



## **Dr. Rick Kittles, Ph.D.**

### **Co-Founder & Scientific Director, African Ancestry, Inc.**

*Industry Pioneer, Leading Geneticist, Entrepreneur, Speaker*

---

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: SENEGAL, NIGERIA**

**TRIBES: MANDINKA AND HAUSA**

**PIONEERING RESEARCHER:** Dr. Rick Kittles is Co-founder and Scientific Director of African Ancestry, Inc. It is through his years of research on genetic variation and his passion for the movements of African people throughout the world that AfricanAncestry.com was conceived. In 2003, Dr. Kittles and along with Co-founder Dr. Gina Paige pioneered a new marketplace for Black people looking to know where they're from in Africa. Under Kittles' leadership, African Ancestry has grown into the leading provider of at-home genetics ancestry tests for people of African descent across the world.

**DNA MATCHMAKER:** A lead geneticist, Dr. Kittles oversees AfricanAncestry.com's DNA matching and results function. Using the company's proprietary African Lineage Database along with close collaboration with historians, anthropologists and linguists, Dr. Kittles safeguards accuracy and integrity in determining African countries of origin and Tribes. African Ancestry's African DNA database remains the largest and most comprehensive ever collected making its lineage matching the most reliable in the marketplace.

**LEADING BLACK GENETICIST:** Dr. Kittles is very active in the field of human genetics and genetic anthropology, particularly as it relates to complex disease and health disparities in African Americans. Dr. Kittles' research interests explore DNA, family history, and disease. Dr. Kittles is an international leader on race and genetics, health disparities, and cancer genetics. His work on tracing the genetic ancestry of African Americans has brought to focus many issues, new and old, which relate to race, ancestry, identity, and group membership.

Currently, he is professor and founding director of the Division of Health Equities within the Department of Population Sciences at City of Hope. He is also associate director of health equities in the comprehensive cancer center.

**SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT** Dr. Kittles' work at African Ancestry has ignited global interest and dialogue, as well as unprecedented focus on African ancestry tracing in U.S. and abroad. His work has been featured on BBC, PBS, CNN, CBS *60 Minutes*, Ebony, NPR and USA TODAY, as well as hundreds of local and trade media across the world. He has published in medical journals and consumer books on genetic variation, race and culture, prostate cancer and health disparities.

Kittles received a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from George Washington University. As an assistant professor at Howard University in 1997, Dr. Kittles helped establish a national cooperative network to study the genetics of hereditary prostate cancer in African Americans. He also served as co-director of Molecular Genetics in the National Human Genome Center at Howard University.

**CONTACT:**

Nichole Taylor

Taylor Communications Group

[taylor@taylorcommunicationsgroup.com](mailto:taylor@taylorcommunicationsgroup.com)

[ntaylor@africanancestry.com](mailto:ntaylor@africanancestry.com)

###