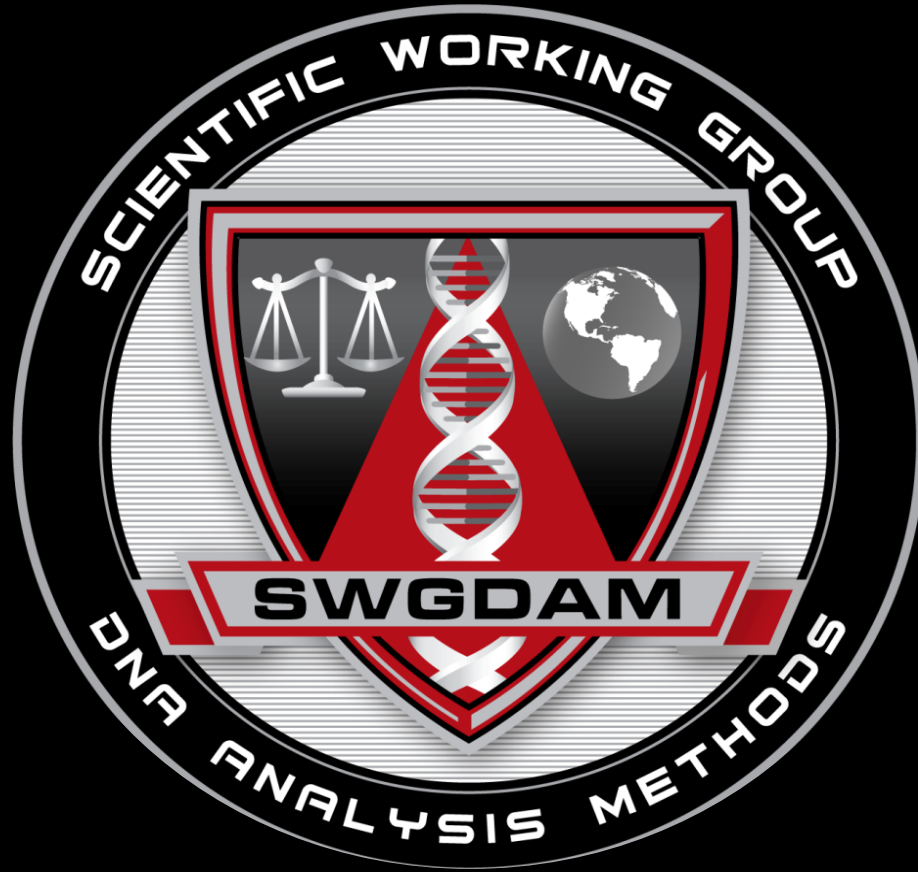


SWGDA M Regular Meeting



July 2023

Demographics

July 2023: Over 90 invitations extended to 5 international, 36 domestic federal, and 50 domestic state and local invitees.

Scheduled Meetings

- Two 2023 Regular SWGDAM Meetings
 - January 9-12, 2023; Virtual
 - July 18-20, 2023
 - November 13, 2023; SWGDAM Update (Monday of the Annual CODIS Conference)
- Two 2024 Regular SWGDAM Meetings
 - January 9-11, 2024
 - July 16-18, 2024
 - SWGDAM Update (To be held the Monday of the 2024 CODIS Conference)



Membership Reappointments

- 4 SWGDAM Members have been recommended by the SWGDAM Membership Committee for reappointment by the SWGDAM Chair (Section II.C.8). Congratulations to:
 - Deedra Hughes – Mississippi Crime Laboratory
 - Marla Kaplan – Oregon State Police
 - Charla Marshall – AFDIL
 - Joel Sutton – USACIL
- SWGDAM would like to congratulate Deedra, Marla, Charla, and Joel and thank their agencies for supporting their continued participation.



New Invited Guests

- 3 new Invited Guests have been invited to SWGDAM following their recommendation by the Membership Committee (Section II.D.2).
Congratulations to:
 - Harrison Redd – USACIL, R-DNA Committee
 - Tiffany Thoren – FBI, R-DNA Committee
 - Regina Wells – Kentucky State Police, R-DNA Committee
- SWGDAM would like to welcome Harrison, Tiffany, and Gina and thank the USACIL and KSP for supporting their participation.



