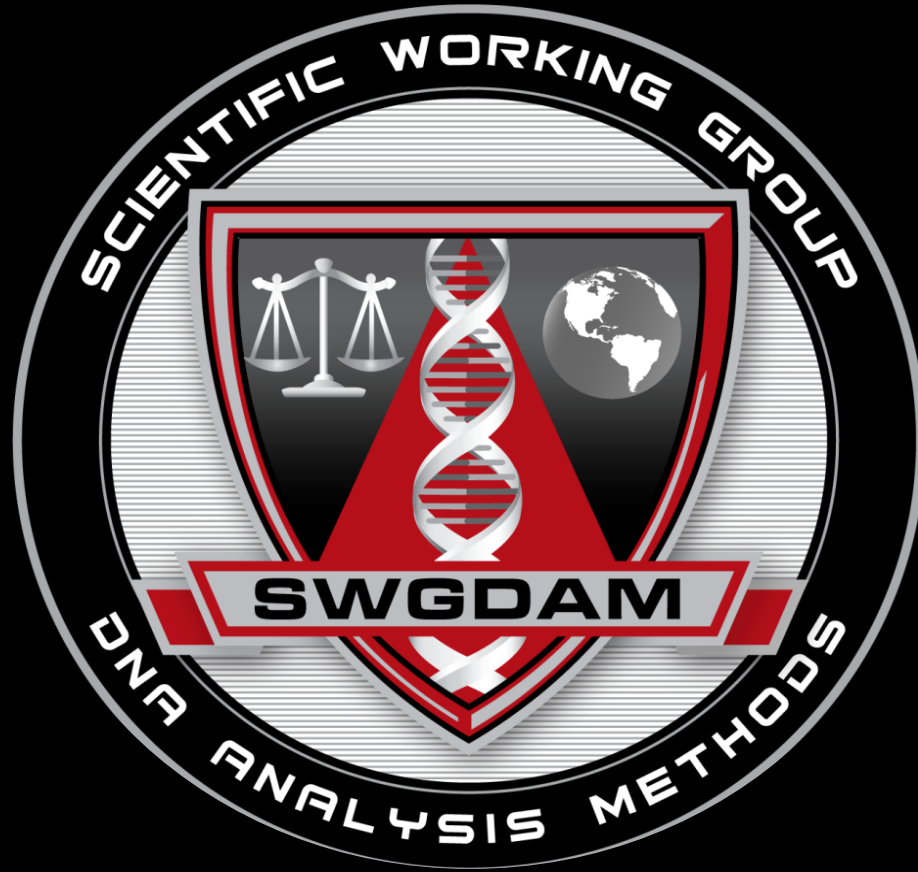


SWGDM Regular Meeting



January 2023

Welcome

January 2023: 91 invitations extended to 8 international, 36 domestic federal, and 47 domestic state and local invitees.

Agenda



Monday

Monday, January 9, 2022

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET

KEYNOTE SESSION: FORENSIC ORNITHOLOGY

Dr. Carla Dove, National Museum of Natural History

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



Tuesday & Wednesday

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Wednesday, January 12, 2023

COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSIONS



Thursday

Thursday, July 21, 2022

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

Review of the SWGDAM NGS Committee TL Survey – NGS Committee

Review of the new SWGDAM draft *Interpretation Guidelines for Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Analysis by Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories* – NGS Committee

Discussion of new proposed changes to QAS Standards 5 and 8 – QA Committee

Discussion of Rapid DNA at Crime Scenes – Rapid DNA Committee

Discussion of verbal equivalents for the reporting of LR_s – Autosomal STR and Lab Operations Committees

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP UPDATE SESSION

About Us



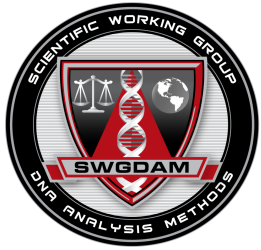
Responsibilities

- 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

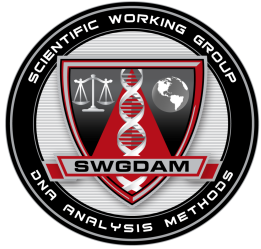
- Forensic DNA Technical Leaders, CODIS Administrators, or forensic scientists from local, state and federal crime laboratories
 - 7 Member Executive Board
 - 35 Regular Members
- We meet twice per year in January and July
- SWGDAM has Invited Guests who are professionals from across the spectrum of 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.



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

About Us



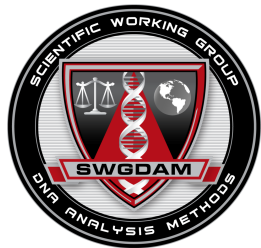
SWGDAM Members

- 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
- Tamyra Moretti
- 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



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 5 elected members of the 2021-2024 EB are: Chris Carney, Ann Gross, Eugene Lien, Gary Molina, and Shawn Montpetit.
- 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 August 1st, October 3rd, and November 7th.
- 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.



