

## O'Shea Newsletter May 2010

It is hard to believe it is May already and my six months as administrator of the O'Shea yDNA Project are coming to a close. I have been asked, and I have agreed to continue as administrator with Brian and James as co-administrators. As the project grows, so does the input from everyone on the committee.

Welcome to new members! Much has been happening in the O'Shea yDNA Project since our last newsletter when we reported on the generous donations of kits, by Sharon Shea Bossard, Dick Shea, Kevin O'Shea and Brian O'Shea, to be used for Irish-based O'Sheas, who had responded to our letter to The Kerryman newspaper. Results are in for all four kits and matches have been found for individuals in the project.

You can see the results spreadsheet on: [http://www.osheaclan.org/OShea\\_Results\\_2010.html](http://www.osheaclan.org/OShea_Results_2010.html)

We hope you are lucky enough to be one of those who benefitted from these results. Thank you to all who have supported the project financially. **We hope for further support in the future but we cannot expect the same people to dip into their pockets again.**

Below, I will be referring to:

(i) **L21+ Project:**

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/R-L21/default.aspx?section=yresults>

(ii) **L21+ 11\_13 Combo Project:**

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/R-L21-1113Combo/default.aspx?section=yresults>

These two y-haplogroup projects are playing a support and research role in advancing our knowledge of the O'Shea surname. The L21+ Project is a project dedicated to understanding the origins and migrations of the L21+ subclade, which is denoted by R1b1b2a1b5, on the y-haplotype. Our main groups seem to be L21+. To confirm this for your own kit, you need to order a Deep Clade test or you can order a stand alone L21 SNP.

The 11\_13 Combo Project is a project which caters for a subgroup of L21+. This includes our main Kerry Group. The 11\_13 Combo Project requires that you have DYS406s1 = 11 or more DYS617 = 13 or more. These are off modal values for L21+ (R1b1b2a1b5) and also slow mutating therefore form a cluster.

### **Kerry Group**

Many members of the Kerry Group fit the criteria for the L21+ 11\_13 Combo Project which is actively trying to learn more about this cluster. I monitor its progress and you can too on its Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/1113Combo/> (requires membership).

Sharon Shea Bossard paid for her brother's Deep Clade test which is L21+. She also upgraded his results to 67 markers. Sharon also upgraded her brother's close match to 67 markers. This proved particularly useful in confirming the close relationship between the two men, as the two men have several of the same mutations in the 38-67 markers unlike other Kerry O'Sheas who have upgraded to 67 markers. In general the 38-67 markers are slow mutating and are therefore useful in confirming close relationships. Matches which are reasonably close at 37 markers can persist to 67 markers or can lose ground at 67 markers.

Dick Shea upgraded to 67 markers too and has several matches at this level. This testing helps to solidify the Kerry Group's position in the 11\_13 Combo Project. It is very useful to be part of a research group such as the 11\_13 Combo Project. If you look at the results in the 11\_13 Combo Project, you will see that the O'Sheas who are in it, are in a subgroup of their own. SNPs downstream of L21 have been found to identify some of these subgroups but none yet for the Kerry Sheas.

The unique SNP result R1b1b2a1a (R-U106) in the Kerry Group has been overturned by Family Tree DNA who agreed to do a free Deep Clade retest. While the retest isn't fully completed, we fully expect that it will be R1b1b2a1b5 (L21+) to conform to other SNP results in the project.

Dick Shea has put a lot of work into estimating an age for the Kerry Group and the other groups, using mathematical tools inspired by Anatole Klyosov's analysis (JOGG, Vol.5, No2, <http://www.jogg.info/>). The estimates put the MRCA (most recent common ancestor) at 700-900 years ago.

## **Cork/Clondrohid Group**

The Cork/Clondrohid Group is distinctly different from the Kerry Group although it is also L21+ . Two members of this group have done deep Clade testing and are L21+. One member did an L159.2 SNP and a 464X test (on DYS464) in order to test a theory that the Clondrohid Group is distantly connected to the Leinster Cluster. The SNP turned out to be negative but it is still possible that the Group may have an ancient connection to the Leinster Cluster, as it is called. The Clondrohid Group itself is basically an extended family going back to a common ancestor a few hundred years ago. DYF399X, an advanced marker is still being used to help filter this closely matching cluster.