Acknowledgement

SWGAM would like to congratulate **Dr. Tamyra Moretti** on her retirement from the FBI Laboratory after 27 years of service and thank her for her many critical contributions over the years.

We wish you nothing but the best in whatever is next, Tamyra.



Acknowledgement

SWGDM would like to thank **Darrel Oubre** for all his work on behalf of SWGDM and wishes him well as he transitions to his new role within the FBI's Training Division.

Agenda



Tuesday

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET

PARTNER AGENCY UPDATE SESSION

Legislative Update – Dawn Herkenham, SWGDAM Executive Secretary

Bureau of Justice Assistance – Andrea Borchardt

National Institute of Justice – Tracey Johnson

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – Ray Wickenheiser, New York State Police

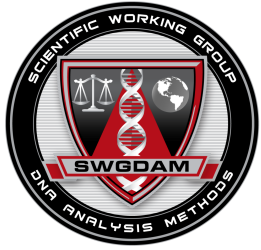
National Institute of Standards and Technology – Katherine Gettings, Applied Genetics Group

Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee – Carl Sobieralski, Indiana State Police

FBI CODIS Unit – Richard Wilson

LUNCH

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS



Tuesday

- We will use Tuesday afternoon's Committee Breakout time for focusing on CODs [i.e., CODPG, CODMP, and the new Probabilistic Genotyping Reporting Working Group with anyone not assigned to a COD attending the meeting of the standing committee to which they are assigned
- We will have 7 breakout rooms both Tuesday and Wednesday so to give these groups time to meet AND to cross-pollinate with related standing committees we likely will assign rooms something like this (though this is subject to change based on the needs of the groups): CODPG (Rm1), CODMP with LM (Rm2), 3 PGRWG with STR (Rm3), CODIS (Rm4), Lab Ops (Rm5), NGS with IGGWG (Rm6), and QA with R-DNA (Rm7)
- Like pre-pandemic, we will have the 3 big rooms into which the main room can be divided, the 2 conference rooms on either sides of the building, and 2 room suites. We will assign the rooms on-site and base it largely on group size.



Wednesday

Wednesday, July 18, 2023

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM ET

ROUNDTABLE SESSION



Thursday

Thursday, July 20, 2023

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

As requested by Committee/Working Groups

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP UPDATE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

About Us



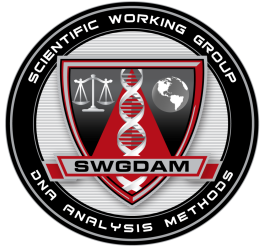
Responsibilities

- Recommend revisions, as necessary, to the *Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories* and the *Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories*.
- Serve as a forum to discuss, share, and evaluate forensic biology methods, protocols, training, and research to enhance forensic biology services.
- Recommend and conduct research to develop and/or validate forensic biology methods (Section I).



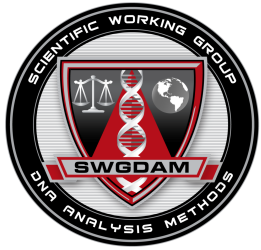
Organization

- Forensic DNA Technical Leaders, CODIS Administrators, or forensic scientists from local, state and federal crime laboratories
 - 7 Member Executive Board
 - 34 Regular Members
- We meet twice per year in January and July
- SWGDAM has Invited Guests who are professionals from across the spectrum of laboratories and institutions performing forensic DNA testing and research
 - Invited Guests fully participate in both Committee and Regular Meeting activities with the exception of some regular business matters described in the SWGDAM Bylaws
- SWGDAM also invites Subject Matter Experts (SME)
 - Subject Matter Experts participate in committee and working group activities outside of SWGDAM Regular Meetings at the discretion of the Committee Chairs.



