



Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM) January 2026 Meeting Report

January 13-16, 2026 (Virtual – Microsoft Teams)

I. Agenda and Attendance:

Please see Appendix 1 for the meeting agenda, and Appendix 2 for the list of attendees.

II. Meeting Synopsis:

➤ **Monday, January 12, 2026, 12:00pm-4:00pm**

COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The SWGDAM body convened for a productive day in their respective committees to continue ongoing efforts, presented to the SWGDAM body on Thursday.

➤ **Tuesday, Jan 13, 2026, 12:00pm-4:00pm**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

The SWGDAM Chair, Anthony Onorato, welcomed attendees to the meeting with his Chair Report, an overview of the SWGDAM Body’s progress on important deliverables, updates to Executive Board, Regular Membership, and newly established Editorial Board, SWGDAM website statistics, as well as the anticipated agenda for the next three days.

The SWGDAM Executive Secretary, Jake Moldowsky, then welcomed attendees, giving an update on the SWGDAM Code of Ethics and collecting SWGDAM body assent to the “Conflict of Interest” provisions (Section 4) in the SWGDAM By-Laws.

➤ **Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 12:00pm-4:00pm**

KEYNOTE & ROUNDTABLE SESSION

A variety of speakers, both from SWGDAM membership and invited guests, presented on a range of topics of interest:

◇ Rapid DNA in Texas – Implementing Senate Bill 1723

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- Brandon Letts
 - ◇ RGTM, RM, and SRM
 - Erica Rosmos
 - ◇ Surname Predictions with YSTR
 - Sarah Noel
 - ◇ Japan Forensic Practices
 - Jeanette Wallen
 - ◇ MixMaSTR
 - Peter Vallone
 - ◇ Two Cold Cases Solved with FIGG
 - Lisa Schiermeier-Wood
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➤ **Thursday, January 15, 2026, 12:00pm-4:00pm**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

On the final day, the Chair discussed some business items related to future SWGDAM Regular Meetings, and highlighted the efforts and achievements of specific SWGDAM members who have gone ‘above and beyond’ in these past 6 months.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Jake Moldowsky, the SWGDAM Executive Secretary, then gave his regular presentation on relevant legislative and caselaw activity developing since the July SWGDAM meeting. Mr. Moldowsky covered a range of legislative topics such as federal prerogatives for forensic science in 2026, state laws passed around rapid DNA, IGG, genetic privacy, and court opinions discussing the constitutionality of surreptitious collections, the bounds of the Fourth Amendment Search and Seizure in sample collection, and the evidentiary weight and boundaries of probabilistic genotyping technology, such as STRMix. The Legislative Update presentation will be made available to SWGDAM members for reference in discussions with their legal counsel and laboratory leadership.

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP UPDATE SESSION

Each Committee addressed the body with their progress of their efforts since the previous SWGDAM Regular Meeting. The committees present were as follows:

- Rapid DNA Committee
- Quality Assurance (QA) Committee
- Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Committee
- Lineage Marker Committee
- Editorial Board (newly established)
- Laboratory Operations (Lab Ops) Committee

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- Autosomal Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Committee
- Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) Committee
- Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) Committee

Please refer to the attached presentation slides for updates on the most recent committee activities.

III. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held in July, likely the week of July 20-23, 2026.

Appendix 1 - Agenda

SWGDM January 2026 Meeting



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

DNA ANALYSIS METHODS

SWGDM VIRTUAL JANUARY 2026 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Monday, January 12, 2026

COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

BUSINESS SESSION

COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

ROUNDTABLE SESSION

Thursday, January 15, 2026

12:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

Legislative Update

SWGDM Committee Updates

BUSINESS SESSION

AJOURNMENT

Chair Anthony J. Onorato

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| SWGDM.org

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Appendix 2- Attendees

SWGDM January 2026:

SWGDM Leadership:

Anthony Onorato

(Chair)

Russell Vossbrink

(Vice Chair)

Jake Moldowsky

(Executive Secretary)

SWGDM Members &

Invited Guests:

Alyssandra Shaffer
Amanda Gentry
Amy McGuckian
Andreas Tillmar
Ann Marie Gross
Anthony Onorato
Ashley Murray
Barbara McCarty
Ben Knoch
Brandon Letts
Brian Harmon
Brian Kim
Carl Sobieralski
Chris Carney
Christie Smith
Daniela Cuenca
Deedra Hughes
Dixie Peters
Dorothy Catella
Douglas Hares
Eric Duvall
Erica Romsos
Eugene Lien

Gary Molina
Harrison Redd
Heather Parrish
Hope Zagaria
Jack Ballantyne
Jade Gray
Jake Moldowsky
James Corcoran
Jason Kokoszka
Jason Linder
Jeanette Wallin
Jerrilyn Conway
Jessica Hanna
Jessica James
Jocelyn Carlson
Jodi Irwin
Joel Sutton
Joseph Hof
Julia Garofalo
Katherine Gettings
Kristine Kadash
Lara Adams
Lauren Lu
Lilliana Moreno
Lisa Grossweiler
Lisa Schiermeier-Wood
Mark Smith
Marla Kaplan
Mary Lou Nicholson
Melissa Suddeth
Michael Coble
Michael Smith
Michael Shay
Nandi Shilpi
Neil Fernandopulle
Peter Vallone
Philip Simmers

Regina Wells
Rhalie Simmons
Richard Wilson
Russell Vossbrink
Sarah Noel
Scott McWilliams
Shawn Montpetit
Susannah Kehl
Suzie Barritt-Ross
Ted Hunt
Tiffany Bazazzadegan
Tiffany Layne
Tiffany Thoren
Tiffany Vasquez
Todd Bille
Tom Callaghan
Vanessa Nelson