation as the Regional Technical Specialist for Latin America. In her own words: "My goals in this new job are to answer questions about Promega's Genetic Identity products, work closely with distributors to identify customer needs, and to coordinate seminars, workshops and training programs. I look forward to helping meet all our users needs".

Gabriela lives in Madison, WI. She enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, bike riding and taking care of her garden. She also enjoys traveling, meeting new people and exchanging ideas.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rita Weispfenning: Tel: 49-7127-93 40 19. E-mail: rweispfe@promega.com

Gabriela Saldanha: Tel: 608-274-4330, extension 1492. E-mail: gsaldanh@promega.com.