SWGDAM Regular Meeting
Combined Committee Presentations

Anthony Onorato
Chair

Russell Vossbrink
Vice-Chair

January 2026

Rapid DNA Committee

Douglas Hares
RDNA Committee Chair

Brian Harmon
RDNA Committee Co-Chair

January 2026

Committee
Members & Invited Guests

- Douglas Hares (IG), Chair
- Brian Harmon, Co-Chair
- Gary Molina
- Chris Carney
- Mark Smith
- Harrison Redd
- Philip Simmers (IG)
- Eric Duvall (IG)
- Erica Romsos (IG)
- Regina Wells (IG)
- Tiffany Thoren (IG)
- Mike Shay (IG)

- Julie Sikorsky (SME)

Committee Goals & Objectives

- Rapid DNA Booking Station implementation
- Forensic Rapid DNA implementation

Committee/WG Tasks/Accomplishments

- Monthly web meetings August - December
  - Collaborated with Laboratory Operations Committee to address SWGDAM comments on the DRAFT modified Rapid DNA validation guidelines document (forensic samples)

Committee/WG Tasks/Accomplishments

- January 2026 SWGDAM Meeting
  - Joint meeting with Lab Ops to finalize SWGDAM comments on the DRAFT modified Rapid DNA validation guidelines document (forensic samples)
  - Discussions on what areas the Rapid Committee should focus on next

Committee/WG Tasks/Accomplishments

- Discussions on what areas the Rapid Committee should focus on next…
  - Booking Standards Review
    - Published in August 2020
    - 2 states online and 2 more very close within the Rapid Committee
    - Subgroup formed to allow additional SMEs from the State Agencies
      - Subgroup products will be discussed with entire Rapid Committee for additional input
    - Include National Booking Procedures in review
      - Possible recommendations to the CODIS Unit

Committee/WG Tasks/Accomplishments

- Discussions on what areas the Rapid Committee should focus on next…
  - Various documents to assist NDIS Laboratories with implementation
    - Potentially available through the CODIS secure website or LE.FBI.gov
    - Subgroups
      - Infographics
      - DISC
      - Implementation Tips
      - Example Forms

Committee Pending Activities

- Booking Station
  - Continue monitoring Booking Standards for any future changes
- Forensic Rapid DNA Programs
  - Monitor 2025 QAS Standard 18 and 19 implementation for forensic application and CODIS

Committee Future Meetings

- Keep monthly full committee meetings
  - Add subgroup meetings between full committee meetings

Contact Info

Douglas Hares, Chair

Biometrics Analysis Section, FBI Laboratory

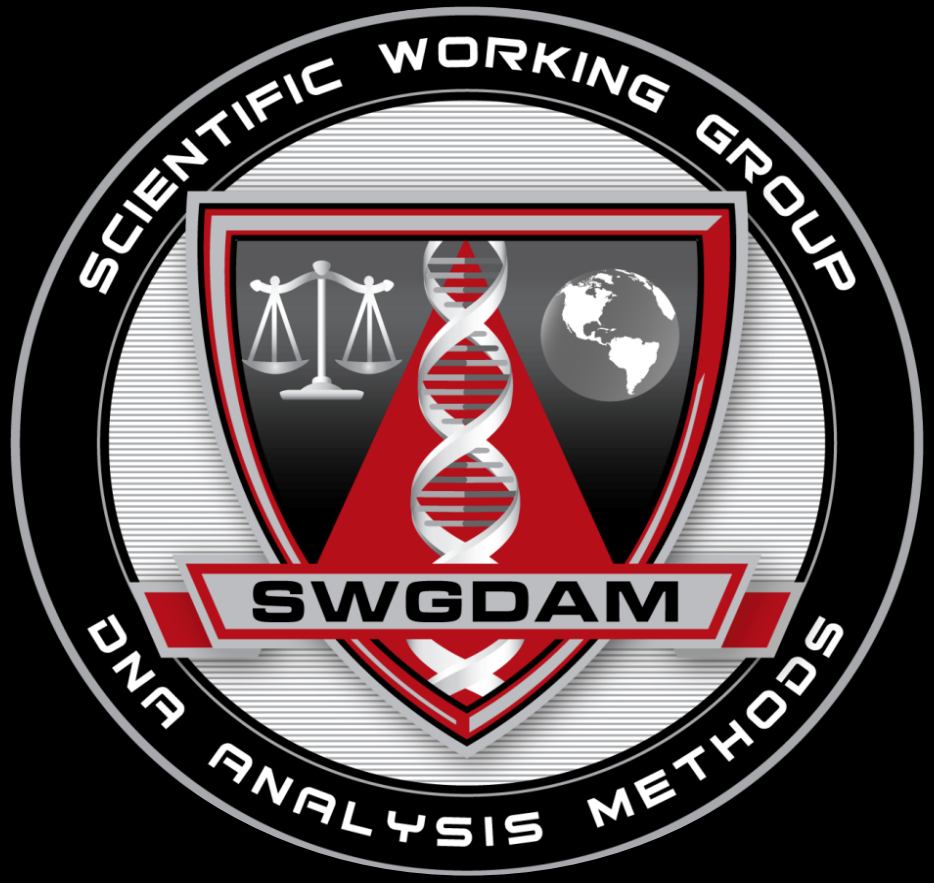
drhares@fbi.gov

Brian Harmon, Co-Chair

BFS Jan Bashinski DNA Laboratory, Cal DOJ

brian.harmon@doj.ca.gov

January 2026



QA Committee

QA Committee
Members & Invited Guests

- Jocelyn Carlson (IG)
  - Chair
- Christie Smith
  - Co-Chair
- Dorothy Catella
- Jim Corcoran (IG)
- Julia Garafalo (IG)
- Kristy Kadash
- Marla Kaplan
- Eugene Lien
- Jason Linder
- Amy McGuckian
- Sandy Shaffer (IG)

