

# SWGDM Update



**FBI Technical Leader Meeting  
November 2017**



# Agenda

- About Us
- Meetings
- Recent Business
- Committee Actions
- SWGDAM.org
- Future Business



# 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
  - 29 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

- Angelo Della Manna
- Thomas Callaghan
- Chris Carney
- Russell Gettig
- Ann Marie Gross
- Bruce Heidebrecht
- Deedra Hughes
- Elizabeth Johnson
- 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
- Suzie Barritt-Ross
- Jenifer Smith
- Joel Sutton
- John Tonkyn
- Russell Vossbrink
- Lisa Schiermeier-Wood



# New Members

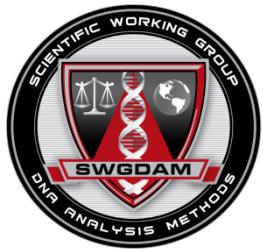
- 5 new members have been appointed by the SWGDAM Chair following their recommendation by the Membership Committee (Section II.C.31).  
Congratulations to:
  - Russell Gettig – NY State Police
  - Jason Kokoszka – AL DFS
  - Suzie Barritt-Ross – AFDIL
  - Jenifer Smith – DFS, Washington DC
  - Lisa Schiermeier-Wood – VA DFS
- SWGDAM would like to thank the home agencies of these individuals for their continued support of its critical work.



# Retirement

- SWGDAM would like to thank long time SWGDAM Member **George Li** for his many years of dedicated service and wish him well as he retires from the Virginia Department of Forensic Sciences.
- George, congratulations on your retirement and SWGDAM wishes nothing but the best for you and your family.





# Acknowledgements

- SWGDM would like to thank Elizabeth Morris for her work as an Invited Guest.
  - “Please extend a thank you to the body on my behalf for all the assistance and friendship through the years.”
- SWGDM would like to thank John Buckleton for his work as an Invited Guest.



# New Invited Guests

– 5 new guests were invited to the July 2017 SWGDAM Regular Meeting. SWGDAM welcomed the following individuals and thanks their respective home agencies for their willingness to support our efforts:

- Meg Aceves, Cal DOJ
- Connie Fisher, FBI – Lineage Marker Committee
- Marla Kaplan, Oregon State Police – Lineage Marker Committee
- Brandon Letts, FBI – Lineage Marker Committee
- Ruth Montgomery, Missouri State Highway Patrol
- Lilly Moreno, FBI – Laboratory Operations Committee
- Jeanette Wallin, Cal DOJ



# SWGDAM Participation

- 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.
- July 2016: 69 participants with 9 international, 24 domestic federal, and 36 domestic state and local attendees.
- January 2016: 68 participants with 6 international, 25 domestic federal, and 37 domestic state and local attendees.
- July 2015: 66 participants with 7 international, 21 domestic federal, and 38 domestic state and local attendees.
- January 2015: 58 participants with 5 international, 20 domestic federal, and 33 domestic state and local attendees.



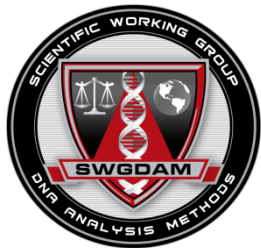
# Executive Board

- The term of the sitting 2014-2017 SWGDAM EB Members has expired.
- The Chair would like to thank EB Members Russell Vossbrink, Angelo Della Manna, Dawn Herkenham, Brian Hoey, Amy McGuckian, Steven Myers, and Gary Sims for their hard work and good cheer in executing the business of SWGDAM which included: 5 regular meetings; 20 teleconferences; the approval of 1 revised guidance document (Autosomal STR Interpretation); the approval of 3 new guidance documents (Contamination Prevention, SAK Processing, and Prob Gen Validation); issuance of 1 clarification document (Data Reinterpretation); issuance of 4 letters to ASCLD-LAB; the appointment of 10 new members; and the near completion of a comprehensive proposed FBI QAS revision.



# Executive Board

- At the July 2017 SWGDAM meeting, the SWGDAM Chair empaneled the new 2017-2020 SWGDAM Executive Board (Section II.B).
  - Russ Vossbrink was reappointed as the SWGDAM Vice Chair.
  - Dawn Herkenham was reappointed as the SWGDAM Executive Secretary.
  - The Chair nominated 7 regular members via ballot, and the membership selected 5 of the nominated members to serve on the 2017-2020 SWGDAM Executive Board (Section II.B.4).
  
