

SWGDM Update



**FBI DNA Technical Leader Summit
December 3, 2018**



SWGDM Update

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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.



Organization

- Chair: Anthony Onorato, FBI Laboratory
- Vice Chair: Russell Vossbrink, Arizona DPS
- Executive Secretary: Dawn Herkenham
- Members are technical leaders, CODIS Administrators, or forensic scientists from local, state and federal crime laboratories
 - 32 Regular Members
 - 3 year membership term(s)
- Two regular meetings per year in January and July
- Invited Guests participate in meetings
 - Invited Guests have full participatory/voting privileges in Committee and Committee of the Whole Sessions
 - Invited Guests do not vote when the SWGDAM Membership takes up documents for final approval (SWGDM Bylaws, Section II.D)



SWG DAM Members

- Suzie Barritt-Ross
- Angelo Della Manna
- Thomas Callaghan
- Chris Carney
- Russell Gettig
- Ann Marie Gross
- Bruce Heidebrecht
- Deedra Hughes
- Elizabeth Johnson
- Kristine Kadash
- Susannah Kehl
- Jason Kokoszka
- Eugene Lien
- Beth Ann Marne
- Amy McGuckian
- Scott McWilliams
- Jeff Nye
- Gary Molina
- Shawn Montpetit
- Tamyra Moretti
- Steven Myers
- Anthony Onorato
- John Planz
- Dixie Peters
- Juliet Rolando
- Lisa Schiermeier-Wood
- Christie Smith
- Jenifer Smith
- Melissa Suddeth
- Joel Sutton
- John Tonkyn
- Russell Vossbrink



SWGDM Participation

- July 2018: 73 participants with 6 international, 27 domestic federal, and 40 domestic state and local attendees.
- January 2018: 72 participants with 4 international, 30 domestic federal, and 38 domestic state and local attendees.
- July 2017: 66 participants with 3 international, 26 domestic federal, and 37 domestic state and local attendees.
- January 2017: 59 participants with 4 international, 22 domestic federal, and 33 domestic state and local attendees.



Executive Board

- The Executive Board consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Executive Secretary (non-voting), and five members. Either the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman shall be a representative of the FBI (Section II.B).
 - The 5 elected members of the 2017-2020 EB are: Chris Carney, Eugene Lien, Amy McGuckian, Shawn Montpetit, and John Tonkyn.
- 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 6th, October 1st, and November 5th.
- Committee Chairs routinely provide briefings to the EB at the monthly teleconferences.
- The Chair and Vice Chair would like to thank all of the SWGDAM EB Members and Committee Chairs for continually making the time for these critical leadership discussions.



Committees

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



Future Meetings

- Three SWGDAM Meetings to be held in 2019
 - January 8-10, 2019
 - July 9-11, 2019
 - November, 2019 (FBI DNA TL Summit Update)
- Three SWGDAM Meetings to be held in 2020
 - January 7-9, 2020
 - July 7-9, 2020
 - November, 2020 (FBI DNA TL Summit Update)



Past Meetings

- FBI DNA TL Summit held at the National Center for Employee Development (NCED) in Norman, OK on December 3, 2018.
 - Draft QAS Audit Guide Review – Jocelyn Carlson
- This presentation is available on the Home Page and Meetings Page of SWGDM.org.
- The SWGDAM EB is emphasizing community outreach/education sessions such as these to increase information exchange and transparency.



July 2018 Meeting

- Held in Woodbridge, VA on July 10-12, 2018.
- 73 participants with 6 international, 27 domestic federal, and 40 domestic state and local attendees.
- Both the QA Committee and Next Generation Working Group met in special sessions prior to the start of the Regular Meeting.
- The meeting included Committee of the Whole Sessions to develop the QAS Audit Guide that will supplement the proposed revisions to the 2011 FBI Forensic DNA Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) and 2011 Databasing QAS Audit Documents.
- A Technical Session was held to discuss Lineage Marker Testing and the proposed revisions to the *SWGAM Interpretation Guidelines for Y-Chromosome STR Testing*.
- A full day of Committee Breakout Sessions was held.
- Update and Roundtable Sessions were held.