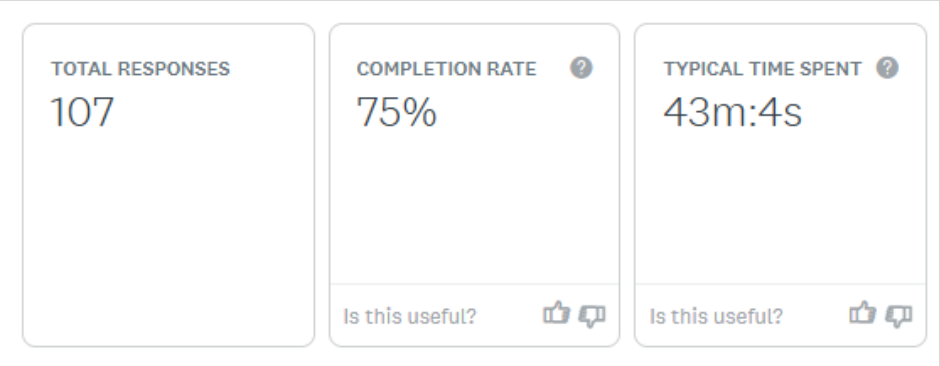
Thanks to Rhalie Simmons (IG) - Transferred to auSTR

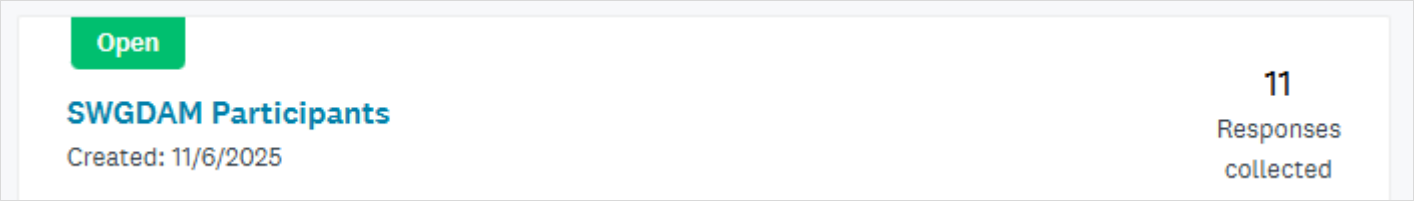
QA Committee Goals/Objectives

- The Quality Assurance (QA) Committee is a standing committee tasked to identify, evaluate, and research issues relating to monitoring and maintaining the quality of DNA testing results in forensic laboratories.
  - The QA Committee will review and, as necessary, recommend revisions to the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards (QAS)
  - Update QAS supporting documents: QAS Guidance and Audit Documents

QA Committee
Tasks/Accomplishments of Mtg

- Review of QAS Survey to Date
  - 107 ~~105~~ Respondents started the survey
  - Survey remains open until 1/31/2026



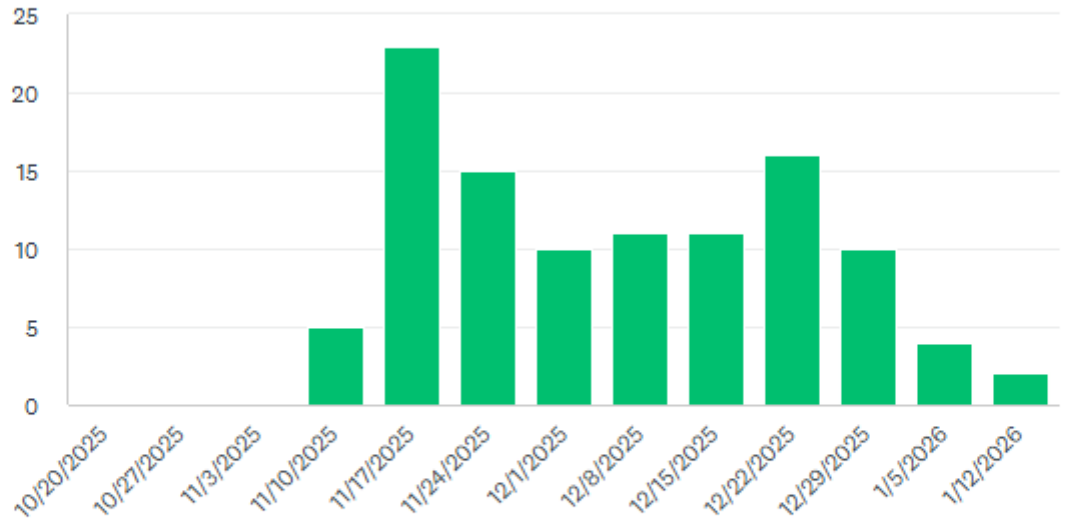


- Started discussions on potential reorganizing of standards

Responses (by week)

Chart Type Trend by... Zoom

First: 11/12/2025 Zoom: 10/20/2025 to 1/12/2026



Weekly (Starting on the date)

