

Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM) July 2024 Report

July 8-11, 2024

I. Agenda:

Please see Attachment 1.

II. Meeting Synopsis:

Monday, July 8, 2024

The Quality Assurance and Rapid DNA Committees convened to discuss the public comments received on the potential proposed changes to the *2020 Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories and Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories* (2020 QAS).

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

The SWGDAM Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting with an introduction exercise with Mr. Jake Moldowsky. Mr. Moldowsky has been appointed the incoming Executive Secretary following the retirement of Ms. Dawn Herkenham after her 20+ years of contributions to SWGDAM and the forensic DNA community.

LEGAL UPDATE

Mr. Moldowsky presented to the SWGDAM Body on the recent Supreme Court decision in *Smith v. Arizona*, centering around facts of the case, the Confrontation Clause, and takeaways from the various concurring opinions. Mr. Ted Hunt (FBI) then gave a presentation centering on practical impacts of the case for labs and prosecutors. The SWGDAM Body raised questions of both presenters and an open conversation ensued.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

QUALITY ASSURANCE SANDARDS UPDATES

The Quality Assurance Committee led a SWGDAM Body discussion based on the non-Rapid DNA related public comments received and resulting updates made to the changes

being proposed to the 2020 QAS, the potential conforming updates to the respective audit documents, and the potential additions to the QAS Guidance Document.

The Rapid DNA Committee led a SWGDAM Body discussion based on the Rapid DNA related public comments it received and resulting edits made to the changes being proposed to the 2020 QAS to include the new proposed Standards 18 and 19. Additionally, the Committee discussed the Rapid DNA inter-lab study and the testing methodology being proposed for Rapid DNA validation data.

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The Committees and Working Groups met in individual breakout sessions during the day to work on Committee taskings.

A Round Table was held in the evening with SWGDAM participants presenting on topics of interest to the SWGDAM Body.

Thursday, July 20, 2023

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

The SWGDAM Chair provided drafts of documents scheduled for discussion to the SWGDAM Body in advance of their discussions and allotted time for their review prior to opening the group discussion.

The Lineage Marker Committee presented on updates to the 2019 *SWGDAM Interpretation Guidelines for Mitochondrial DNA Analysis by Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories* and the new *Supplemental Information for the SWGDAM Interpretation Guidelines for Mitochondrial DNA Analysis by Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories*. The Committee reviewed the substantive revisions and noted that phylogenetic and whole genome sequencing are addressed in these revisions. After a vote by the Executive Board, the documents were determined ready for editorial review and approval by vote of the SWGDAM Body. The SWGDAM Body then approved these documents for publication.

The Quality Assurance Committee reviewed the concepts and most current changes being proposed to the 2020 QAS. In addition, the Committee discussed the potential conforming revisions to the corresponding audit documents, the potential new spreadsheet versions of the audit documents that are currently under development, and the potential explanatory revisions being discussed for inclusion in the QAS Guidance Documents.

The Rapid DNA Committee discussed the Committee's review of the public comments for the new Rapid DNA Standards 18 and 19 and other proposed Rapid DNA changes being proposed for addition to the 2020 QAS. In addition, the Committee reviewed the status of the Rapid DNA inter-lab study.

The Laboratory Operations Committee presented the draft new *SWGDM Validation Guidelines for DNA Analysis Methods: Overview* and new *SWGDM Module for Autosomal Multiplex Internal Validation Guidance* which had been out for public comment. Attendees commented on the draft documents during the review and the timing of publication was discussed for this new modular format. The Executive Board unanimously voted to return the documents to the SWGDAM Body for a second 30-day review after the current changes had been incorporated by the Committee. In addition, the Committee presented on the new *SWGDM Internal Validation of Fully Continuous Probabilistic Genotyping Systems Module PGS* and requested that the SWGDAM Body provide any additional supporting readings or resources to potentially be included in the appendix of the document.

The Autosomal STR Committee presented the new *SWGDM Guidelines for the use of Probabilistic Genotyping with Autosomal STR Typing Results*. After discussions between the Committee and the SWGDAM body, many minor and editorial changes to the document were incorporated. The Executive Board voted to approve the changes and send the document to public comment.

The Next Generation Sequencing Committee reviewed a recent significant Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG) case from Idaho during which it described the facts of the case and the interplay between the laboratory, expert witnesses, and prosecutors.

The SWGDAM Body continued its open discussion of issues prevailing from the first day of meeting: sample retention, *Smith v. AZ* and the Confrontation Clause for substitute expert testimony, and expectations around the next SWGDAM Regular Meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned.

III. Attendees:

Please see Attachment 2.

IV. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held January 14 – 16, 2025.



SWGDM JULY 2024 REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

Monday, July 8, 2024

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET

Special Committee Breakout Sessions

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) Discussion

LUNCH

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM ET

ROUNDTABLE SESSION



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

DNA ANALYSIS METHODS

Thursday, July 11, 2024

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

Committee/Working Group Reviews, as requested

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP UPDATE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

SWGDM July 2024 Meeting
July 8 - 11, 2024
Attendees*

SWGDM Chair

Anthony Onorato

SWGDM Vice Chair

Russell Vossbrink

SWGDM Executive Secretary

Jake Moldowsky

SWGDM Attendees

Jack Ballantyne
Tiffany Bazazzadegan
Todd Bille
Andrea Borchart
Thomas Callaghan
Jocelyn Carlson
Chris Carney
Amber Carr
Dorothy Catella
Jerrilyn Conway
James Corcoran
Jennifer Coursey
Daniela Cuenca
Brenda Danosky
Eric Duvall
Neil Fernandopulle
Julia Garofalo
Russell Gettig
Katherine Gettings
Ann Marie Gross
Lisa Grossweiler
Jessica Hanna
Douglas Hares
Joseph Hof
Ted Hunt
Jodi Irwin
Jessica James
Kristy Kadash
Marla Kaplan
Susannah Kehl
Ben Knoch
Jason Kokoszka

Eugene Lien
Jason Linder
Barbara McCarty
Amy McGuckian
Scott McWilliams
Gary Molina
Shawn Montpetit
Lilly Moreno
Ashley Murray
Steven Myers
Mary Lou Nicholson
Heather Parrish
Dixie Peters
Harrison Redd
Juliet Rolando
Erica Romsos
Lisa Schiermeier-Wood
Alyssandra Shaffer
Phillip Simmers
Rhalie Simmons
Christie Smith
Mark Smith
Carl Sobieralski
Melissa Suddeth
Joel Sutton
Tiffany Thoren
Peter Vallone
Tiffany Vasquez
Jeanette Wallin
Regina Wells
Susan Welti
Richard Wilson
Timothy Zolandz