SWGDAM Members

- Suzie Barritt-Ross
- Thomas Callaghan
- Chris Carney
- Dorothy Catella
- Angelo Della Manna
- Brenda Danosky
- Russell Gettig
- Ann Marie Gross
- Brian Harmon
- Bruce Heidebrecht
- Deedra Hughes
- Kristine Kadash
- Marla Kaplan
- Susannah Kehl
- Jason Kokoszka
- Eugene Lien
- Lauren Lu
- Charla Marshall
- Amy McGuckian
- Scott McWilliams
- Gary Molina
- Shawn Montpetit
- Steven Myers
- Jeff Nye
- Anthony Onorato
- Dixie Peters
- Evelyn Ridgley
- Lisa Schiermeier-Wood
- Christie Smith
- Melissa Suddeth
- Joel Sutton
- Jeanette Wallin
- Susan Welti
- Russell Vossbrink



Leadership

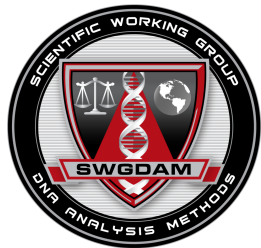
- Chair: Anthony Onorato, FBI Laboratory
- Vice Chair: Russell Vossbrink, Arizona DPS
- Executive Board
 - Chris Carney, Ann Marie Gross, Eugene Lien, Gary Molina, Shawn Montpetit
- Executive Secretary: Dawn Herkenham



Executive Board

- The Executive Board consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Executive Secretary (non-voting), and 5 members. Either the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman shall be a representative of the FBI (Section II.B).
- The EB currently has a standing teleconference scheduled for the first Monday of the month at 3 pm ET.
 - The SWGDAM EB held teleconferences on February 6th, March 3th, April 3rd, and July 17th
- Committee Chairs and other SWGDAM SMEs routinely attend and contribute to these monthly teleconferences.
- The Chair and Vice Chair would like to thank all of the SWGDAM EB Members, Committee Chairs, and SMEs for continually making the time for these critical leadership discussions.

About Us



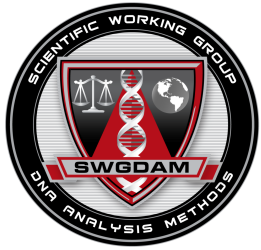
Standing Committees

- Autosomal STR Interpretation
- CODIS
- Laboratory Operations
- Lineage Marker
- Next Generation Sequencing
- Quality Assurance
- Rapid DNA



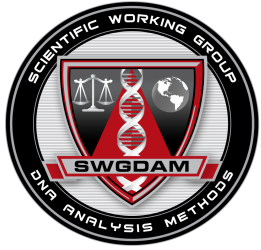
Working Groups

–Investigative Genetic
Genealogy



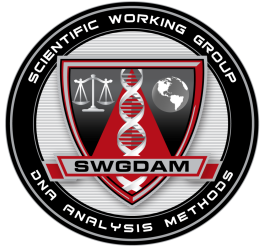
DNA Databasing Forum

- SWGDAM has identified and embedded subject matter experts (SME) within its CODIS Committee to more comprehensively discuss matters related to DNA databasing
- This DNA Databasing Forum is similar in concept to the historical G5 group that sometimes meet in concert with SWGDAM.
- This group currently includes Chair Tiffany Bazazzadegan, Jessica James, Ben Knoch, Ashley Murray, and Heather Parrish.
- The Forum will fully participate in the activities of the CODIS Committee and meet additionally as needed to:
 - Serve as a forum to share information regarding the high-throughput processing of DNA reference samples by law enforcement laboratories conducting forensic DNA testing.
 - Recommend and develop guidance for inclusion in SWGDAM guidance documents for high-throughput processing of DNA reference samples by law enforcement laboratories conducting forensic DNA testing.
 - Review and recommend revisions to the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) and the NDIS Operational Procedures Manual.