Standing Committees

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



Working Groups

–Investigative Genetic
Genealogy



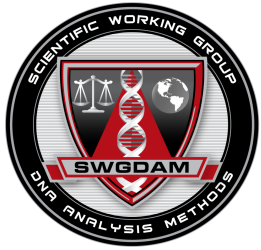
Committee of Detail

- 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
- 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, Tamyra Moretti, Jeff Nye, Mike Smith, Joel Sutton, Jeanette Wallin, Ray Wickenheiser, and Lisa Schiermeier-Wood
- 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.



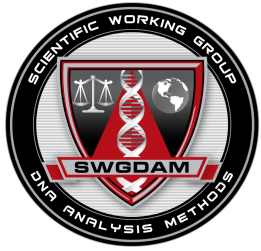
DNA Databasing Forum

- 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.

SWGDM Participation

- 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.
- January 2021: 91 participants that included 4 international, 36 federal, and 51 state and local forensic DNA professionals.

Recent Business



SWGDAM Update 2022

- Reviewed the revisions made to the new *2023 QAS Guidance Document* that took effect on January 1, 2023 and that updates guidance provided in the original *2020 QAS Guidance Document* specifically for Standards 5, 9- 13, 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 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.

January 2022 Meeting

- Held virtually January 11-13 with 96 participants that included 8 international, 36 federal, and 52 state and local forensic DNA professionals.
- A Keynote Session by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) and Technical Session on DNA Mixture Interpretation were held on Tuesday.
- A Committee of the Whole Session was held on Thursday to review the proposed changes to the *SWGDM Interpretation Guidelines for Y-chromosome STR Typing by Forensic DNA Laboratories* and new *YSTR Supplemental Information (FAQs)* and the new proposed *SWGDM Validation Guidelines for the Use of an Expert System with Forensic Samples*.
- On Wednesday, a Round Table Session and a moderated discussion were held on the topic of probabilistic genotyping.
- A Technical Session on YHRD and a Partner Agency Update Session were held on Thursday.

Passing of a Friend

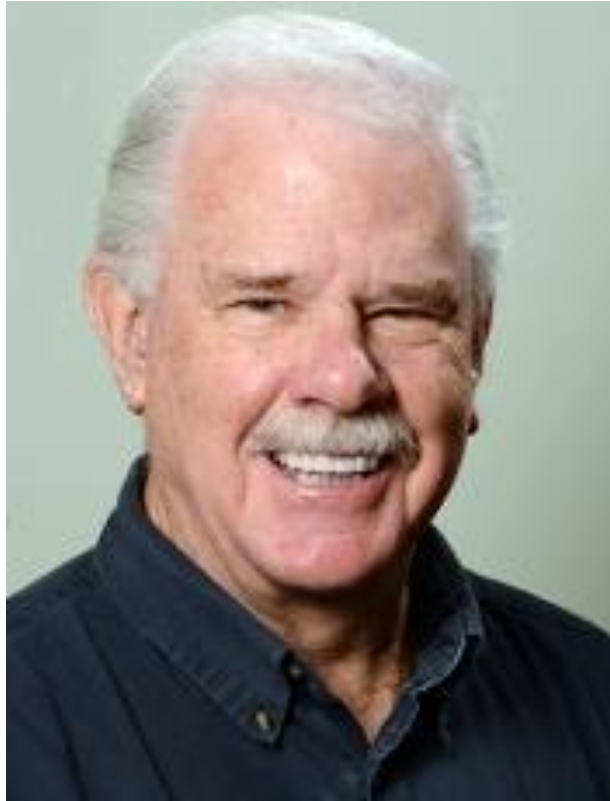
Peter M. Schneider

Since we last met, SWGDAM received the sad news of the passing of our friend and colleague Peter Schneider. Peter's contributions to the application of DNA profiling to forensic science and the administration of justice are well documented and to say the international forensic DNA community has lost a true pioneer is to understate the obvious. Perhaps most importantly, Peter was an even better person who never failed to make those around him better for having known him whether for a day or a career. Please keep Peter's family and friends in your thoughts.



In Memoriam

George Sensabaugh



Dennis J. Reeder



California Attorney General's Award Congratulations, Steven!!!

