

IGG Research Strategist

Reports To: Executive Director of Institutional Strategy & Culture

Commitment: Case-based leadership (estimated 5+ hours per week per active case)

Location: Remote

Status: Volunteer (Uncompensated)

Mission & Role Summary

The Research Strategist is a select, highly skilled role chosen from the IGG Researcher volunteer team for each case. This position is responsible for the overall strategic direction and successful execution of an IGG case, from DNA match analysis through to candidate identification. The Research Strategist acts as the team leader and intellectual driving force, ensuring efficient collaboration and continuous forward movement on critical cases of unidentified human remains.

Key Areas of Responsibility

Strategic Research Leadership

- **Research Guidance:** Guide the overall research effort for the assigned case, determining the highest-yield lines of investigation, target DNA matches, and appropriate use of genealogical and OSINT resources.
- **Strategy Determination:** Determine the primary research strategy to keep the case research progressing, adapting the plan based on new data and roadblocks encountered until a final candidate is reached.
- **Tactical Planning:** Oversee the development of complex family trees stemming from DNA matches, ensuring the team maintains meticulous documentation and adherence to proof standards.

Team Coordination & Task Management

- **Task Assignment:** Assign specific genealogical, IGG, and documentation tasks to members of the IGG research team, ensuring workload is distributed efficiently and tasks align with individual skill sets.
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- **Workflow Oversight:** Monitor the team's progress, facilitate regular check-ins, and ensure all research milestones are met in collaboration with the Case Support Manager.
- **Resource Allocation:** Communicate resource needs (e.g., access to specialty databases, OSINT support, or consultation with the Case Support Manager) to remove administrative and logistical barriers for the team.

Reporting & Case Advancement

- Serve as the technical point of contact between the research team and the Case Support Manager (CSM).
- Provide regular, detailed progress updates to the CSM, highlighting strategic decisions, obstacles, and projected timelines for candidate identification.
- Collaborate with the CSM in preparing the final candidate presentation and the IGG report for submission to the agency partner.

Requirements & Vetting

- **Pre-requisite:** Must be an experienced and active IGG Research Volunteer for Compass IGG & Advocacy, demonstrating sustained high-quality work
- **Security Mandate:** Must have access to a reliable, private internet connection and a personal computer that is password protected and not shared with others.
- Continued service in this capacity is dependent upon adherence to all policies.
- **Vetting:** The offer to serve as an IGG Researcher is strictly dependent on the candidate successfully passing a background check.
- **Confidentiality:** Must adhere to strict confidentiality agreements regarding sensitive case information.

Qualifications & Desired Attributes

- **Advanced IGG Expertise:** Proven expertise in complex, multi-generation investigative genetic genealogy research (experience with multiple admixture populations is a plus).
 - **Leadership and Delegation:** Demonstrated ability to lead, mentor, and delegate tasks effectively within a volunteer team environment.
 - **Problem-Solving:** Exceptional strategic planning and complex problem-solving abilities, with a track record of breaking through research stalemates.
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- Commitment to ethical leadership, rigorous documentation, and collaborative success in resolving UHR cases.