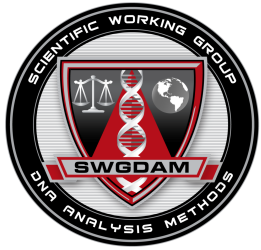
Committee of Detail

- Missing Person DNA Casework
- Participants include: Ann Gross, Chair, Patty Aagard, Tom Callaghan, Mark Desire, Connie Fisher, Lisa Grossweiler, Doug Hares, Bill Hudlow, Marla Kaplan, Charla Marshall, and Dixie Peters
- Tasks:
 - Review the 2020 Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) to identify current gaps and/or obstacles to outsourcing DNA testing for missing person casework with an emphasis on non-routine techniques (i.e., mitochondrial DNA, SNPs, X-STRs) and new DNA technologies (i.e., Rapid DNA, Investigative Genetic Genealogy);
 - Review the 2014 SWGDAM Guidelines for Missing Person Casework and recommend if this guidance document should be renewed, revised, or archived;
 - Determine if a Technical Session on the missing person DNA casework should be considered for a future Regular SWGDAM Meeting; and
 - Recommend what, if any, future work SWGDAM should consider on the subject of missing person DNA casework.



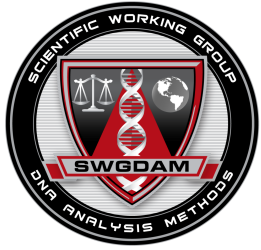
Committee of Detail

- Probabilistic Genotyping (General)
- Participants include: Todd Bille, Chair, Shawn Montpetit, Co-Chair, John Ballantyne, Jennifer Breaux, Mike Coble, Ann Gross, Ted Hunt, Eugene Lien, Marla Kaplan, Susannah Kehl, Lauren Lu, Jeff Nye, Mike Smith, Joel Sutton, Jeanette Wallin, Ray Wickenheiser, and Lisa Schiermeier-Wood [Tamyra Moretti –retired]
- Tasks:
 - Draft a public SWGDAM response to the *NISTIR 8351-DNA Mixture Interpretation: A NIST Scientific Foundation Review* in the form of a statement or letter;
 - Draft a scientific response to the report in the form of a Letter to the Editor or other similar vehicle with or without other individual(s) or forensic organization(s) as co-author(s);
 - Recommend if the Technical Session at the January 2022 Regular SWGDAM Meeting should be used for this topic and, if so, propose an agenda; and
 - Recommend what, if any, future work SWGDAM should consider on this topic.



Committee of Detail

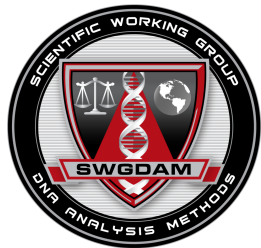
- Probabilistic Genotyping Reporting
- Participants include: Chair, Shawn Montpetit, Co-Chair, Jerrilyn Conway, Todd Bille, Steven Myers, Sarah Noel, Michael Smith, Tiffany Vasquez, Lisa Schiermeier-Wood, and have been directed to make liberal use of SMEs.
- Tasks:
 - Will review the 2018 *Recommendations of the SWGDAM Ad Hoc Working Group on Genotyping Results Reported as Likelihood Ratios* and make a recommendation to SWGDAM regarding whether to archive, revise, expand, and/or replace this recommendations document;
 - Should SWGDAM approve revising, expanding, and/or replacing the 2018 recommendations, will draft the proposed changes; and
 - Recommend what, if any, future work SWGDAM should consider on the subject of the reporting of probabilistic genotyping results.



SWGAM Participation

- January 2023: 85 participants that included 5 international, 16 federal, and 49 state and local forensic DNA professionals.
- July 2022: 102 invitations extended to 9 international, 37 domestic federal, and 56 domestic state and local invitees.
- January 2022: 96 participants that included 8 international, 36 federal, and 52 state and local forensic DNA professionals.
- July 2021: 81 participants that included 6 international, 28 federal, and 47 state and local forensic DNA professionals.

Past Meetings



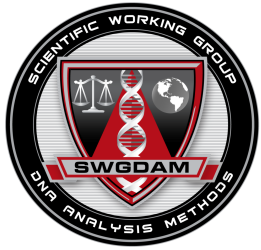
January 2023 Meeting

- Held virtually January 9-12, 2023 with 85 participants that included 5 international, 31 federal, and 49 state and local forensic DNA professionals.
- A Keynote Session by the Smithsonian's Feather Identification Laboratory of the National Museum of Natural History on the investigation of bird strikes in civil and military aviation was held on Monday as was a Partner Agency Update Session.
- Committee/Working Group Breakout Sessions were held on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- A Committee of the Whole Session was held on Thursday to review the NGS TL Survey results, review of the draft new *Interpretation Guidelines for Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Analysis by Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories*, discussion of potential proposed changes to the 2020 QAS Standards 5 and 8, discussion of proposed R-DNA QAS revisions, and discussion of verbal equivalents for reporting likelihood ratios (LR) as well as a Committee/Working Group Update Session.