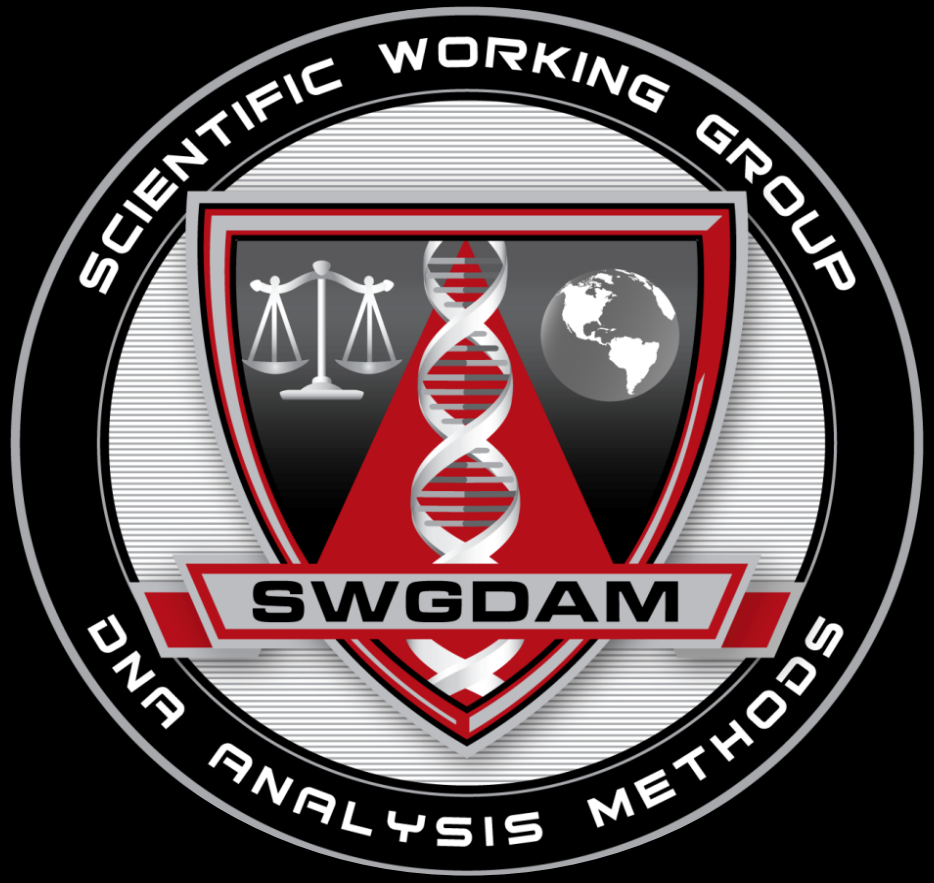
QA Committee
Pending/Outstanding Issues

- Full analysis of survey data
  - A lot of text responses to sort through
  - Any useful trend analysis?
  - Any new input?
  - How will the responses influence revisions?
  - Follow-up discussions/focus groups?
    - 62 respondents gave contact info
- Prelim data…

Contact Info

- QA Committee Chair:
  - Jocelyn Carlson
  - jrcarlson2@fbi.gov
- QA Committee Co-Chair:
  - Christie Smith
  - christie.smith@tbi.tn.gov

January 2026



NGS Committee

NGS Committee Goals/Objectives

Identify, evaluate, and research issues relating to the forensic applications of next generation sequencing.

Tasks

- Draft the NGS Validation Module to include all targeted approaches for ID or Kinship
- Evaluate and research SNP kinship statistics to potentially provide information and/or guidance to the field

Committee
Members & Invited Guests

- From July 2025- January 2026 the Committee meet every other Friday
- The committee includes:

Committee Members and Invited Guests	
Daniela Cuenca	California Department of Justice (Chair)
Dixie Peters	University of North Texas Health Science Center (Co-chair)
Jack Ballantyne	University of Central Florida
Jodi Irwin	FBI Lab
Katherine Gettings	NIST
Susan Welti	Montgomery County, MD Crime Lab
Walther Parson	Institute of Legal Medicine, Austria
Subject Matter Experts	
Charla Marshall	Independent Contractor
Joanna Johnson	Indiana State Police
Karen Olson	US Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory
Tommy Harding	Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale

Committee Tasks/Accomplishments of Mtg

Draft the NGS Validation Module to include all targeted approaches for ID or Kinship:

- There were two version of the module that had been drafted through the years
- The 2025 draft took both drafts as a starting point
- Incorporated considerations for large SNP assays and updated or reworked other sections
- Added resources in the form of appendices
- The 1st draft was finished in December and sent to LabOps for review

Committee Pending/Outstanding Issues

- Work with LabOps to incorporate their updates and comments to the NGS Validation Module document

Committee Tasks/Accomplishments of Mtg

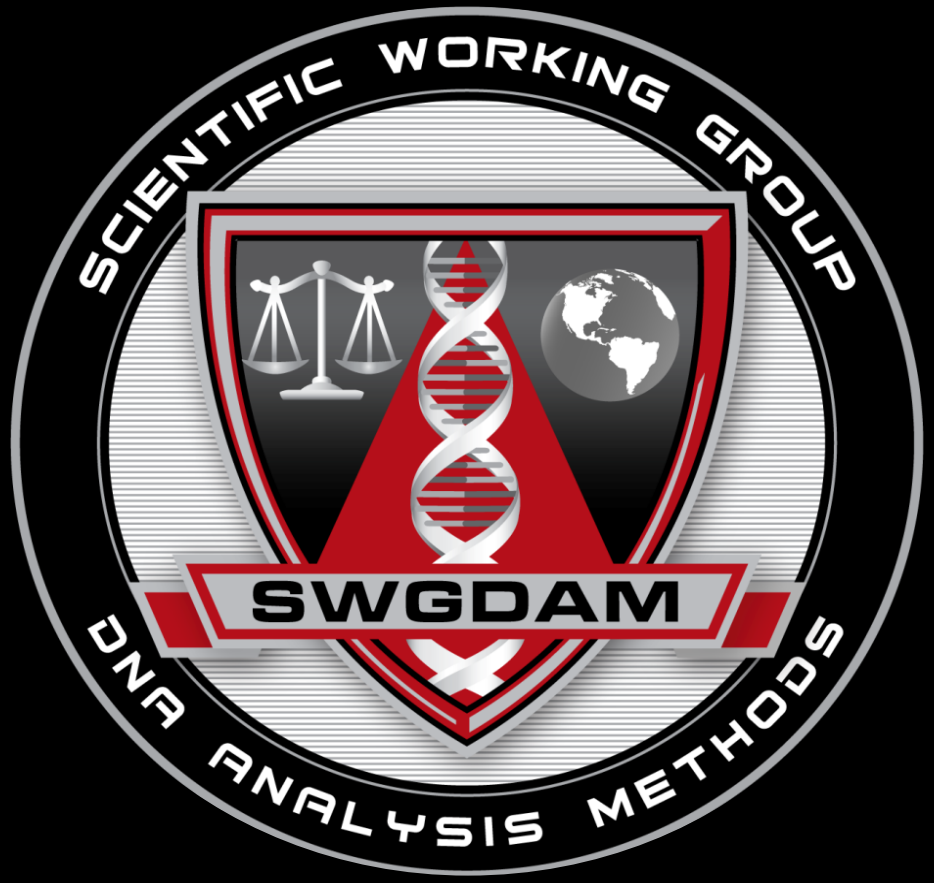
NGS committee met on Tuesday to discuss our next tasks, and our committee make up (SMEs)

