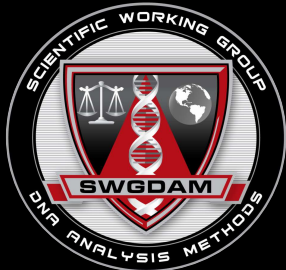


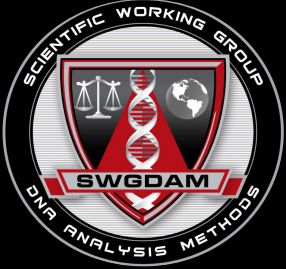
**Investigative Genetic Genealogy
Working Group - ISHI Update**



Thomas Callaghan
Investigative Genetic Genealogy
Working Group
September 15, 2021

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**Committee of Correspondence on
Forensic Genealogy**



April 2019 - May 2020

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Committee of Correspondence

Empaneled by the SWGDAM Chair in April 2019, the Committee of Correspondence on Forensic Genealogy was tasked by the SWGDAM Executive Board with the following:

1. Proposing a format for, and preparing a draft of, an overview statement on forensic genealogy;
2. Proposing an agenda for a Technical Session on the topic of Forensic Genealogy at the July 2019 SWGDAM meeting; and
3. Recommending what, if any, future work SWGDAM should consider on the subject of Forensic Genealogy.


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Committee Members & Invited Guests

- Thomas Callaghan and [John Tonkyn](#), Co-Chairs
- Committee Members
 - Blaine Bettinger
 - Malia Fullerton
 - Christi Guerrini
 - Amy McGuckian (EB)
 - Steven Myers
 - Lori Napolitano
 - Walther Parson
 - Peter Schneider
 - Ray Wickenheiser


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Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- The July 2019 SWGDAM meeting included a Technical Session on Forensic Genealogy on Tuesday, July 9th with the following presenters:
 - Blaine Bettinger
 - Lori Napolitano
 - Malia Fullerton
 - Christi Guerrini
 - Thomas Callaghan (presenting the European perspective on behalf of Walther Parson and Peter Schneider)
 - Ted Hunt


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Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- The Committee of Correspondence held monthly teleconferences from April through December to discuss the preparations for, drafts, and comments on the Overview Statement on **Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG)**.


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Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- On Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at the first in-person meeting of the Committee, presentations were made by Bode, DNA Labs International and Parabon.
- In addition to their experiences with FGG, the companies were informed before the meeting that SWGDAM members and CODIS Laboratories are receiving questions regarding total DNA needed, degradation, number of people in a mixture, victim to perpetrator mixture ratio, average SNP call rate/success, and what call rate is needed for realistic SNP genealogy database search.


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Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- On September 26, 2019, the Committee approved the Overview of Investigative Genetic Genealogy.
- The SWGDAM Executive Board approved the distribution of the Overview Statement to the SWGDAM membership and invited guests for a two-week comment period.
- A total of 86 comments from 15 SWGDAM members and invited guests were received during the comment period.
 - Approximately 44 of the comments were editorial, grammatical or typographical.


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Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- A sample of the substantive comments received on the statement:
 - Questioned SWGDAM's authority on this subject
 - Requested acknowledgement of the Department of Justice Interim Policy on Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching
 - Questioned the use of, or when to do, familial searching


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Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- Most of the typographical and many of the editorial comments were incorporated
- With respect to the sample substantive comments –
 - **Recommendations** have been changed to **“considerations”** to address concerns relating to SWGDAM’s authority;
 - The Overview Statement is **primarily intended to be informational on the topic of investigative genetic genealogy for those in law enforcement seeking additional information** and exploring the use of this technique while the **DOJ Interim Policy is operational guidance** for a specific audience; accordingly the DOJ Interim Policy is referenced in a footnote; and
 - **Familial searching** is addressed, as a consideration, for those jurisdictions currently authorized to perform such searches.


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Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- Specifically, the following consideration relating to familial searching was added:
“In jurisdictions where authorized, forensic familial searching should also be considered in accordance with the jurisdiction’s policies/procedures.”
- The Committee approved these revisions at their December 19th teleconference.


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Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- On September 26, 2019, the Committee also approved the following recommendation:
- “The SWGDAM Executive Board tasked the Committee of Correspondence on Forensic Genealogy to “recommend what, if any, future work SWGDAM should consider on the subject of Forensic Genealogy.” While the Committee has completed its Overview document on Investigative Genetic Genealogy, **considering that this is an evolving technique with forensic DNA laboratory implications, the Committee recommends that the SWGDAM Executive Board consider empanelling an Investigative Genetic Genealogy Working Group**, comprised of forensic scientists, bioethicists, and law enforcement to further advise SWGDAM on issues relating to the implementation of IGG by forensic DNA laboratories and law enforcement agencies.”