SWGDAM Update 2022

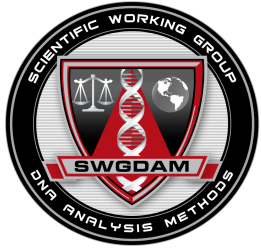
- Reviewed the revisions made to the new *2023 QAS Guidance Document* that took effect on January 1, 2023 and the updated guidance provided in the original *2020 QAS Guidance Document* specifically for Standards 5, 9- 3, 15, and 17.
- SWGDAM would like to thank the FBI's CODIS Unit for again inviting SWGDAM to be a part of the program surrounding the 2022 CODIS Conference and for its continued logistical support for this important outreach opportunity.



July 2022 Meeting

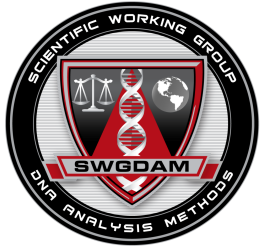
- Held virtually January 11-14, 2022 with 102 invitations that included 9 international, 37 federal, and 56 state and local forensic DNA professionals.
- A Plenary Session featuring ASTM International was held on Tuesday.
- Technical Sessions on forensic analytical software requirements and software development were held on Monday and Tuesday.
- On Wednesday, a SWGDAM Committee and Working Group Update Session as well as a Round Table Session were held.
- A Committee of the Whole Session was held on Thursday to discuss Rapid-DNA, Investigative Genetic Genealogy, and the QAS educational requirements as was a Partner Agency Update Session.

Recent Business



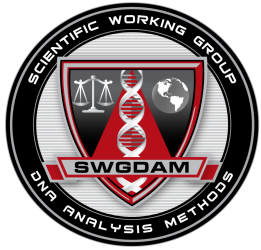
ASB Liaison

- Academy Standards Board (ASB) DNA Consensus Body Liaison
- In an effort to further enhance information sharing, the SWGDAM Executive Board is piloting the creation of a liaison with the ASB.
- The DNA Consensus Body (CB) focuses upon standards and guidelines related to the use of DNA in legal proceedings.
- The EB has asked Kristi Kadash to serve in this role and she has graciously accepted and will work with the EB to develop this role and evaluate its value.
- To start, Kristi will attend the monthly DNA Consensus Body meetings, brief the CB on SWGDAM activities, prepare summaries of CB documents, compare CB documents to SWGDAM documents, engage with SWGDAM Committees and working groups to share information, compile SWGDAM comments on CB documents, and report to the EB and SWGDAM Body both between at regular meetings.
- This is a tremendous undertaking and the EB will be working with Kristi to determine if her investments of time and effort on behalf of SWGDAM meaningfully enhances information exchange and better inform our strategic planning.
- SWGDAM would like to thank Kristi for taking on this role during its pilot period.



QAS Guidance Document

- The SWGDAM QA Committee continues to review, and as necessary, curate proposed revisions to the QAS Guidance Document.
- Proposed revisions to the 2020 QAS Guidance Document for QAS Standards 5, 9 – 13, 15, and 17 were provided to the SWGDAM Body for peer review via email on February 14, 2022 and the SWGDAM Body approved the 2023 revisions to the QAS Audit Document via electronic vote on November 30, 2022.
- The SWGDAM QA Committee reviewed the 2023 revisions to the QAS Guidance Document with the DNA Technical Leaders and others at the SWGDAM Update on November 14, 2022 in advance of the 2022 CODIS Meeting.
- The new 2023 QAS Guidance Document was posted to SWGDAM.org on December 14, 2022 for laboratories that have a QAS audit scheduled for January 2023. It was also provided to the CODIS Administrators and DNA Technical Leaders by the FBI's CODIS Unit.
- Both the 2020 and 2023 QAS Guidance Documents were available through January 31, 2023; and then the 2020 Guidance Document was archived.