- On behalf of SWGDAM, the Chair would like to thank SWGDAM Members Russell Vossbrink, Dawn Herkenham, Chris Carney, Eugene Lien, Amy McGuckian, Shawn Montpetit, and John Tonkyn for agreeing to serve on the 2017-2020 SWGDAM Executive Board.



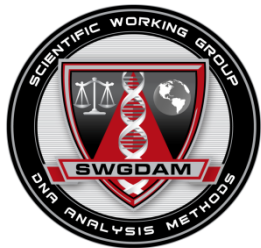
# Executive Board

- 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).
  - Five members: 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 February 6<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, and June 5<sup>th</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup>, September 5<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and November 6<sup>th</sup>
- Committee Chairs routinely provide updates 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
- Verbal Equivalent Working Group



# Committee Changes

- Enhanced Detection Methods and Interpretation (Transitioned to Laboratory Operations)
- Laboratory Operations (New)
- Lineage Marker (New)
- Sexual Assault Kit Evidence Processing Working Group (Disbanded)
- Y-STR (Transitioned to Lineage Marker)





# Meetings

- Three SWGDAM Meetings held in 2017
  - January 10-12, 2017
  - July 11-13, 2017
  - November 13, 2017 (FBI TL Summit Update)
- Three SWGDAM Meetings to be held in 2018
  - January 9-11, 2018
  - July 10-12, 2018
  - November, 2018 (FBI TL Summit Update)



# July 2017 Meeting

- Held in Woodbridge, VA on July 11-13, 2017.
- 66 participants with 3 international, 26 domestic federal, and 37 domestic state and local attendees.
- The meeting consisted of Committee of the Whole discussions of proposed revisions to the 2011 FBI National DNA Quality Assurance Standards (QAS).
- The QA Committee met on Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> prior to the start of the Regular Meeting.
- No Tuesday Technical or Wednesday Committee Breakout Sessions were held.
- Update Sessions were held throughout the meeting and the NGS Working Group met in special session.
- The Round Table Session was held Wednesday evening.



# Roundtable Topics

- Validation Review Committee
- 3500 Troubleshooting
- ASCLD Rapid DNA Initiative
- Touch DNA/ Direct Amplification using NGS
- The 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



# January 2017 Meeting

- Held in Fredericksburg, VA on January 10-12, 2017.
- 59 attendees with 4 international, 24 domestic federal, and 31 domestic state and local participants.
- The meeting consisted of Committee of the Whole and Rotating Small Breakout Sessions to discuss proposed revisions to the 2011 FBI National DNA Quality Assurance Standards (QAS).
- The QA Committee met on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> prior to the start of the Regular Meeting.
- No Tuesday Technical or Thursday Update Sessions were held.
- Committee Breakout Sessions were held Wednesday morning and the NGS WG met in special session.
- The Round Table Session was held Wednesday evening.



# Roundtable Topics

- Assessment of Incorrect Support from Probabilistic Mixture Analysis
- Case Study
- STR Sequence Diversity Database
- Direct to DNA Approach to Sex Assault Cases
- Artifact Peaks with the ID+ Amp Kit
- Using the 7500 as a Fluorometer



# November 2016

- FBI TL Summit held at the National Center for Employee Development (NCED) in Norman, OK on November 14, 2016.
  - Review of Proposed Revisions to the QAS – Jocelyn Carlson
  - Review of the Interpretation Guidelines for Autosomal STR Typing by Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories – Joel Sutton
  - SWGDAM Update – Tony Onorato
- 2016 National CODIS Conference held at the NCED on November 15-17 2016.
  - Review of Proposed Revisions to the QAS – Jocelyn Carlson
- These presentations are available on the SWGDAM website on the Home Page and Meetings Page.
- The SWGDAM EB is emphasizing community outreach/education sessions such as these to increase information exchange and transparency.



# Recent Business



# 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 combined meeting of the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists, American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners, and Southern Association of Forensic Scientists in Cincinnati, OH.
- Douglas Hares provided an update on SWGDAM's work to propose updates to the 2011 QAS at the 2017 Annual Association of Forensic DNA Analysts and Administrators in Austin, TX.
- FBI Biometric Analysis Section Chief Tina Delgado presented the poster "Anticipated Changes to the DNA QAS Documents" at the American Crime Laboratory Directors Symposium (ASCLD) in Dallas, TX.
- Douglas Hares provided a SWGDAM update at the 2017 European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) DNA Working Group Meeting in Berlin.