Roundtable Topics

- Troubleshooting Recently Observed Issues in Globalfiler and Mitochondrial Sequencing Data
- Connecticut Sexual Assault Kit Initiative
- First Pass Success Rate Improvement Using a Modified Direct Amplification Method
- Launch of the National Missing Persons DNA Program in Canada
- Update on the Texas Forensic Analyst Licensing Program
- Assessing the Impact of Additional Loci in a Megaplex on Familial Searches



January 2018 Meeting

- Held in Woodbridge, VA on January 9-11, 2018.
- 72 participants with 4 international, 30 domestic federal, and 38 domestic state and local attendees.
- The SWGDAM QA Committee and the Committee on Style and Arrangement: Databasing QAS met in special sessions prior to the start of the Regular Meeting.
- The meeting included Committee of the Whole discussions of proposed revisions to the 2011 FBI DNA Quality Assurance Standards (QAS).
- A half-day Technical Session was held to discuss the work of SWGDAM's Verbal Equivalent Working Group
- A half-day of Committee Breakout Sessions were held and the NGS Working Group met in special session during the Regular Meeting.
- Update and Roundtable Sessions were held.



Roundtable Topics

- SWGDAM Laboratory Operations Committee Update
- 3500 Troubleshooting
- ASCLD Rapid DNA Initiative
- Touch DNA/Direct Amplification using NGS
- Implementation of Y-Screening in a Multi-Lab System
- Single Base Variants in Mixtures
- Sexual Assault Kit Legislation, Create Your Destiny
- Cal DOJ MPS Evaluations for MtDNA Sequencing
- NIST Scientific Foundation Review on DNA Mixture Interpretation



Recent Business



Outreach

- QA Committee Chair Jocelyn Carlson presented on SWGDAM's work to create a new QAS Audit Guide to supplement future versions of the FBI National Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) at the SWGDAM Public Meeting of the FBI's DNA TL Summit in Norman, OK (December 2018).
- QA Committee Chair Dixie Peters presented on the transition of the holdings of the US YSTR Database to the Y Haplotype Reference Database (YHRD) for Y haplotype profile and match probability estimation at the FBI's Technical Leader Summit in Norman, OK (December 2018).
- Tamyra Moretti presented on SWGDAM's *Recommendations of the SWGDAM Ad Hoc Working Group on Genotyping Results Reported as Likelihood Ratios* at the STRMix Symposium at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, TX (November 2018).



Outreach

- The Laboratory Operations Committee fielded an inquiry regarding the streamlining of sexual assault kit processing during a Committee teleconference (November 2018).
- Members of the Verbal Equivalent Working Group held a conference call regarding SWGDAM's *Recommendations of the SWGDAM Ad Hoc Working Group on Genotyping Results Reported as Likelihood Ratios* with the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, TX (October 2018).
- QA Committee Chair Jocelyn Carlson presented on SWGDAM's work to propose changes to the 2011 FBI National Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) at the California Association of Criminalists in San Diego, CA (October 2018).



Outreach

- QA Committee Chair Jocelyn Carlson presented on SWGDAM's work to propose changes to the 2011 FBI National Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) at the New York Crime Laboratory Advisory Committee (NYCLAC)/Technical Working Group (Biology) Conference in Albany, NY (October 2018).
- Shawn Montpetit, Tamyra Moretti, Jerrilyn Conway, and Steven Myers collaborated with National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE) to present a 2 hour webinar entitled "New SWGDAM Recommendations on Communicating Likelihood Ratios" (October 2018).
- QA Committee Chair Jocelyn Carlson presented on SWGDAM's work to propose changes to the 2011 FBI National Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) at the Association of Forensic DNA Analysis and Administrators Meeting in Houston, TX (August 2018).