- SNP Kinship Statistics
  - Technical communication to outline the current SNP Kinship statistical models
    - FamLink2 and DBLR
    - Qiagen's UAS (part of Kintelligence HT)
    - Parabon's Fx
    - Othram's KinSNP-LR
    - IBIS – Identical by Descent via Identical by State
  - Our current SMEs will continue to participate, and Andreas Tillmar will re-join us for this task
  - Other SMEs being considered to aid in this task

Contact Info

- Dani Cuenca Committee Chair
  - Daniela.Cuenca@doj.ca.gov
- Dixie Peters Committee Co-Chair
  - Dixie.Peters@unthsc.edu

January 2026



Lineage Marker Committee

Committee
Members & Invited Guests

- Brandon Letts, Chair
- Barbara McCarty, Co-Chair (IG)
- Lara Adams (IG)
- Suzie Barritt-Ross
- Michael Coble (IG)
- Shilpi Nandi (IG)
- Mary Lou Nicholson (IG)
- Jeanette Wallin
- Lauren Canale (SME)
- Carl Gajewski (SME)
- Krystle Rodriguez (SME)
- Michael Woods (SME)

Committee Goals/Objectives

- We continue to work on updating the 2017 Contamination Prevention and Detection Guidelines for Forensic DNA Laboratories and hope to finalize them soon.
  - NGS/Rapid
  - Questions about when to separate Qs/Ks
  - Pre-2009 samples lacking RBs
  - Robotics
  - Enhanced detection methods?

Committee Tasks/Accomplishments of Mtg

- Completed our review and updates to the 2017 Contamination guidelines document (though during this meeting we determined that we may need to address EDM).
- Added a supplementary document to address details such as decontamination methods (bleach, DNA-degrading solvents, UV) and reporting statement examples.

Committee Pending/Outstanding Issues

- 2017 Contamination guidelines document updates – presenting those here for body input. We will add EDM wording, if needed, and hopefully can then move forward with reviews and approvals.
- Potential to take on updating the EDM document, if the body feels that the document is still useful.

Contact Info

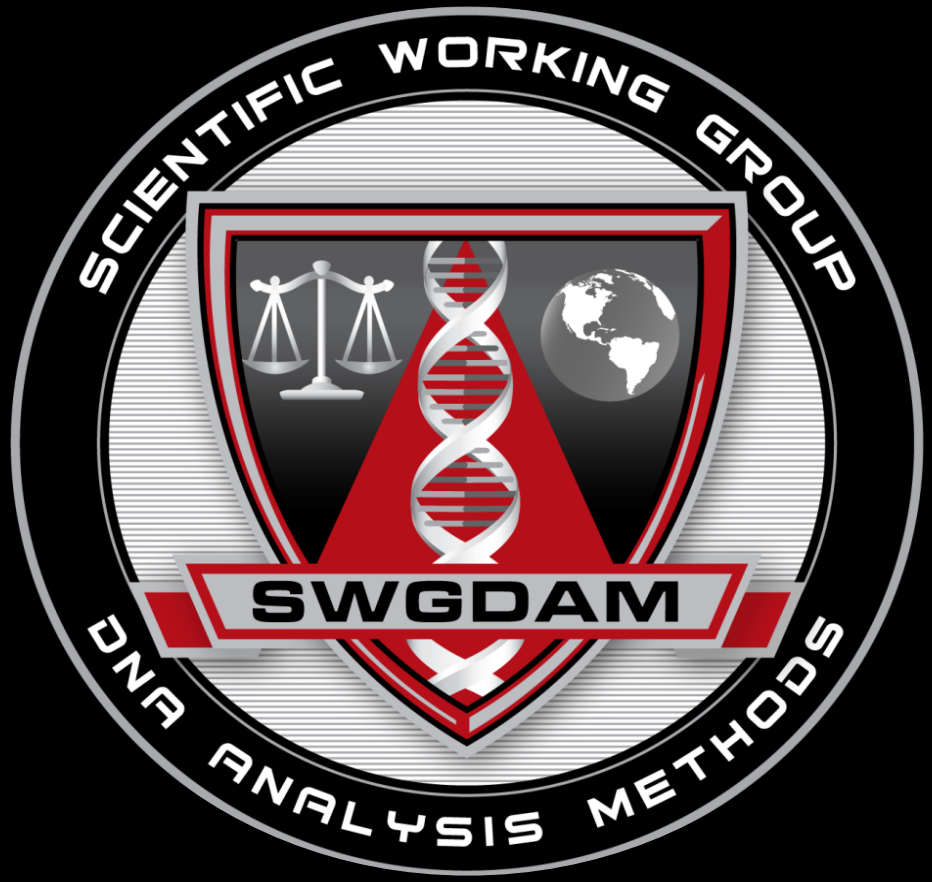
- Brandon Letts, Chair

  Brandon.Letts@dps.texas.gov

- Barbara McCarty, Co-Chair

  BLMcCarty@tarrantcountytx.gov

Laboratory Operations Committee



January 2026

Committee
Members & Invited Guests

Laboratory Operations Committee

- Tiffany Vasquez, Chair
- Pete Vallone, Vice-Chair (IG)
- Todd Bille
- Joseph Hof (IG)
- Brian Kim (IG)
- Jason Kokoszka
- Lauren Lu
- Lilliana Moreno (IG)
- Lisa Schiermeier-Wood
- Melissa Suddeth
- Kimberly Andreaggi (SME)

Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

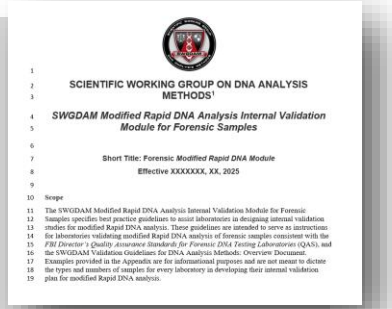
- **SWGDAM Validation Guidelines for DNA Analysis Methods: Overview Document**
  - Approved, Pending publication with initial modules
- **Autosomal Multiplex Kit Internal Validation Module**
  - Approved, Pending publication with overview document
- **Internal Validation of Fully Continuous Probabilistic Genotyping Systems Module**
  - Reviewed updates with SWGDAM body in July 2025
  - Back with EB after adjudication of public comments

Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- **Modified Rapid DNA Analysis Internal Validation Module for Forensic Samples**
  - Completed adjudication of SWGDAM body comments with Rapid Committee
- **Internal Validation of Real-Time PCR DNA Quantitation Systems Module**
  - Finishing adjudication of SWGDAM body comments
- **Internal Validation for NGS Kit Module**
  - First draft received from NGS committee, pending review

Committee Tasks/Accomplishments of Mtg

- ***Modified Rapid DNA Analysis Internal Validation Module for Forensic Samples***



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON DNA ANALYSIS METHODS[1]

SWGDAM Modified Rapid DNA Analysis Internal Validation Module for Forensic Samples

Short Title: Forensic *Modified Rapid DNA Module*

Effective XXXXXXX, XX, 2025

Scope

The SWGDAM Modified Rapid DNA Analysis Internal Validation Module for Forensic Samples specifies best practice guidelines to assist laboratories in designing internal validation studies for modified Rapid DNA analysis. These guidelines are intended to serve as instructions for laboratories validating modified Rapid DNA analysis of forensic samples consistent with the *FBI Director's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories* (QAS), and the SWGDAM Validation Guidelines for DNA Analysis Methods: Overview Document. Examples provided in the Appendix are for informational purposes and are not meant to dictate the types and numbers of samples for every laboratory in developing their internal validation plan for modified Rapid DNA analysis.

- Rapid Committee reviewed and addressed the bulk of the comments from the SWGDAM body (> 100)
- Comments focused on:
  - Grammar updates
  - Consistency of language/concepts
  - Movement of some bullets to be in more logical locations
  - Emphasizing a few points with additional language
- Lab Ops and Rapid Committees both reviewed and met to hash out last details

- **Goal: sending to EB for next steps (public comment)**

Committee Tasks/Accomplishments of Mtg

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON DNA ANALYSIS METHODS[1]

INTERNAL VALIDATION OF REAL-TIME PCR DNA QUANTITTION SYSTEMS MODULE

Short Title: *Internal Quantitation Validation Module*

Effective January 13, 2026

Scope

The SWGDAM Internal Validation of Real-Time PCR DNA Quantitation Systems Module contains minimum requirements and best practice guidelines to assist laboratories in designing internal validation experiments as required by the *FBI's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories (Forensic QAS)*. A quantitation system is comprised of a DNA quantitation kit and a real-time thermal cycler. Commercially available quantitation kits generally include a DNA sample of known quantity to create a standard curve, an internal positive control, and primers specific for autosomal, Y chromosome, and degradation targets. Internal validation shall be conducted using samples of varying quantity, quality, and biological material(s) encountered in forensic casework to assess the reliability and determine the potential limitations of the quantitation system. Laboratories may have validation experimental approaches that differ from those listed in this document, such approaches can be utilized if they generate enough empirical data to determine the capabilities and limitations of the system and support the laboratory's standard operating procedures.

- ***Internal Validation of Real-Time PCR DNA Quantitation Systems Module***

- Reviewed and addressed SWGDAM comments (> 100)
- Many excellent points and suggestions for clarification
- Revised the **Specificity** section (related to the testing of non-primate samples – reduced scope)
- Now in line with 2025 QAS
- “Quantitation” will be used in the Module (versus “Quantification”)
- New: added an example study for Virtual Standard Curves
- Moved: qPCR metrics to an Appendix

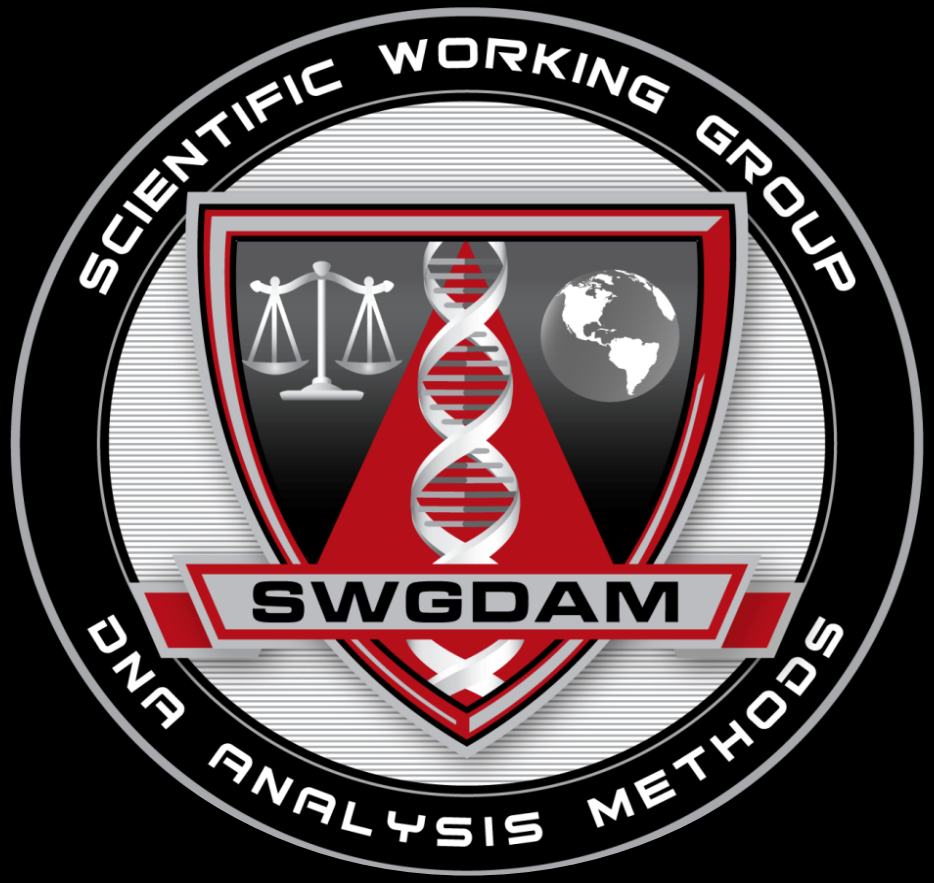
- Major revision of the Example Study in the Appendix (**current action**)

