

Dr. Peter A. Underhill
Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California

Bio Sketch:

Dr. Underhill grew up in Smithtown, NY not far from Cold Spring Harbour Laboratories. He received his undergraduate BS degree at Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA, and completed his MS and PhD degrees at the University of Delaware where his research focused on the physiological ecology of photosynthetic microscopic marine phytoplankton. Dr. Underhill then discovered molecular biology and worked for 6 years at SRI International (a non-profit research & development organization), Menlo Park, CA doing recombinant DNA, protein research and DNA sequencing. It was DNA sequencing that led him to Stanford University School of Medicine in 1992 as member of the non-faculty research staff. His research involves the molecular analysis of human DNA sequence variation in human populations. He has been doing pioneering research on human Y chromosome diversification since 1992 that has led to the development of a robust gene tree that elegantly defines numerous Y-chromosome varieties with distinctive geographic localization. The main focus of his research involves deciphering population affinity; substructure and history in contemporary populations using Y-chromosome compound SNP and STR lineages. Dr. Underhill has coauthored numerous peer-reviewed publications on the subject.