CODIS Loci Medical Info FAQ

- The SWGDAM Executive Board approved the development of an FAQ regarding the CODIS loci and privacy for use by the FBI CODIS Unit at its November 7th meeting.

Can the CODIS loci reveal information relating to medical conditions or diseases?

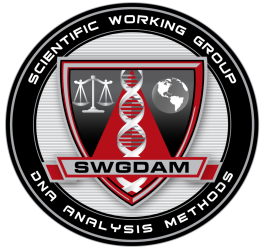
Because they were selected as law enforcement markers to be used for identification purposes only, the CODIS loci were specifically chosen because 1) none are located within a gene or protein coding region, 2) they are located in regions commonly referred to as “junk DNA” and 3) they have been studied and found to not be causative or indicative of any medical condition or disease status that could compromise an individual’s medical privacy. Additionally, it is important to note that any reported correlation between a CODIS marker and a coding gene for a specific medical condition or disease does not necessarily mean that the CODIS marker is now linked or predictive of that medical condition without supporting studies that establish a functional role of the CODIS STR loci or variant in disease causation.

To date, the CODIS STR loci continue to be studied for their predictive value and no CODIS locus or forensic STR variant has been demonstrated to directly cause or predict disease [<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fgene.2020.00884/full>]. Additionally, professional groups such as the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM) continue to investigate and publish on this topic as appropriate such as its [Open SWGDAM Letter Regarding the Claims Raised in State v. Abernathy that the CODIS Core Loci are Associated with Medical Conditions/Disease States.](#)



QAS Educational Requirements Student Letter

- The QA Committee prepared a SWGDAM statement containing FBI Quality Assurance Standards Educational Requirements educational information to be provided to any student that is considering employment or contract employment in a forensic DNA laboratory in the United States.
- The SWGDAM EB approved this informational letter at its August 1, 2022 meeting.
- The QA Committee forwarded this letter to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and the Forensic Science Education Program Accreditation Board (FEPAC) for distribution and it was posted on SWGDAM.org on September 26, 2022.



SWG DAM Bylaws

- In March 2021, the SWGDAM Executive Board initiated a review of the 2014 SWGDAM Bylaws and proposed preliminary conforming changes to incorporate current business elements to the SWGDAM Body.
- The SWGDAM EB emphasized the importance of review of Section II Membership to ensure it continues to align with the needs of SWGDAM and captures the necessary and proper role of the SWGDAM Membership Committee.
- During the SWGDAM Body's review, 14 Members/Invited Guests provided a total of 75 additional comments.
- The SWGDAM Body approved the 2022 SWGDAM Bylaws via electronic vote on July 5, 2022.

YHRD Update Letter

- The Lineage Marker Committee prepared a notification letter entitled “*YHRD updates for U.S. Laboratories*” to advise forensic DNA laboratories of changes being implemented by the Y chromosome Haplotype Reference Database (YHRD) and recommendations for implementing those changes.
- The Lineage Marker Committee provided its draft of this letter to the SWGDAM Executive Board which reviewed and approved it for distribution without further SWGDAM action on January 28, 2022 via electronic ballot.
- The notification was provided to the DNA Technical Leaders by the NDIS Custodian via an email dated February 2, 2022.

Expert System Guidelines

- The new *SWGDM Validation Guidelines for the Use of an Expert System for Forensic Samples* were approved by the SWGDAM Membership on February 28, 2022.
- The SWGDAM Executive Board has approved the new *SWGDM Validation Guidelines for the Use of an Expert System for Forensic Samples* as a Discussion Draft for the internal use of SWGDAM as it now determines what, if any, changes to the FBI Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) and/or NDIS Procedures may need to be proposed to and approved by the FBI before these guidelines can be used by laboratories to use expert systems for the testing of crime scene samples
- The EB anticipates that these guidelines will be published in advance of the publication of any future revisions of the QAS and NDIS Procedures that contain such conforming changes so that laboratories can prepare for the use of expert systems should they wish to use them on forensic samples.

