



Call for Submissions: 2024 DNA Hit of the Year

Submission Deadline – September 29, 2023

The selected case will be announced at the 2024 HIDS Conference

GTH DNA is pleased to announce the eighth annual DNA *Hit of the Year* – a global program established to demonstrate the power of forensic DNA databases to solve crime and identify missing persons.

GTH DNA encourages you to submit impactful DNA database hit cases from your jurisdiction. If you are receiving this announcement and you are not from a crime lab or police department, we hope you will forward the announcement to your crime lab and police department friends and colleagues to help spread the word.

Upon receiving this year's case submissions, GTH DNA will collaborate with a distinguished international panel of forensic DNA scientists, police, and prosecutors to determine which case will be recognized as the DNA *Hit of the Year*.

The DNA *Hit of the Year* will be announced and presented by GTH DNA during the 2024 Human Identification Solutions (HIDS) conference. It will also be showcased globally throughout the year by GTH DNA. Scientific and investigative highlights from other finalist cases will also be discussed.

We hope you will participate in this year's DNA *Hit of the Year* program. Listed below are the eligibility requirements and the case submission process.

Eligibility Criteria

- The case must be a “cold hit” case where the criminal suspect was identified due to a match in the database where DNA from an unsolved crime scene was matched to a previously unidentified suspect in the database. Familial searching hits will be accepted, as well as hits that utilized private genealogy websites.
- A missing persons case where a missing person was identified using a DNA database match will also be accepted.
- The cold hit must have occurred between January 1, 2018, and September 29, 2023.
- A case must have received community-wide attention, had significant public safety impact, or had other circumstances making the case unique.

- Cases that were submitted during a previous *Hit of the Year* call for submissions will not be eligible.
- Jurisdictions may submit more than one case.

Submission Process

- Visit our submission page online at www.dnahitoftheyear.com.
- Fill out our online form with information including name of submitter, agency, email, country/state/jurisdiction, and web links to media coverage about the case.
- Write 500 words or less in the “story” box summarizing the case and explain what makes the case impactful or unique. Upon receiving the submission, GTH DNA staff will conduct further research about the case and may contact you for additional information prior to the judges’ review.
- GTH DNA must receive your submission no later than September 29, 2023.

We look forward to receiving your case. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Schroeder at info@dnahitoftheyear.com.

About GTH DNA

Since 1999 GTH DNA has been known as the world's foremost expert on forensic DNA database policy, law, and project development. Having advised crime labs, law enforcement, government officials, and the private sector in over 60 countries, GTH DNA is a trusted global partner. GTH DNA strives to provide highly-regarded professional services to advance effective and responsible forensic DNA programs.