

# Human Identity Trade Association Meetings February and April 1999

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The Human Identity Trade Association (HITA) Board of Directors met at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Meeting in February and elected new officers. The current officers are Tom Bode of The Bode Technology Group, President; Leonard Klevan of Hitachi Software Engineering Company, Ltd., President-Elect; Mike Baird of Lifecodes Corporation, Treasurer; and Randy Nagy of Promega Corporation, Secretary. Other current board members include William Tilstone of the National Forensic Science Technology Center, and James Mason of LabCorp of America. The Board of Directors also met in April, and with the assistance of former HITA President, Dan Garner, began to set the future course for HITA.

During the years since HITA was founded in 1992, this organization has 1) assisted with shaping of the "DNA Identification Act," 2) sponsored educational programs, 3) worked with related organizations such as the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), the Technical Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (TWGDAM) and AAFS, and 4) supported the establishment of standards and accreditation of laboratories. Building on these past accomplishments, the Board has set up a plan to modernize the operations of HITA. The Board voted to establish a web site that will contain general information about HITA and its members. In addition to containing the objectives of the association, its mission statement and general information on HITA, a web site ([www.hita.org](http://www.hita.org)) will be formed that will contain links to all member web sites. The HITA web site will also contain updates on the latest information regarding congressional actions on any bill that may affect HITA members. For example, HITA is monitoring the \$1.2 billion "Crime Identification Act," and will place updates regarding this legislation on its web site. In this way, members with interest in areas such as appropriations can find this information directly on HITA's web site. This will be the fastest way of keeping all members informed, but only paying members will have access to this latest information. This HITA web site is expected to be fully operational early in the summer of 1999.



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The Board also decided to increase the educational objectives of HITA. To this end, HITA will sponsor a session on technical issues of paternity on October 1, 1999, at the Tenth International Symposium on Human Identification at Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Those interested in submitting papers should contact Michael Baird by phone (Tel: 203-328-9500) or Randy Nagy by phone (Tel: 608-277-2646) or E-mail: [rnagy@promega.com](mailto:rnagy@promega.com).

Because of the ever-changing nature of the human identification business, the board also seeks additional members of HITA with areas of specialization that will impact the future of our business, such as chip technology research. For organizations with less than 10 employees and less than \$1 million in revenue, dues are \$500 per year. For all other organizations, the dues are \$1,000 per year. Those interested in joining HITA can contact Randy Nagy, Chairman of the Membership Committee, by phone (Tel: 608-277-2646) or E-mail: [rnagy@promega.com](mailto:rnagy@promega.com).