Y-chromosome Guidelines

- The proposed changes to the 2014 *SWGDM Interpretation Guidelines for Y-Chromosome STR Typing by Forensic DNA Laboratories* and the new proposed *Supplemental Information for the SWGDAM Interpretation Guidelines for Y-Chromosome STR Typing by Forensic DNA Laboratories* were approved by the SWGDAM Membership on March 2, 2022 by electronic ballot.
- The SWGDAM Executive Board approved these documents for publication, they were posted on SWGDAM.org on June 13, 2022, and Crime Laboratory Directors, DNA Technical Leaders, and CODIS Administrators were notified of their publication by the NDIS Custodian via an email dated June 13, 2022.

Future Business

STR EDM Guidelines

- The SWGDAM Executive Board has convened a SWGDAM Committee of Revision (COR) to review the 2014 SWGDAM *Guidelines for STR Enhanced Detection Methods*.
- The group is being tasked to review these guidelines and make a recommendation to SWGDAM regarding whether to archive them, renew them, or revise them (and then propose revisions).
- The COR will actively engage with the STR Committee to ensure that its work is coordinated with the activities of this standing SWGDAM Committee.
- Thank you to Eugene Lien, Chair, Todd Bille, Lisa Grossweiler, Susannah Kehl, Jeff Nye, Dixie Peters, and Ray Wickenheiser for serving on this important group.

QAS Activities

- The SWGDAM Executive Board discussed the increasing scope and complexity of SWGDAM's activities to support the FBI's management of the Quality Assurance Standards with the Chairs of the CODIS and QA Committees at its June 7, 2021 meeting.
- The Board will continue this discussion to determine what, if any, formal organizational, tasking, and/or procedural solutions may facilitate the curation, actioning, and archiving of QAS-related inquires, suggestions, etc.

Membership Committee

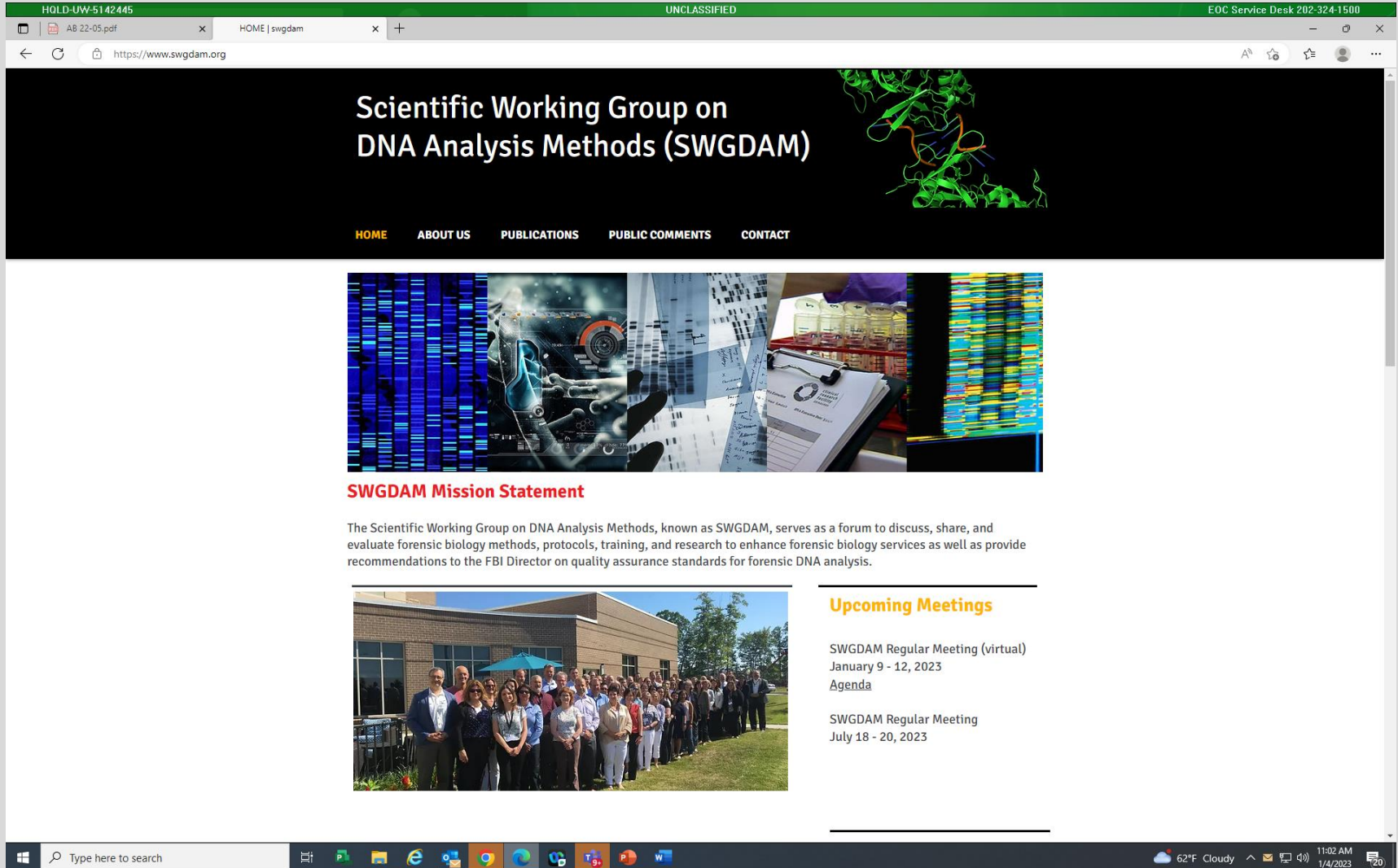
- The SWGDAM Executive Board has asked the SWGDAM Membership Committee to pilot a SWGDAM Application to assist in managing SWGDAM's new member, member reappointment, and invited guest activities.
- The SWGDAM Vice Chair in his role as the Chair of the Membership Committee has begun distributing a draft application approved by the Executive Board to curate potential candidates for consideration by the Membership Committee and will report back to the EB regarding the utility of the application and its impact on the committee's activities.
- The Executive Board continues to encourage SWGDAM Committee Chairs to invite subject matter experts (SME) to contribute to committee and working group meeting(s) at their discretion and to feel free to advise the SWGDAM Chair or Vice Chair of such invitations simply for the purposes of situational awareness.