## **Tipperary/Kilkenny Group**

Two members of this subgroup have also tested positive for the L21 SNP and both are in the L21+ Project. One member has upgraded to 67 markers and another has ordered an upgrade. The Tipperary/Kilkenny Group has been found to fit a modal haplotype which also fits several other surnames such as Burton, Fletcher and Coker. This modal haplotype is called the 4<sup>th</sup> Irish/Continental cluster and is given the Ysearch ID UWM64. What is unique about this group is that DYS426 is 13 whereas the modal value of this marker is 12 in the L21 subclade. Other typical markers are also off modal and give rise to this cluster. The upgrades to 67 markers and the deep Clade tests in this group help to confirm that the Tipperary/Kilkenny Group fit the 4<sup>th</sup> Irish/Continental Modal haplotype.

I am actively investigating this 4<sup>th</sup> Irish/Continental cluster and James O'Shea has also independently looked into it relative to the Shees. The Shees lived in a Norman controlled area, drew up family lineages, established coats of arms and became part of the establishment of Kilkenny City so it is possible that they came to Ireland in Norman times (12<sup>th</sup> century) with the Normans. This concurs with the age estimate of the group which is 700 years to a MRCA.

## **A New Kerry Group?**

Recent results for a new member (Beaufort, Killarney) of the project whose kit was sponsored by Sharon Shea Bossard match an O'Shea, with Cahertrant origins, who was in the "unassigned" group until now. This match could be the start of a new Kerry Group with origins in Dingle. The committee is paying for a 26-37 marker upgrade to further this research.

## **Other Information**

Some members of the project currently in the Unassigned R1b1b2 Group have results which fit, what is termed, the "**South Irish**" or Irish Type II Modal haplotype (Ysearch ID: K7BHW). These include two O'Sheas, Hansford, O'Connell surnames. There is no SNP downstream of L21 to define this cluster yet. However, another research project called L21+ Walk the Y is working to find SNPs and may find the SNPs which will help to further subdivide the L21 subclade. Another Shay conclusively matches McNeills of the Scottish Island of Barra.

Uploading your results to **Ysearch** may help you and others. Don't forget, if you upgrade, upload your extra results too. Also, you might consider using the setting "matches against the entire database" at Family Tree DNA. It may help you or others outside the project to see matches otherwise hidden. Note, project administrators cannot change this setting even momentarily to check for matches outside the project. It is useful for looking at the big picture to see which surnames are close to the O'Shea surname even at 12 markers (deep ancestry).

Other members of the O'Shea Project might find it useful to do a **Deep Clade** test to see where they fit into the big picture. Once you are confirmed to be L21+, you are eligible to join the L21+ Project. L21 is a SNP which is said to have occurred about 3,500 years ago so it puts the majority of the O'Shea Project into this subclade along with about 75% of Irish yDNA. Members who are of other Clades (such as J, G or I1 or I2a), can also avail of Deep Clade testing and there are y-haplogroup projects which are researching these.

**Additional markers** brings additional resolution. Thus, 37-marker matches are more significant than 25-marker matches, which are in turn more significant than 12-marker matches. 67-marker matches are most significant of all. 67 markers are especially necessary for proper interpretation in the R1b1b2 haplogroup.

**Other news**

Brian O'Shea and I attended the Clans of Ireland AGM in Dublin on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. I stayed on in Dublin to attend the Byrne DNA Seminar on the 18th, to which I had been invited by Paul Burns, who organized the event. Both events involved networking with people who were interested in yDNA testing with regard to Irish surnames. There are now two representatives on the board of the Clans of Ireland ([www.clansofireland.ie](http://www.clansofireland.ie)) who are furthering the DNA cause.

As usual we welcome hearing from members.

On behalf of the O'Shea Project administration,

Best regards,  
Margaret Jordan  
[www.osheaclan.org](http://www.osheaclan.org)