# ASCLD Webinars

## ASCLD Webinar Series : DNA Standards and Guidelines (Part 1)

**Date:** April 26, 2017

**Speakers:** Joel Sutton, Bruce Heidebrecht, Jerrilyn Conway

**Overview:** Forensic DNA Analysis, and in particular interpreting complex DNA mixtures and calculating statistics, can be challenging. The technology is ever more sensitive and analysts are testing a wider variety of samples than ever before. The FBI's Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGAM) has issued a new version of the autosomal DNA STR interpretation guidelines that most of the DNA laboratories in the country look to for guidance in analyzing DNA profiles. Mr. Sutton presented information on the changes to the interpretation Guidelines including the background and scope of the changes. Specific examples were presented. Mr. Heidebrecht and Ms. Conway answered questions and provided additional comments.

**Metrics:** Attendees: 579, Topic Interest 95%, Objectives Met: 93%, Technical Quality: 95%, International: Canada, Jamaica, Pakistan, Columbia, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, UK.

**Link:** <https://www.forensiccoe.org/Our-Impact/Sharing-Knowledge/Virtual-Education/ASCLD-Series>



# ASCLD Webinars

## **ASCLD Webinar Series : DNA Standards and Guidelines (Part 2)**

**Date:** May 25, 2017

**Speakers:** Jocelyn Carlson

**Overview:** The Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGAM) is tasked with ensuring the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) for DNA Testing and Databasing Laboratories are current and continue to ensure quality operations as technology changes. Jocelyn Carlson of the FBI is the Chair of SWGDAM's QA Committee revision committee and presented on the efforts of SWGDAM to revise the standards.

**Metrics:** Attendees: 385 (No other data available at this time)

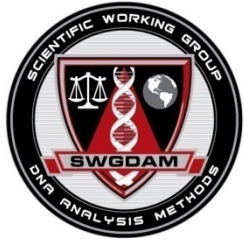
**Link:** <https://www.forensiccoe.org/Our-Impact/Sharing-Knowledge/Virtual-Education/ASCLD-Series>



# SAK Processing Guidelines

## *SWGDM Recommendations for the Efficient Processing of Sexual Assault Kits*

- The SWGDAM Executive Board approved the draft for forwarding to the SWGDAM Body for technical review at its March 7, 2016 teleconference.
- The SWGDAM Executive Secretary electronically forwarded the draft for technical review on May 19, 2016 with the technical review period ending June 17, 2016.
- The draft was posted for public comment on SWGDAM.org from July 25, 2016 to September 2, 2016 and received 41 public comments.
- The SAFER WG presented its final report to the SWGDAM Executive Board on December 5, 2016 and it was approved for publication.
- The *SWGDM Recommendations for the Efficient Processing of Sexual Assault Kits* are available on SWGDAM.org on the Publications Page.



# NIJ Sexual Assault Response Document

- The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) electronically forwarded a draft of its new *Best Practices for a National Sexual Assault Response: A Systems-Wide Approach* document for review by its SAFER Working Group members on May 18, 2016 with the review period ending May 27, 2016.
- The SWGDAM SAFER SAK Working Group attended an in-person NIJ SAFER Working Group Meeting in Washington, DC on June 22-14, 2016 to finalize the draft of its *Best Practices for a National Sexual Assault Response: A Systems-Wide Approach* document for dissemination for peer review by select external stakeholders in the sexual assault response community.
- The NIJ SAFER Editorial Review Board met in Washington, DC on October 19-21, 2016 to adjudicate the public comments received and finalize the document.
- The final draft of the *Best Practices for a National Sexual Assault Response: A Systems-Wide Approach* was published by NIJ on August 8, 2017 and is available via the link <https://nij.gov/safer-report> and the PDF file is available directly at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250384.pdf>.



# Autosomal STR Guidelines

## ***SWGDM Interpretation Guidelines for Autosomal STR Typing by Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories***

- The SWGDAM Executive Board approved the draft for forwarding to the SWGDAM Body for technical review at its March 2, 2016 teleconference.
- The SWGDAM Executive Secretary electronically forwarded the draft for technical review on March 9, 2016 with the technical review period ending April 8, 2016.
- The draft was posted for public comment on SWGDAM.org from July 21, 2016 to September 19, 2016 and received 122 public comments.
- The STR Committee presented its final report at the January 2017 Regular SWGDAM Meeting and it was approved for publication by the SWGDAM Body and Executive Board.
- The *SWGDM Interpretation Guidelines for Autosomal STR Typing by Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories* are available on SWGDAM.org on the Publications Page.