- **Goal: have ready for public comment within 3 months**

Contact Info

- Tiffany Vasquez, Chair
  - tvasquez@ocme.nyc.gov
- Pete Vallone, Vice Chair
  - peter.vallone@nist.gov

January 15, 2026



Autosomal STR Interpretation Committee Update

Auto STR Committee
Members & Invited Guests

Members

- **Jerrilyn Conway** (Chair)
- **Shawn Montpetit** (Co-Chair)
- Joel Sutton (EB)
- Vanessa Nelson
- Jeanette Wallin
- Todd Bille*

Invited Guests

- Neil Fernandopulle
- Sarah Noel
- Mike Smith
- Rhalie Simmons*
- Amanda Gentry*

SMEs

- Michael Bissonnette
- Katy Merideth

new to us – welcome!

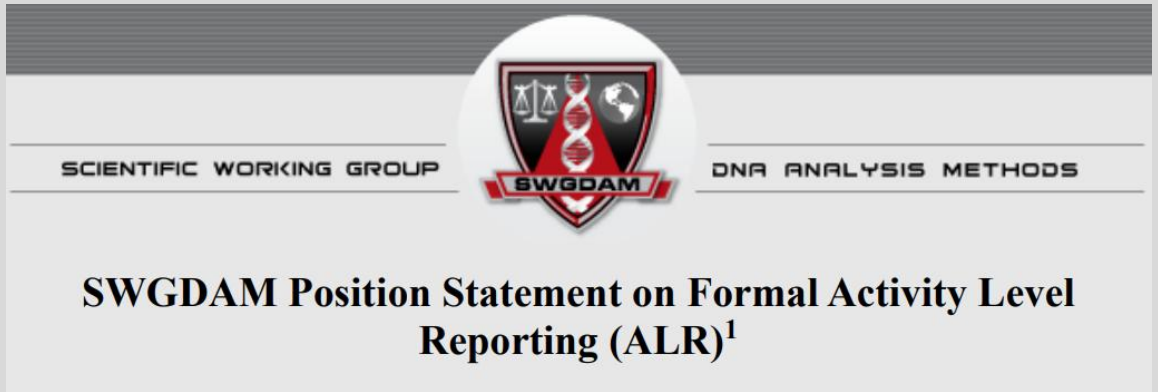
Auto STR Committee Members & Invited Guests

Welcome to:

- Rhalie Simmons (IG): Louisiana State Police Crime Lab, Baton Rouge; in forensic DNA for 18 years
- Amanda Gentry (IG): Tech Lead at Florida Dept of Law Enforcement; in forensic DNA for 14 years; DNA research prior to that
- Todd Bille (Member): Senior Scientist, National Laboratory Center, ATFE.

Auto STR Committee Goals/Objectives

- Pivoted from updating the 2017 Autosomal STR Guidelines to Activity Level Evaluations
- Handoff meeting with the Ad Hoc Committee who developed the Dec 2025 position statement on Activity Level Reporting (ALR)


SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP
SWGDAM
DNA ANALYSIS METHODS

SWGDAM Position Statement on Formal Activity Level Reporting (ALR)[1]

Auto STR Committee Goals/Objectives

- Tasked with developing a document by the position statement

SWGDAM Will Continue to Monitor Developments and Make Recommendations as Necessary.

The above illustrate significant impediments to adoption of formal ALR in its current form. SWGDAM will continue to monitor developments with formal ALR and, if appropriate, make recommendations in the future. Since analysts will continue to face questions related to TPPR, the SWGDAM Chair will task an existing SWGDAM committee or working group with exploring alternatives to the formal ALR approach.

Auto STR Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- Executive Secretary, Jake Moldowsky, provided a hand-off summary from the meeting with the ALR group
- The Auto STR group started with a couple of heavy discussions regarding the scope and detail of the document
  - We considered the poll results from July to help us define the scope:

Auto STR Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- Poll question ALR 22: Do you believe there is value in SWGDAM developing guidelines to assist laboratories in evaluating and presenting results in the context of activity level propositions in testimony?
  - 92% answered: Yes, clear guidance is needed to ensure consistency and scientific rigor in activity level evaluations, particularly in US courts

Auto STR Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- Poll question ALR 24: Should SWGDAM form a group to put out a document of some kind discussing training, etc. for ALE?
  - 88% answered: Yes

Auto STR Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- Developed an outline
- Added some detail
- Came up with a title!

[switch to document]

SWGDAM Recommendations for Activity Level Evaluations

Introduction

Advances in forensic DNA analysis and increased judicial scrutiny have led to a growing emphasis on so-called *activity level* questions in court. These questions move beyond the source of a DNA profile and focus instead on how and when biological material may have been deposited, transferred, or persisted. As a result, DNA analysts are increasingly asked to provide testimony that addresses the circumstances surrounding DNA findings, even in jurisdictions or laboratories that have not adopted a formal activity level reporting (ALR) framework.