Body Fluid Identification Working Group

- SWGDAM has empaneled a Body Fluid ID Working Group.
- This working group has been tasked to review 1) the current state of forensic serological testing, 2) the next generation of body fluid testing technology, 3) the potential operational value of conventional and future serological testing, 4) the potential integration of both current and future laboratory workflows, and 5) the use of screening techniques to streamline general workflows.
- Participants include: Marla Kaplan (Chair), Jason Kokoszka (Vice Chair), Lilly Moreno, Gary Shutler, Evelyn Ridgley, Ray Wickenheiser, Melissa Suddeth, Neil Fernandopulle, Russell Vossbrink, and Mary Lou Nicholson.



Survivors' Bill of Rights Act Working Group

- The SWGDAM Chair was contacted by the USDOJ's Office of Violence against Women to participate in a working group mandated by the Survivors' Bill of Rights Act (SBRA).
- The SRBA directed the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to establish a joint working group to develop, coordinate, and disseminate best practices regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of forensic evidence.
- This working group was tasked to review 1) the current state of forensic serological testing, 2) the next generation of body fluid testing technology, 3) the potential operational value of conventional and future serological testing, 4) the potential integration of both current and future laboratory workflows, and 5) the use of screening techniques to streamline general workflows.
- The SBRWG met 4 times in 2018 and convened experts from stakeholder groups identified in the Survivors' Bill of Rights Act to include sexual assault survivors, victim advocates and counselors, forensic laboratory personnel, healthcare providers and forensic healthcare providers, law enforcement officers, and prosecutors.
- The Survivor's Bill of Rights Working Group (SBRWG) delivered its Report to Congress as mandated by the 2016 Survivors' Bill of Rights Act in October 2018.
- Participants included: Tony Onorato and Amber Carr.



Joint NIJ/SWGDAM Working Group

- The National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences has invited SWGDAM to collaborate to form a DNA Efficiency Improvement Working Group (DEI WG) to develop best practices for the enhancement of DNA laboratory efficiency.
- The DEI WG was populated using nominations solicited from SWGDAM participating and NIJ DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction funded agencies and will meet using a combination of remote and in-person meetings over the course of 12-18 months with the first meeting scheduled for January 30 – February 1, 2019 in Washington, DC.
- The Working Group is composed of subcommittees targeting the high-leverage areas of Laboratory Operations, Training and Hiring, Reporting and Data Management, Case Intake Lifecycle, and New Technologies and Change Management.
- NIJ will provide the funding for all non-federal government participants.
- SWGDAM Participants include: Jeanette Wallin, Kristin Sasinouski, Eugene Lien, Joanie Brocato, Juliet Rolando, Melissa Suddeth, Amber Carr, Tamyra Moretti, Lisa Schiermeier-Wood, Brenda Danosky, Lilly Moreno, Russell Vossbrink, and Evelyn Ridgley



Forensic DNA Casework Expert System Working Group

- SWGDAM has empaneled a Forensic DNA Casework Expert System Working Group.
- This working group has been tasked to evaluate the feasibility of using allele calling software tools as expert systems (as defined in the NDIS Operational Procedures) for interpreting forensic casework samples in ways similar to or different from the manner in which these tools are already used DNA databasing laboratories.
- The WG will essentially serve as an extension to the 2005 SWGDAM Expert System Committee that recommended the current NDIS expert system requirements.
- Any resulting SWGDAM guideline document will likely be cited in the NDIS Operational Procedures as a compliance requirement for the submission of evaluations of forensic casework expert systems to the FBI for NDIS approval.
- Participants include: Amy McGuckian (Chair), Tamyra Moretti (Vice Chair), Chris Carney, James Corcoran, Eric Duvall, Jessica Hannah, Brian Harmon, Marla Kaplan and Darrel Oubre.



