

## Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM) January 2025 Meeting

January 13-16, 2025 (Virtual – Microsoft Teams)

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### I. Agenda and Attendance:

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

### II. Meeting Synopsis:

#### ➤ **Monday, January 13, 2025**

##### COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP BREAKOUT SESSION

The various SWGDAM Committees convened to work independently on ongoing documents and matters to be addressed directly to the entire SWGDAM body.

#### ➤ **Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

##### 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 and Regular Membership, SWGDAM website statistics, as well as the agenda for the next three days.

Each Committee spoke to their progress since the previous SWGDAM Regular Meeting, indicating their goals for dedicated committee working time on Wednesday. The committees present are as follows:

- Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Databasing Forum
- Probabilistic Genotyping: General and Reporting Groups
- Autosomal Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Committee
- Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) Committee
- Laboratory Operations Committee
- Lineage Marker Committee
- Next Generation Sequencing Committee
- Quality Assurance Committee
- Rapid DNA Committee

#### ➤ **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

##### COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The various SWGDAM Committees continued their work independently.

➤ **Thursday, January 16, 2025**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

Legal Presentation

Jake Moldowsky, the SWGDAM Executive Secretary, gave a Legal Update presentation, covering state Genetic Genealogy and Rapid DNA laws, in addition to cases of interest related to the Confrontation Clause and evidentiary challenges to Probabilistic Genotyping testimony. Mr. Moldowsky then took questions from the body and discussed what issues various state laboratories were encountering when preparing for court in conjunction with their legal partners.

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP UPDATE SESSION

Dr. Douglas Hares, Chair of the Rapid DNA Committee, discussed the new *SWGDM Module for Modified Rapid DNA – Internal Validation Guidance for Database, Known, or Casework Reference Samples*, which had been disseminated to the SWGDAM body for review earlier in the week. A discussion followed, covering in-depth implications for detection parameters, precision studies, and virtual ladders to be addressed in the final guidance.

Dr. Hares then separately addressed the Rapid DNA Booking Station implementation, and pathways to Rapid DNA crime scene sample upload to CODIS. This year's changes to the Quality Assurance Standards, Standard 18 and 19, in addition to accompanying guidance documents should make clear to the community what requirements are needed for compliance. In addition, the group partnered with the Laboratory Operations Committee around Modified Rapid DNA validation guidance and is working through Missing Persons and Rapid DNA scenarios.

Jocelyn Carlson, Chair of the Quality Assurance (QA) Committee, reviewed the *Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) Guidance Document*, which had previously been disseminated to the group for review. Ms. Carlson walked through comments adjudicated, opening any unresolved issues to the group for discussion. The body seemed content with the work handled by the QA Committee and provided few additional topics to be addressed.

Amy McGuckian, member of the original body publishing *SWGDM Casework Expert Validation Guidelines*, presented on the document for Executive Board approval. The Guidelines had been dormant as a discussion draft for some time, but new interest has advanced the process forward. Within, the document discusses expert systems and their compatibility with the CODIS software, a review of criteria for expert systems, and a discussion of approved systems eligible for upload.

Jodi Irwin, of the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Committee, then spoke of efforts around proposed changes to accreditation laboratory standards related to NGS objectives. As identification of Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Kinship statistics has become an increasing priority, the Committee heard various vendor presentations describing available software that produces reportable kinship statistics, to better inform

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future deliverables. Finally, the Committee intends to revisit the draft *NGS Validation Guidelines* in collaboration with Laboratory Operations Committee.

Shawn Montpetit, from the Likelihood Ratios Working Group, discussed how the Committee of Detail has updated the *2017 SWGDAM Guidelines for Reporting Likelihood Ratios* by incorporating public comments and submitting the final document to the Executive Board for approval after the regular meeting.

Tiffany Vasquez, with the Laboratory Operations Committee presented on the *SWGDAM Validation Guidelines for DNA Analysis Methods: Overview Document*, approved by the SWGDAM Body and to be published with initial modules to the SWGDAM website. Additional modules are coming, beginning with the *Autosomal Multiplex Kit Internal Validation Module* and *Modified Rapid DNA Analysis Modules for Forensic, Database, Known and Casework Reference Samples* to be completed in the coming months.