# Contamination Guidelines

## ***SWGDM Contamination Prevention and Detection Guidelines for Forensic DNA Laboratories***

- The SWGDAM Executive Board approved the draft for forwarding to the SWGDAM Body for technical review at its March 7, 2016 teleconference.
- The SWGDAM Executive Secretary electronically forwarded the draft for technical review on May 25, 2016 with the technical review period ending June 24, 2016.
- The draft was posted for public comment on SWGDAM.org from July 25, 2016 to September 2, 2016 and received 77 public comments.
- The EDMI Committee presented its final report at the January 2017 Regular SWGDAM Meeting and it was approved for publication by the SWGDAM Body and Executive Board.
- The *SWGDM Contamination Prevention and Detection Guidelines for Forensic DNA Laboratories* are available on SWGDAM.org under Publications.



# Biology/DNA SAC Interactions



# OSAC Interactions

- In collaboration with the Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee (SAC), SWGDAM has identified Dr. John Butler as its OSAC Representative.
  - Dr. John Butler attended SWGDAM's January 2017 Regular Meeting.
- 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 provide information to or receive feedback on behalf of SWGDAM.
  - SWGDAM Vice Chair Russell Vossbrink participated in the March 24, 2017; May 26, 2017; August 25, 2017, and October 27, 2017 Biology/DNA SAC Teleconferences
- Dr. George Herrin, Chair of the Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee (SAC) participated in the March 2017 SWGDAM Executive Board (EB) Teleconference.





# OSAC Interactions

- The SWGDAM EB has granted the Biology/DNA SAC “Interested Party” status with respect to SWGDAM draft documents
- 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 FBI National Forensic DNA Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) for review and comment via email on June 1, 2017.



# Committee Work



# Autosomal STR

- Chair Joel Sutton of USACIL, Vice-Chair Bruce Heidebrecht of the Maryland State Police
- Participating in community outreach opportunities to socialize the 2017 revised STR Interpretation Guidelines (e.g., 2016 FBI TL Meeting and ASCLD Webinar).
- Responding to select SWGDAM inquires via FAQ Page of SWGDAM.org
- Revising of the STR Interpretation Guidelines to incorporate probabilistic genotyping guidance.



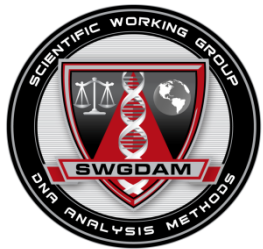
# CODIS

- Chair Darrel Oubre of the FBI, Vice-Chair Deedra Hughes of the Mississippi Crime Laboratory
- Served as a Committee on Detail to assist the QA Committee to review and suggest proposed changes to Standard 17.
- Reviewing QA Committee's revised standards prior to SWGDAM Committee of the Whole reviews.
- 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 Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Vice-Chair Amber Carr of the FBI
- Drafting proposed FAQ language for the SWGDAM EB regarding proficiency testing of Y-STR screening workflows.
- Reviewing the SWGDAM *Validation Guidelines for Forensic DNA Analysis Methods* to recommend potential revisions and to consider a Core Element format for this document.
- Discussed the impacts of cognitive bias on forensic DNA analysis and recommended that the SWGDAM EB convene a working group on this topic.



# 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 to the *SWGDM Validation Guidelines for DNA Analysis Methods* that are available on SWGDAM.org on the Publications Page.
- Drafting NGS Interpretation Guidelines for mtDNA testing.



# Quality Assurance

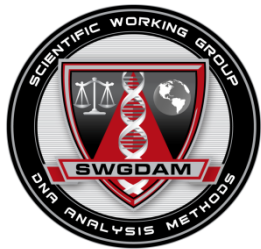
- Chair Jocelyn Carlson of the FBI, Vice-Chair Beth Ann Marne of the Pennsylvania State Police
- Reviewing 2011 FBI National Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) on behalf of SWGDAM to propose revisions to the FBI Director. Now have the 120 public comments received during the public comment period from August 16 to October 6, 2017.
- Participating in community outreach opportunities to socialize the proposed QAS revisions and format changes (e.g., FBI TL Meeting, CODIS Meeting, MAFS/STEE/AFS, ASCLD, and AFDA).
- Managing the activities of the Committee on Details assisting in the review of select standards and the Committee of Style and Arrangement aligning the proposed changes to the Forensic DNA QAS to the Databasing QAS.