Joint OSAC/SWGDAM Process Mapping Working Group

- The Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) and SWGDAM are collaborating on a combined DNA Process Mapping Project.
- This working group will establish a process map detailing the specific steps executed during the casework DNA analysis process from sample intake through reporting.
- It is anticipated that the WG's product will benefit the current and future activities of groups such as the OSAC, SWGDAM, NIJ's DNA Efficiency Improvement Working Group, and NIST's future Human Factors Working Group on DNA Mixture Interpretation to continually improve the delivery of forensic DNA analysis services.
- The OSAC/SWGDAM DNA Process Mapping Session was held on November 28-30, 2018 at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).
- Participants include: Amber Carr, Ann Marie Gross, Eugene Lien, Melissa Suddeth, and Jeanette Walin.



Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) Engagement



Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee

- John Butler is the Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee's (SAC) SWGDAM liaison.
 - John Butler attended SWGDAM's January 2018 and July 2018 Regular Meetings.
- The SWGDAM Vice Chair has a standing invitation to participate in the monthly teleconferences held by the Biology/DNA SAC as well as to attend regularly scheduled OSAC meetings to represent SWGDAM.
 - SWGDAM Vice Chair Russell Vossbrink participated in the August 24, 2018 and October 26, 2018 Biology/DNA SAC Teleconferences.



Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee

- The SWGDAM EB has granted the Biology/DNA SAC interested party status to comment on SWGDAM draft documents during the SWGDAM Membership Technical Review period required by the SWGDAM Bylaws(V.C.3).
- All draft SWGDAM documents will be submitted for review and comment to the Biology/DNA SAC during the required 30 day SWGDAM Body Technical Review period and comments made by individual OSAC reviewers will be submitted, compiled, and adjudicated together with individual SWGDAM member comments.
 - The SWGDAM Chair provided Dr. John Butler SWGDAM's proposed revisions to the *SWGDM Interpretation Guidelines for mtDNA Analysis by Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories* for review and comment via email on November 15, 2018.
 - The SWGDAM Chair provided Dr. John Butler the new *Addendum to the SWGDAM Interpretation Guidelines for Autosomal STR Typing by Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories Performing Next Generation Sequencing* for review and comment via email on November 15, 2018.



Joint OSAC/SWGDAM Process Mapping Working Group

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- The OSAC/SWGDAM DNA Process Mapping Session was held on November 28-30, 2018 at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).
- Participants include: Amber Carr, Ann Marie Gross, Eugene Lien, Melissa Suddeth, and Jeanette Walin.



Committee Work



Autosomal STR

- Chair Joel Sutton of USACIL, Vice-Chair Bruce Heidebrecht of the Maryland State Police
- Reviewing the 2017 SWGDAM *Interpretation Guideline for Autosomal STR Typing by Forensic DNA Laboratories* to incorporate probabilistic genotyping guidance.
- Developing clarifications to select inquiries submitted to SWGDAM related to the 2017 STR Interpretation Guidelines for posting on the FAQ Page of SWGDAM.org.



CODIS

- Chair Darrel Oubre of the FBI, Vice-Chair Deedra Hughes of the Mississippi Crime Laboratory
- Serving as a Committee of Detail to assist the QA Committee to develop the new QAS Audit Guide.
- Discussing Automated Hit Counting, CODIS 8.0 training, definition of Forensic Unknown, and updates to the NDIS configurations documents.



Laboratory Operations Committee

- Chair Lisa Schiermeier-Wood of the Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Vice-Chair Amber Carr of the FBI.
- Drafting clarifications to select inquiries submitted to SWGDAM for the issuance of SWGDAM Technical Notes or posting on the FAQ Page of SWGDAM.org.
 - Completed the *SWGDM Clarification on Proficiency Testing of qPCR Workflows Including Y-Screening* (August 2018).
 - Developing a SWGDAM technical note regarding traceability.
- Reviewing the 2016 *SWGDM Validation Guidelines for Forensic DNA Analysis Methods* to recommend potential revisions and to consider a new core element or modular format for this document.