Auto STR Committee Future Work/Goals

- We will have twice monthly meetings starting in February to flesh out the rest of this document
- We may request feedback from the EB / SWGDAM Body on the document prior to the July meeting
  - This feedback will determine whether we've reflected the position of SWGDAM and how we should adjust
- We will present the document to the SWGDAM body at the regular July meeting

Auto STR Committee Contact Info

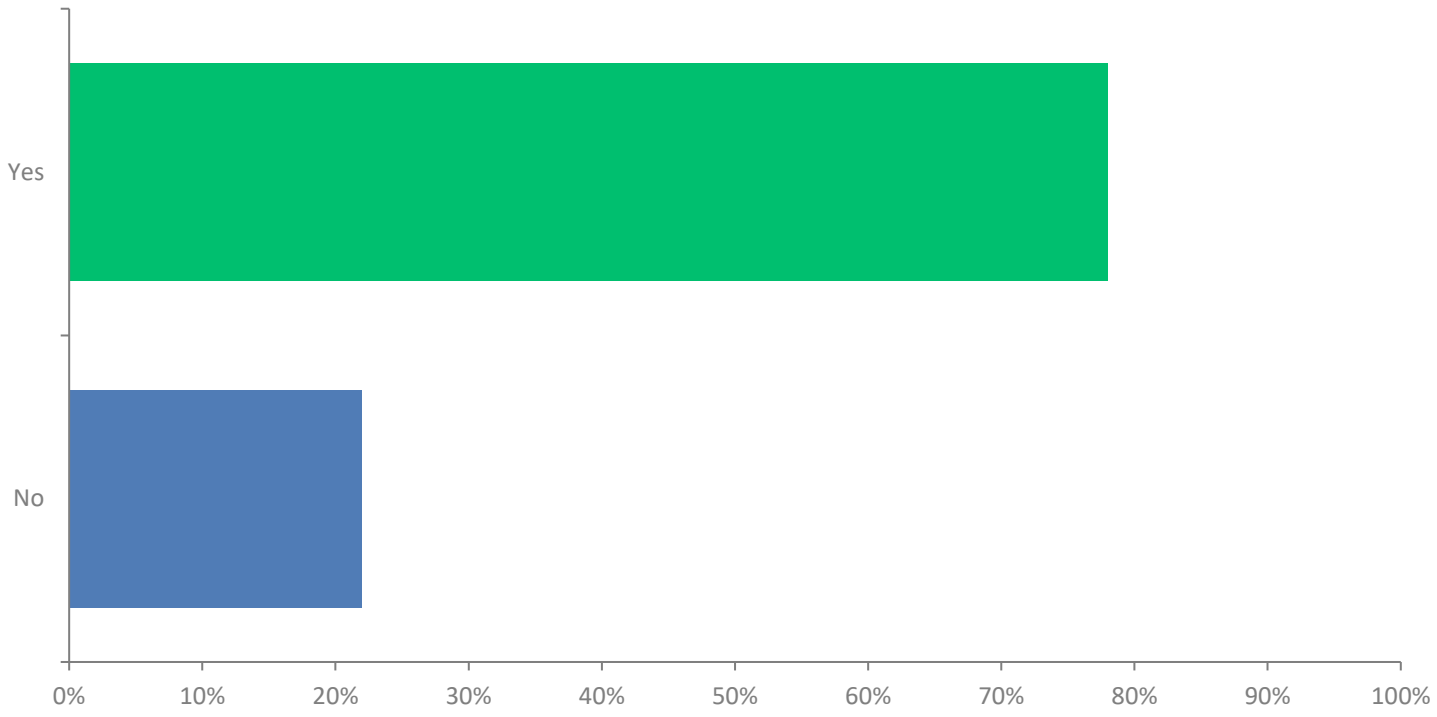
- **Chair Jerrilyn Conway**
  - FBI DNA Casework Unit
  - jmconway@fbi.gov

- **Co-Chair Shawn Montpetit**
  - San Diego Police Department
  - smontpetit@pd.sandiego.gov

IGG Committee Update
January 2026

Would you be interested in information regarding DNA sample suitability for IGG?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 0



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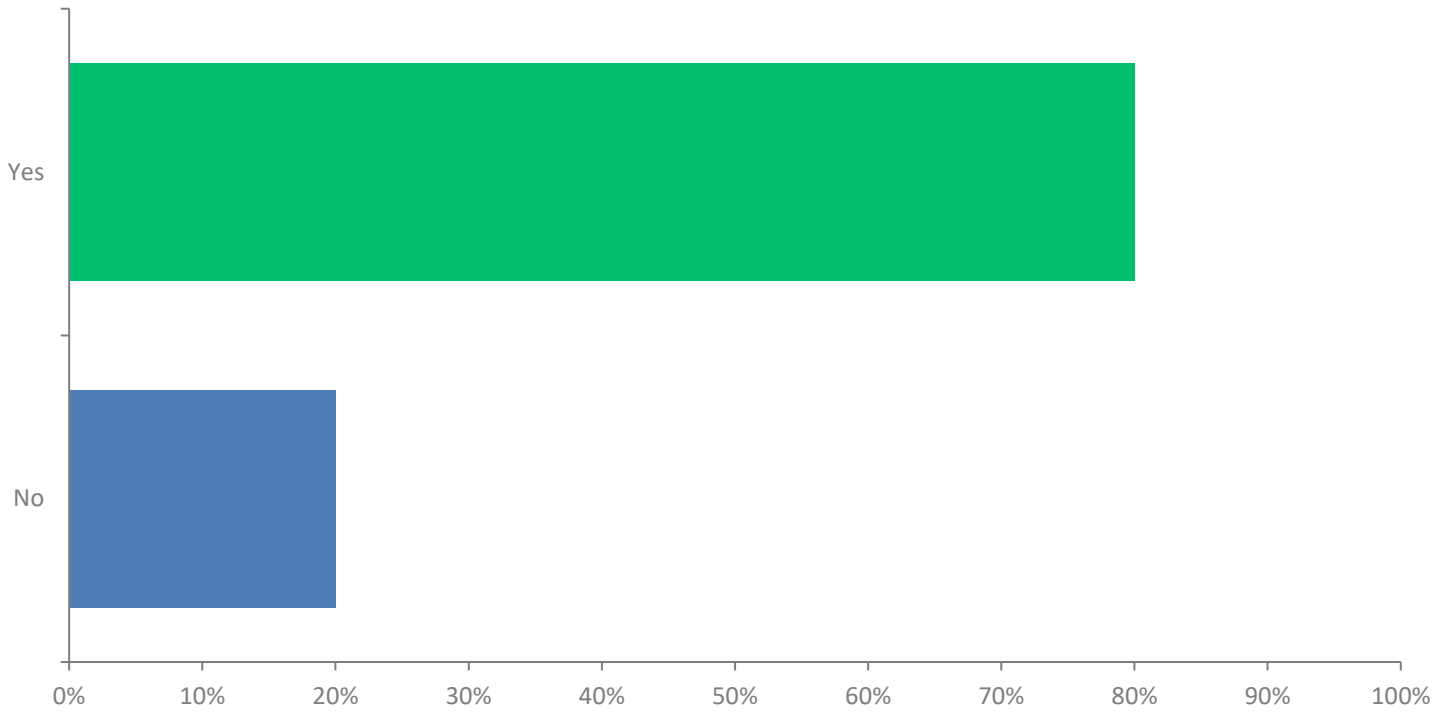
Answered: 50 Skipped: 0