Brandon Letts, Chair of the Lineage Marker Committee presented on updates to the *2024 mtDNA Interpretation Guidelines* and their *Supplemental Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document*. Ms. McCarty 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.

Joel Sutton, Chair of the Autosomal STR Interpretation Committee presented the *SWGDAM Interpretation Guidelines for using Probabilistic Genotyping with Autosomal STR Results*, where adjudication of all public comments is complete, and final document is with the Executive Board for approval at this time. The Committee looks forward to collaboration with the Probabilistic Genotyping ad-hoc Working Group, in addition to a review of the SWGDAM FAQs and examples for laboratories on application of the Interpretation Guidelines.

Deedra Hughes, Vice-Chair of the CODIS Committee explained the Committee is work through dispositions and use-case scenarios to be incorporated into the *CODIS Administrator's Handbook* early this year. The Committee had discussions around CODIS databasing needs including STACS, and instrumentation. The Committee will continue to work on federal sample retention issues, CODIS software modification guidance, probabilistic genotyping software entry into CODIS, and familial searching.

Russell Vossbrink, SWGDAM Vice-Chair and Chair of the Membership Committee then expressed membership renewals at the time of the regular meeting. Additionally, Mr. Vossbrink encouraged Committee chairs to continue inviting Subject Matter Experts to these regular meetings, with recommendations always welcome. Then, leadership from the Committee was announced, to coincide with the election of the 2025 Executive Board.

### **III. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held July 14-17, 2025.

**Appendix 1 - Agenda**

SWGDM January 2025 Meeting

January 13-16, 2025

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP



DNA ANALYSIS METHODS

**SWGDM VIRTUAL JANUARY 2025 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, January 13, 2025**

COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) Guidance Document Discussion

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP UPDATE SESSION

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

COMMITTEE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Thursday, January 16, 2025**

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

Quality Assurance Standard (QAS) Guidance Document Discussion

*Review of new SWGDM Module for Modified Rapid DNA Internal Validation  
Guidance for Database, Known or Casework Reference Samples*

BUSINESS SESSION

COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP UPDATE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

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Chair Anthony J. Onorato

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| [SWGDM.org](http://SWGDM.org)

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**Appendix 2 - Attendees**

SWG DAM January 2025 Meeting

January 13-16, 2025

SWG DAM Chair

Anthony Onorato

SWG DAM Vice Chair

Russell Vossbrink

SWG DAM Executive

Secretary

Jake Moldowsky

SWG DAM Attendees

Lara Adams

Jack Ballantyne

Suzie Barritt-Ross

Tiffany Bazazzadegan

Todd Billie

Andrea Borchart

Thomas Callaghan

Jocelyn Carlson

Chris Carney

Dorothy Catella

Michael Coble

Jerrilyn Conway

James Corcoran

Jennifer Coursey

Daniela Cuenca

Eric Duvall

Neil Fernandopulle

Julia Garofalo

Robert Gemme

Gentry, Amanda

Russell Gettig

Katherine Gettings

Jade Gray

Ann Marie Gross

Lisa L. Grossweiler

Jessica Hanna

Douglas Hares

Brian Harmon

Bruce Heidebrecht

Joseph Hof

Deedra Hughes

Ted Hunt

Jodi Irwin

Jessica James

Kristy Kadash

Marla Kaplan

Susannah Kehl

Brian Kim

Benjamin Knoch

Jason Kokoszka

Tiffany Lane

Brandon Letts

Eugene Lien

Jason Linder

Lauren Lu

Charla Marshall

Barbara McCarty

Amy McGuckian

Scott McWilliams

Gary Molina

Shawn Montpetit

Lilliana Moreno

Ashley Murray

Steven Myers

Vanessa Nelson

Mary Lou Nicholson

Sarah Noel

Heather Parrish

Dixie Peters

Harrison Redd

Juliet Rolando

Erica Romsos

Lisa Schiermeier-  
wood

Heather Seubert

Sandy Shaffer

Michael Shay

Philip Simmers

Rhalie Simmons

Mark Smith

Christie Smith

Michael Smith

Carl Sobieralski

Melissa Suddeth

Joel Sutton

Tiffany Thoren

Andreas Timar

Peter Vallone

Tiffany Vasquez

Jeanette Wallin

Regina Wells

Susan Welti

Richard Wilson

Hope Zagaria

Tim Zolandz