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Committee Tasks/Accomplishments

- At the January 2020 meeting, the Committee had presentations from DNA Solutions, Family Tree and Gene by Gene, and Verogen/GEDMatch:
- SNP Analysis Specimen Ranking:
 1. Fresh buccal and neat semen
 2. Blood
 3. Bone and teeth
- Mixtures and degradation required more DNA analysis but did not always result in data of investigative value
- Monthly calls through April drafting IGG related questions for the Annual CODIS Laboratory Survey

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IGG Working Group Members & Participants


- Empaneled by the SWGDAM Chair in May 2020 and held a teleconference on June 8. Members of the Committee of Correspondence on Forensic Genealogy were invited by the SWGDAM Executive Board to become members of the SWGDAM Investigative Genetic Genealogy Working Group:
 - Tom Callaghan, Chair
 - Blaine Bettinger
 - Malia Fullerton
 - Christi Guerrini
 - Steven Myers
 - Walther Parson
 - Peter Schneider
 - Ray Wickenheiser
 - [Lori Napolitano \(Participant\)](#)

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Investigative Genetic Genealogy Working Group




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IGG Working Group Tasks

- At the July 2020 Meeting, the SWGDAM Chairman communicated three tasks to the IGG Working Group:
 - The IGG WG will **monitor and report on the use and/or implementation** of Investigative Genetic Genealogy by forensic DNA laboratories.
 - The IGG WG will **monitor and report on issues relating to the amount of DNA, degradation, and mixtures and if appropriate**, provide considerations and/or recommendations for forensic DNA laboratories.
 - The IGG WG will **discuss and report on topics relating to the role of the forensic DNA laboratory** in the use of Investigative Genetic Genealogy.


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IGG Working Group July 2020 Update

- The IGG Working Group held its first monthly call on July 8th.
- During the July 8th, meeting the WG compiled ~ 12 IGG related questions for potential inclusion in the Annual CODIS Laboratory Survey.
- The purpose and focus of the IGG related questions is to gauge the involvement and impact of Investigative Genetic Genealogy on CODIS Laboratory operations as outlined in Task #1.


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IGG WG Fall 2020

1. Finalize Annual CODIS Survey IGG Questions
2. ISHI IGG Workshop Review (Sept)
3. DNA Solutions Presentation (Oct)
 - Bone: Less than 20ng = ~23% Success for SNP array analysis**
 - (James Anstead ISHI 2020 IGG Workshop)
4. Review Annual CODIS IGG Responses

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SWGDAM IGG WG January 2021 Agenda

Update Presentations:

- Connie Bormans, FTDNA / Gene by Gene
- Cydne Holt, Verogen / GEDMatch

Whole Genome Sequencing for IGG on UHR's

- Ed Green, University of California at Santa Cruz
- David Mittelman, Othram, Inc.

Discussion for January and Monthly Virtual Meeting Topics and Timeline for 2021 CODIS Survey IGG Q's


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July 2021 Meeting



Investigative Genetic Genealogy Working Group


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IGG WG Meetings and Activities

- Research Presentation by Daniela Cuenea of Cal-DOJ on Verogen's Kintelligence Kit – AAFS IG WS
- Presentation By Santa Clara Crime Lab Cold Case Criminalist, Kevin Kellogg. Organizational Structure and Workflow of an IGG Program - AAFS IGG Workshop Presentation


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IGG WG Meetings and Activities

- Review and Discussion of State of Maryland Law authorizing Investigative Genetic Genealogy following a judicial order.
- Discussion of "**Four Misconceptions About Investigative Genetic Genealogy**," Journal of Law and the Biosciences, C. Guerrini, R. Wichenheiser, B. Bettinger, A. McGuire and M. Fullerton.
- Presentation on National Human Genome Research Institute IGG 4yr Research Grant (Christi Guerrini, Malia Fullerton, et al)
- Presentation on SWGDAM WG Activities to NIJ sponsored Forensic Laboratory Network (FLN) Meeting hosted by RTI.

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IGG WG Meetings and Activities

- Presentation of WG activities to CODIS State Administrators at Spring SA Meeting. Follow on discussion for input and clarity concerning the draft IGG Questions in the 2021 CODIS Annual Survey
 - Lab & Agency, Rehydration, Requantitation, FSL Equivalents and Dedicated IGG Staff, Source Attribution and/or Conclusion, definition of terms, and free text responses.
- Finalization of 10 IGG Questions for the 2021 CODIS Annual Survey.
- Presentation at 2021 ISHI on IGG WG Activities.

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