NGS Working Group

- Chair Jenifer Smith of the Washington DC Department of Forensic Sciences, Vice-Chair Jodi Irwin of the FBI
- Completed NGS-specific revisions that have been incorporated into the 2016 *SWGAM Validation Guidelines for DNA Analysis Methods* that are available on the Publications Page of SWGDAM.org (December 2016).
- Drafting proposed NGS interpretation guidelines for mtDNA testing to be incorporated into the 2013 *SWGAM Mitochondrial DNA Analysis Interpretation Guidelines*.
- Drafting NGS interpretation guidelines for autosomal STR testing to be incorporated into the 2017 *SWGAM Interpretation Guideline for Autosomal STR Typing by Forensic DNA Laboratories*.



Quality Assurance

- Chair Jocelyn Carlson of the FBI, Vice-Chair Beth Ann Marne of the Pennsylvania State Police
- Completed proposed revisions to the 2011 FBI *Forensic and DNA Databasing Quality Assurance Standards (QAS)* that have been approved by SWGDAM and that will be forwarded to the FBI Director.
- Participating in community outreach opportunities to socialize the QAS revisions being proposed to the FBI Director.
- Revising the QAS Audit Documents and creating a QAS Audit Guide to contain what historically has been the discussion content of the Forensic and DNA Databasing QAS Audit Documents.



Projected QAS Timeline

- SWGDAM approved its proposed changes to the *Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Typing Laboratories* at its January 2018 Regular Meeting and the *Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories* via electronic vote on June 1, 2018 .
 - These changes are posted on the Home Page of SWGDAM.org.
 - Both documents will now be forwarded to the FBI Director for consideration together with their corresponding QAS Audit Documents.
- SWGDAM is currently aligning the QAS Audit Documents with their respective proposed revised QAS standards with the target for approval being its January 2019 Regular SWGDAM Meeting.
- SWGDAM is currently drafting a new QAS Audit Guide with the target for approval being its January 2019 SWGDAM Meeting.
- SWGDAM is coordinating with the FBI for a July 2019 publication of the FBI approved QAS documents with an effective date of January 2020 to provide laboratories time to implement any required new measures for compliance.



Rapid-DNA

- Chair Richard Wilson of the FBI, Vice-Chair Peter Vallone of the National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Completed a *SWGDM Position Statement on Rapid DNA Analysis* that is available on the Publications Page of SWGDAM.org (October 2017).
- Drafting a standalone R-DNA QAS Standards for R-DNA testing in the booking station environment using existing field testing standards as potential models (e.g., breathalyzer, radar gun, etc.) for submission to the FBI Director for consideration.
- Drafting a FBI Rapid-DNA Concept of Operations Document using the existing FBI Criminal Justice Information Systems Division (CJIS) Staff Paper as a model.
- Drafting a plan for a Rapid-DNA pilot project for testing/implementing/using this technology in the booking station environment.
 - SWGDAM has invited R-DNA pilot-specific Invited Guests to participate on the R-DNA Committee.



LR Verbal Scale Working Group

- The new *Recommendations of the SWGDAM Ad Hoc Working Group on the Reporting of Probabilistic Genotyping Results* were approved at the July 2018 Regular SWGDAM Meeting and are available on the Publication Page of SWGDAM.org.
- The LR Verbal Scale Working Group has completed its tasking and has been dissolved (V.C.7).
- SWGDAM would like to thank Shawn Montpetit (Chair), Jerrilyn Conway, Peter Gill, Ted Hunt, Sander Kneppers, Eugene Lien, Tamyra Moretti, Steven Myers, Joel Sutton, Susan Welti, Russell Vossbrink, and Lisa Schiermeier-Wood for their outstanding, sustained efforts in support of this critical SWGDAM tasking.



