

## Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys

Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys is a British geneticist who developed techniques for DNA fingerprinting and profiling which are used worldwide, which is perhaps the greatest single Forensic Discovery of the 20th Century. . He was born on 9 January 1950 in Oxford, Oxfordshire ,England in a middle class family and has one brother and one sister. From childhood he was a curious child interested in research. He did his schooling at Luton grammar school and later Luton sixth Form College. He was a mod boy during his young age and then a Hippie for a while and then become a Rocker. Graduated in biochemistry from Merton College, Oxford in 1972 following an EMBO post doctoral Fellowship at the University of Amsterdam. In 1977 he moved to Department of Genetics at the University of Leicester.

He was one of the first to discover inherited variation in human DNA. He had this “eureka moment” in this lab in Leicester after looking at the X ray film image of a DNA experiment at 9.05 am on Monday 10 September 1984, which unexpectedly showed both similarities and differences between the DNA of different members of his technicians family. With half an hour he realized the possible scope of DNA fingerprinting, which is used worldwide to resolve the issues of identity and kinship and created the world of forensic DNA. This has major impact on solving paternity disputes, immigration cases , apprehending criminals and freeing innocent ,directly affecting the lives of millions of people worldwide.



This was first used to resolve the issue immigration case to confirm the identity of a British boy whose family was originally from Ghana It was resolved when the DNA results showed that the boy was closely related to the other family members. It was put in to police use to convict the rapist Colin Pitchfork whose DNA matched with the DNA samples of the semen taken from the victims it cleared the first suspect Richard Buckland. With many advanced modifications the DNA fingerprinting has become cheap, reliable and slandered method in Forensic Investigations.

Professor Jeffreys work has received widespread reorganization , including is election to the Royal Society in 1986, Knighthood in 1994 etc. he met his wife Sue at Luton and married her in 28-08-1971 and they two daughters and two grandsons and he enjoys reading unimproving novels and surfing in Cornwall.