



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP

DNA ANALYSIS METHODS

May 18, 2015

Mr. John Neuner
Executive Director
ASCLD/LAB
139 J Technology Drive
Garner, NC 27529

Dear John:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ASCLD/LAB revised clarification for the reporting of positive associations and the position statement/interpretation related to mixtures.

The SWGDAM Executive Board appreciates your consideration and incorporation of our previous comments/suggestions relating to the revised clarification on positive associations. At our recent Executive Board meeting, there was a suggestion to include an example of the qualitative statement referenced in Note 2 for a better understanding of this restriction.

With respect to the ASCLD/LAB Board interpretation on mixtures and validation data, the SWGDAM Executive Board appreciates the issues related to mixture interpretation and the need for appropriate supporting validation data. Additional guidance on mixture interpretation would benefit the entire DNA community and the SWGDAM Executive Board agrees with the need for clear protocols supported by the appropriate validation studies/data that enable each forensic scientist in the laboratory to arrive at the same conclusion and for those outside the laboratory to understand the protocol and how the conclusion was obtained. The SWGDAM Executive Board, however, is concerned about the practical application and almost boundless number of possibilities encompassed within the following requirement: "DNA mixture interpretation procedures must be tested on mixture profiles from known contributors consisting of the range of mixture types (e.g., number and ratio of contributors) to which the procedure will be applied in casework." Additionally, the



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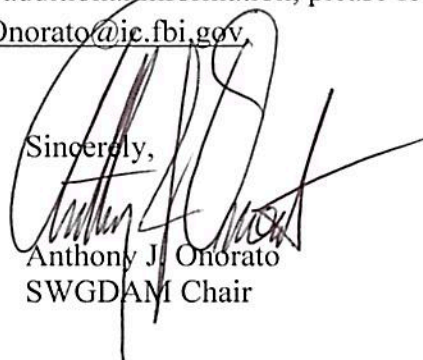
ASCLD/LAB Board may wish to consider further specificity in the second sentence as follows:

“The interpretation of a DNA profile containing a mixture of two or more individuals must be guided by a procedure for both high quantity and low level mixtures based on validation data that will enable different analysts in the same laboratory to reach the same conclusion; and a competent person from outside the laboratory using the same procedure to understand how the conclusion was reached.”

The SWGDAM Executive Board is hopeful that additional collaboration on mixture interpretation would be constructive and invites the ASCLD/LAB Board to designate two representatives to attend the July 2015 SWGDAM Meeting to participate in discussions with the Autosomal STR Committee on Wednesday, July 15, 2015. The FBI is able to reimburse the travel, lodging and per diem expenses of your designated representatives to attend this meeting which will be held July 14 – 16, 2015. Please let me know, at your earliest convenience, if ASCLD/LAB is interested in sending two representatives to our July SWGDAM meeting.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the revised clarification on positive associations and the ASCLD/LAB interpretation on mixtures. If you have any questions concerning these comments or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (703) 632-7489 or Anthony.Onorato@ic.fbi.gov.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Onorato
SWGDM Chair