SWG DAM

Website

www.SWGDAM.org

Since July 2015: Almost 175,000 visits (>20K/yr)



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the homepage of the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDAM). The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.swgdam.org>. The page features a dark header with the group's name and a navigation menu. Below the header is a large banner image depicting DNA analysis equipment and data. The main content area includes a 'Mission Statement' section with a paragraph describing the group's purpose, and an 'Upcoming Meetings' section listing two virtual meetings: one from January 9-12, 2023, and another from July 18-20, 2023. A group photo of members is also visible.


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<https://www.swgdam.org>


Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDAM)

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [PUBLICATIONS](#) [PUBLIC COMMENTS](#) [CONTACT](#)



SWGDAM Mission Statement

The Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods, known as SWGDAM, serves as a forum to discuss, share, and evaluate forensic biology methods, protocols, training, and research to enhance forensic biology services as well as provide recommendations to the FBI Director on quality assurance standards for forensic DNA analysis.



Upcoming Meetings

SWGDAM Regular Meeting (virtual)
January 9 - 12, 2023
[Agenda](#)

SWGDAM Regular Meeting
July 18 - 20, 2023

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www.SWGDAM.org

- Home Page
 - About SWGDAM
 - Includes links to SWGDAM participation surveys
 - Includes links to SWGDAM history information and Chair Reports
 - Updates
 - Upcoming and Past Meetings
 - Redirects to About Us, Publications, Public Comments, and Links Pages
- About SWGDAM Redirect
 - Bylaws Page
 - Committees Page
 - Includes a link to current SWGDAM Committee participants
 - Includes a link to current SWGDAM Committee activities
 - Members Page

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- Publications Page
 - SWGDAM Documents
 - SWGDAM Communications
 - Quality Assurance Standards Documents
 - Miscellaneous Communications
- Public Comments Page
 - Serves as the public comment portal
 - FAQs Page
- Contact Page
 - Serves as the general inquiry portal