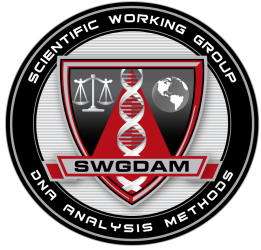
Senior Criminalist Steven Myers is an exceptionally committed forensic scientist professional. His deliverables consistently exceed expectations. While his >30 years with the Bureau of Forensic Services has been adorned with significant contributions, one recent topic area stands out. Steven has advanced probabilistic genotyping for DNA mixture interpretation through invaluable assistance to DAG Enid Camps, securing a favorable ruling in *People vs Alvin Davis*; continued "CODIS Report" software program development, for BFS and laboratories nationally; topically publishing twice in *Forensic Science International: Genetics*; co-producing the 6th and 7th Annual STRmix Workshops; and continued participation in developing national standards.



ISFG Scientific Excellence Award Congratulations, Charla!!!

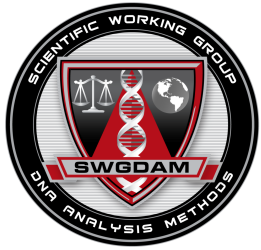
At ISFG 2022, Charla Marshall, from the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, was recognized with the Scientific Excellence Award.





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 will be available through January 31, 2023.



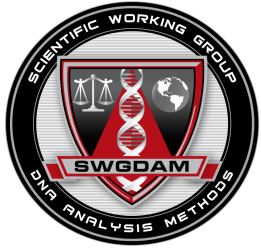
CODIS Loci Medical Info FAQ

- 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?

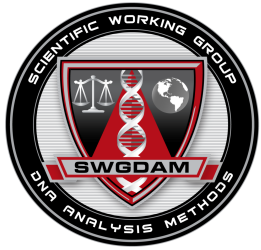
Because they were selected as law enforcement markers to be used for identification purposes only, the CODIS loci were specifically chosen because 1) none are located within a gene or protein coding region, 2) they are located in regions commonly referred to as “junk DNA” and 3) they have been studied 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.

Outreach

Outreach

- The SWGDAM QA Committee reviewed the 2023 revisions to the QAS Guidance Document with the DNA Technical Leaders and others at the SWGDAM Update held in advance of the 2022 CODIS Meeting (November 2022).
- The Committee of Detail: Probabilistic Genotyping engaged with the FBI DNA Technical Leader to present a session on PG at the 2022 DNA Technical Leader Summit (November 2022).
- The FBI CODIS Unit posted SWGDAM's Draft Discussion Document entitled *Validation Guidelines for the Use of an Expert System with Forensic Samples* on the CJIS SEN to assist DNA laboratories interested in using expert systems with forensic samples in the future prepare for that prospective validation and implementation (May 2022).

Outreach

- Todd Bille engaged with Los Alamos National Laboratory regarding a SWGDAM inquiry related to its research into the collection of “touch DNA.”
- Douglas Hares provided a SWGDAM Update presentation at the European Network of Forensic Science institutes (ENFSI) (September 2022).

Future Business

Scheduled Meetings

- Two 2023 Regular SWGDAM Meetings
 - January 9-12, 2023; Virtual
 - July 18-20, 2023; (YTBD)
 - SWGDAM Update (To be held the Monday of the 2023 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)

Validation Guidelines

- The SWGDAM *Validation Guidelines for DNA Analysis Methods: Overview*, the SWGDAM *Module for Modified Rapid DNA Internal Validation for Database, Known or Casework Reference Samples*, and the SWGDAM *Module for Autosomal Multiplex Kit Internal Validation Guidance* have been posted for public comment and the comments have been provided to the Laboratory Operations Committee by the SWGDAM Executive Secretary for adjudication.
 - The proposed new SWGDAM *Validation Guidelines for DNA Analysis Methods: Overview* reorganizes and revises the current SWGDAM validation guidelines and will be supplemented by modules intended to provide technology or methodology specific guidance.
 - The proposed new SWGDAM *Module for Modified Rapid DNA Internal Validation for Database, Known or Casework Reference Samples* contains the minimum requirements and best practice guidelines to help laboratories design internal validation experiments as required by Forensic Standard 8.6 and Database Standard 8.7.5 for the use of Rapid DNA systems for modified Rapid DNA Analysis on database, known or casework reference samples.
 - The proposed new SWGDAM *Module for Autosomal Multiplex Kit Internal Validation Guidance* contains best practices to help laboratories design internal validation studies for autosomal multiplex kits.

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: Over 160,000 visits

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.swgdam.org>. The browser's address bar shows the page title as "HOME | swgdam". The website's header features the title "Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDAM)" in white text on a black background, accompanied by a green and orange DNA double helix graphic. Below the title is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT US, PUBLICATIONS, PUBLIC COMMENTS, and CONTACT. The main content area includes a large image collage of forensic science and DNA analysis, a section titled "SWGDAM Mission Statement" with a paragraph of text, a photograph of a group of people standing in front of a building, and a section titled "Upcoming Meetings" listing two regular meetings: one from January 9-12, 2023, and another from July 18-20, 2023. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and system information like the date (1/4/2023) and time (11:02 AM).

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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
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 - 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