Would you be interested in recommendations regarding re-examination and re-extraction of samples for IGG purposes following the CODIS profile generation (for situations where the extract is consumed but you want to pursue IGG)?



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IGG Committee Session Agenda

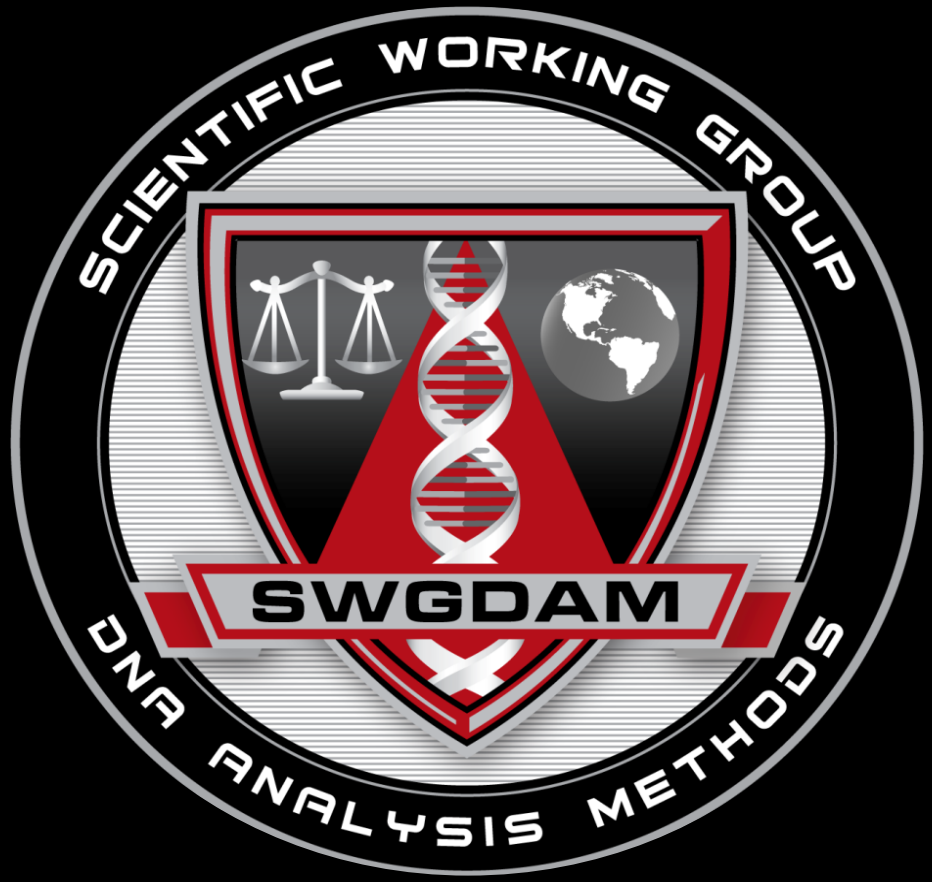
IGG Agenda January 12, 2026

1. Updating the IGG Overview Document from 2020

2. SNP Technology

3. IGG Team Startup Considerations

January 2026



CODIS Committee

CODIS Committee
Members & Invited Guests

- Lisa Grossweiler, Chair (IG)
- Deedra Hughes, Co-Chair
- Tiffany Bazazzadegan
- Eric Duvall (IG)
- Jessica Hanna (IG)
- Jessica James
- Ben Knoch (IG)
- Scott McWilliams
- Ashley Murray (IG)
- Heather Parrish (IG)
- Richard Wilson (IG)

CODIS Committee Goals/Objectives

- Database Group Topics
- CODIS Administrator Handbook
- Ad-hoc topics

CODIS Committee Tasks/Accomplishments of Mtg

- Committee Meetings –
  - September – State CODIS Administrator's Meeting
  - October – no meeting – Government shutdown
  - November, December

CODIS Committee Pending/Outstanding Issues

- Database Group Topics
  - STACS
  - Instrumentation
  - FDDU response to sample retention paper
- CODIS Administrator's Handbook
  - Deep dive review
  - Modernize
  - Updating eligibility scenarios

Contact Info

- Lisa Grossweiler –
  - FBI Laboratory
  - llgrossweiler@fbi.gov

- Deedra Hughes –
  - Mississippi Forensics Laboratory
  - dhughes@mcl.ms.gov