Lineage Marker

- Chair Dixie Peters of the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Vice Chair Ann Marie Gross of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Reviewing the 2014 SWGDAM *Interpretation Guidelines for Y-Chromosome STR Testing* to recommend potential revisions to this document.
- Reviewing the 2013 SWGDAM *Interpretation Guidelines for Mitochondrial DNA Analysis by Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories* to recommend potential revisions and consider a Core Element format for this document.
- Assisting the transition of the holdings of the US YSTR Database to the Y Haplotype Reference Database (YHRD) for Y haplotype profile and match probability estimation.

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Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM)

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SWGDM 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.

About SWGDAM

SWGDM is currently comprised of dedicated forensic scientists, from international, federal, state and local forensic DNA laboratories as well as guests representing academia and other Federal agencies. These forensic

Upcoming Meetings

- SWGDM Regular Meeting
January 8-10, 2019
- SWGDM Regular Meeting
July 9-11, 2019

Past Meetings

- SWGDM Regular Meeting
July 10-12, 2018
[SWGDM July 2018 Semi-Annual Report](#)
- SWGDM Regular Meeting

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- SWGDAM continues to receive suggestions regarding the functionality and performance of SWGDAM.org.
 - Automated notifications for new content posts
 - Import, repopulate, and other functionalities for the Public Comment Page
 - Use of supplemental strategies such as a newsletter and platforms such as Facebook
 - Posting of links to other organizations and resources
- The site is currently maintained with no formally obligated funding by NIST using existing IT resources and staff for whom the website is an ancillary task. All website ideas are discussed but implementation must be balanced against the realities of these constraints.
- The 2017-2020 SWGDAM Executive Board continues to review SWGDAM's current communication strategies and discuss the feasibility of potential improvements and/or alternatives.



Future Business



Rapid DNA Testing

- ASCLD has invited SWGDAM to nominate participants for its *ad hoc* Task Force on Rapid DNA which consists of 3 subcommittees
 - The goal of the committee is to develop policies and best practices that can serve as a template for jurisdictions to enable quicker, more uniform and more effective implementation.
 - Law Enforcement External – Tom Callaghan (Member)
 - Crime Lab Internal – George Li (Invited Guest)
 - Mass Disaster/Victim ID – Patty Aagard (FBI representative)
- SWGDAM has published a Position Statement on Rapid DNA Analysis which is available on SWGDM.org on the Publications Page.
- Will propose a 3rd Quality Assurance Standard (QAS) document for R-DNA testing in non-laboratory settings for consideration by the FBI Director.



Contextual Bias Working Group

- The SWGDAM Chair requested that the Laboratory Operations Committee discuss the topic of contextual bias in forensic DNA testing and advise the SWGDAM Executive Board (EB) on what, if any, potential action SWGDAM should take on this topic.
 - The Committee held a discussion regarding contextual bias during its first teleconference and recommended that SWGDAM act to discuss this topic advising that "Because this is such a broad topic and applies to all forensic disciplines, ...SWGDM issue a Communication recommending standard practices to avoid contextual bias specifically for DNA casework."
- Based on this recommendation, the SWGDAM EB endorsed the formation of a Contextual Bias Working Group at its May 2017 teleconference.
- The convening of this Working Group as been tabled by the SWGDAM Chair until SWGDAM has completed it work related to proposed changes to the 2011 QAS.



Familial Searching

- *Recommendations from the SWGDAM Ad Hoc Working Group on Familial Searching (2013)*
 - **Recommendation 1.4:** ...Once the additional CODIS core loci are implemented, the Working Group recommends that these issues be reconsidered. Meanwhile, the data accompanying these recommendations may provide guidance to states considering routine familial searching based upon the kinship LRs.
- The 2017-2020 SWGDAM Executive Board continues to discuss the reconsidering the 2013 recommendations now that the expanded CODIS core loci have been implemented.
- As a member of the FBI's NDIS Operational Procedures Board, the SWGDAM Chair continues to liaison with the FBI and NDIS Board regarding convening a SWGDAM Working Group to reconsider this topic.



Contact Us

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