# QAS Public Comments

- SWGDAM posted its proposed changes to the 2011 FBI National Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) for public comment from August 16 to October 2017 (Section V.C.5)
- Over 120 comments were received through the Public Comment portal of SWGDAM.org.
- Specific comments were received on Standards 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17.
- The majority of comments were received on Standards 5, 6, 8, 9 with Standards 6 and 8 receiving the most.
- SWGDAM would like to thank everyone that took the time to comment on the proposed changes.
- The posted draft will remain on SWGDAM.org and can be accessed using the Home Page. No additional public comments will be accepted, however, this version will remain available for reference purposes until SWGDAM has approved a final draft.





# Rapid-DNA

- Chair Richard Wilson of the FBI, Vice-Chair Peter Vallone of NIST
- Completed a *SWGDM Position Statement on Rapid DNA Analysis* that is available on [SWGDM.org](http://SWGDM.org) on the Publications Page.
- Drafting a standalone QAS document for R-DNA testing in the booking station environment using existing field testing standards as models (e.g., breathalyzer, radar gun, etc.)
- Drafting a FBI Rapid-DNA Concept of Operations document using the existing FBI CJIS Staff Paper as a model.
- Drafting a plan for a Rapid-DNA pilot project for testing/implementing/using this technology in the booking environment.



# LR Verbal Scale Working Group

- Convened to provide interim guidance for employing verbal equivalents that either cites an existing scale or provides a new SWGDAM DNA-specific one or SWGDAM/ENFSI DNA-specific one.
  - The revised 2016/2017 autosomal STR interpretation guidelines will likely provide guidance for the use of verbal scales.
  - ENFSI already endorses LR's and has a recommended verbal scale for all forensic disciplines in its Guidelines for Evaluative Reporting in Forensic Science.
  - Any further guidance SWGDAM provides regarding verbal equivalents will likely be incorporated into the probabilistic genotyping guidance in the next revision of the SWGDAM autosomal STR interpretation guidelines which will likely not be issued for 12-18 months.
- Participants include: Shawn Montpetit (Chair), Jerrilyn Conway, Ted Hunt, Sander Kneppers, Eugene Lien, Tamyra Moretti, Steven Myers, Joel Sutton, Susan Welti, Russell Vossbrink, and Lisa Schiermeier-Wood



# Lineage Marker

- Chair Dixie Peters of UNT, Vice Chair Ann Marie Gross of the Minnesota BCA
- SWGDAM has expanded the scope of the Y-STR Committee to include mtDNA haplotyping and reconstituted it as a standing Lineage Marker Committee.
- Reviewing the SWGDAM *Interpretation Guidelines for Y-Chromosome STR Testing* to recommend potential revisions to this document.
- Reviewing the 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.
- Developing a recommended approach to the interpretation of Y-STR mixtures.

# [www.swgdam.org](http://www.swgdam.org)

Since July 2015: Over 41,000 hits

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https://www.swgdam.org/ swgdam

## Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDAM)

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### 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.

### About SWGDAM

SWGDAM 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

- SWGDAM Regular Meeting  
July 11-13, 2017
- SWGDAM Regular Meeting  
January 9-11, 2018

### Past Meetings

- SWGDAM Regular Meeting  
January 10-12, 2017
- [SWGDAM January 2017 Semi-Annual Report](#)
- SWGDAM Regular Meeting

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# [www.swgdam.org](http://www.swgdam.org)

- SWGDAM continues to receive suggestions regarding the functionality and performance of the website.
  - 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.
- 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 will review SWGDAM's current communication strategies and discuss the feasibility of potential improvements and/or alternatives.



# Future Business



# 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 current plan is for this Working Group to be convened by the SWGDAM Chair once SWGDAM has approved its proposed changes to the 2011 QAS.



# Forensic Serology Working Group

- The SWGDAM Chair consulted with the SWGDAM Executive Board (EB) regarding the potential value of convening a SWGDAM Working Group to prospectively discuss forensic serological testing.
- The SWGDAM EB endorsed the empaneling of this working group at its April 2017 Teleconference.
- This working group will be tasked to consider the current state of forensic serological testing, the next generation of body fluid testing technology, the potential operational value of conventional and future serological testing, and the potential integration of both into future laboratory workflows.
- The current plan is for this Working Group to be convened by the SWGDAM Chair once SWGDAM has approved its proposed changes to the 2011 QAS.





# 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 SWGDAM.org on the Publications Page.
- Will propose a 3<sup>rd</sup> Quality Assurance Standard (QAS) document for R-DNA testing in non-laboratory settings for consideration by the FBI Director.



# 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 LR.
- The 2017-2020 SWGDAM Executive Board will discuss the 2013 Recommendations now that the expanded CODIS core loci have been implemented.



# Contact Us

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