SWGDAM UPDATE for ENFSI

April 2010

SWGDAM UPDATE

Mission:

(1) to recommend revisions, as necessary, to the Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories and the Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories;

(2) to serve as a forum to discuss, share, and evaluate forensic biology methods, protocols, training, and research to enhance forensic biology services; and

(3) to recommend and conduct research to develop and/or validate forensic biology methods.

SWGDAM UPDATE

Membership

- Members are predominately technical leaders from state and federal crime labs
- 3 year terms
- Appointed by Chair
- 17 regular members
- 28 invited guests (4 international)
- Chair: Ted Staples (appointed by FBI director)
- Vice Chair: Heather Seubert FBI (appointed by chair)
- Executive Board: Angelo Della Manna, Phil Kinsey, Ken Konzak, Margaret Schwartz, Taylor Scott
- Executive Secretary: Dawn Herkenham (appointed by chair)

SWGDAM UPDATE

Standing Committees

- CODIS: Doug Hares
- LT DNA (new name): Rich Guerrieri (acting)
- Mass Spectrometry: Les McCurdy
- Mito: Alice Isenberg
- Missing Persons & Mass Disaster: John Planz
- Mixture Interpretation: John Butler
- May create Ad Hoc committees as needed from request of FBI director

SWGDAM UPDATE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JANUARY 2010

CODIS

Tasks/objectives accomplished:

- Discussions of composite profiles and how they relate to NDIS
- Discussions of expanding the core CODIS loci in the future
Low Level DNA... \(\rightarrow\) EDMI

- Enhanced Detection Methods and Interpretation Committee

EDMI

Ad Hoc Group
(Jan 2009-Jan 2010)
- Alice Isenberg (Chair)
- John Butler
- Theresa Caragine
- Art Eisenberg
- Doug Hares
- Brian Hoey
- Tamyra Moretti
- Eric Pokorak
- Rich Guerrieri
- Gary Sims

SWGDAM Committee
(Est. Jan 2010)
- Rich Guerrieri (Acting Chair)
- Juls Bickmore
- Todd Bille
- Martin Fairley
- Brian Hoey
- Kristine Kadam
- Eugene Lien
- Tamyra Moretti
- Amy McGuckian

EDMI

- Decide on terminology
- Recommend Committee goals
- Review (modify?) NDIS Procedures LCN definition for clarification purposes
- Strategize NDIS applicability recommendations
- Homework:
  - Lit review
  - Status review (US, UK)
  - Identify additional experts?
  - Refine approach for accomplishing goals

Mass Spec mtDNA

- Discussion regarding primer synthesis quality
- Several audits against 2009 doc
- mtDNA mixture analysis
  - Single loci
- No pending issues

MP Mass Disaster

- Minifiler accepted at NDIS.

Task at hand:
- Request to provide training for Missing Persons related topics for the CODIS 6.0/7.0 transition.
  - meet with 6.0 user group in July 2010
  - conduct training at National CODIS Conference Nov 2010

MP Mass Disaster

Areas to Address
- Laboratory’s obligations following sample entry
- Revisit business pathways following a generated MP association report in CODIS
- How to interpret association reports
- JPLR and reporting statistics
- Auxiliary data, asking for more resources
Mixture Committee

• Completed STR interpretation guidelines based on feedback from entire SWGDAM group
• Collect and publish case summary analysis – conducted in 2007-2008 to see how many and what type of mixtures are being observed in crime labs
• Prepare training materials to aid mixture interpretation

Mixture Committee

• Made final revisions to STR interpretation guidelines using comments received from January 12, 2010 full SWGDAM discussion

• STR Interpretation Guidelines APPROVED!
• Discussed future directions for the committee

Availability of the SWGDAM STR Interpretation Guidelines


Mixture Committee- future

• Mixture case summary data and publication
• Training materials – web-based?
• Decision tree/flowcharts to aid mixture interp
• Software solutions (including freeware)
• Validation assistance – Experimental design for setting thresholds, etc.
• Y-STR mixtures & software under development

Mixture Committee- future

• Gather training materials and examples to illustrate the principles described in the STR interpretation guidelines
  – Fromega Oct 2010 meeting workshop
  – Web-based training (possibly with NIJ support)
• Guidelines for Y-STR mixtures?

SWGDAM UPDATE

Contact information:

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QUESTIONS?