

**Ongoing Projects in the Applied Genetics Group at NIST**

Peter Vallone, Michael Coble, Becky Hill,  
Erica Butts, Kevin Kiesler, Margaret Kline  
Applied Genetics Group  
U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Victoria Police Forensic Services Department  
September 9, 2013  
Macleod, Victoria, Australia

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**NIST Human Identity Project Team**  
within the Applied Genetics Group

<p><b>Forensic DNA Team</b> Funding from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) through NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards</p>	<p><b>DNA Biometrics Team</b> Funding from the FBI through NIST Information Access Division</p>
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Pete Vallone

  
Mike Coble


  
Becky Hill

  
Margaret Kline

  
Erica Butts

  
Kevin Kiesler

**Data Analysis Support**

  
Dave Duerwer

As of April 1, John Butler has moved into the Office of Special Programs and is working on Forensic Science efforts across NIST

Sources of external funding





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**Rapid Instrumentation**

- Several companies are currently developing prototype devices
- In collaboration with the FBI and DHS testing of these systems is being performed at NIST
  - Current focus on concordance, reproducibility, and reliability
  - Future focus is to conduct an interlaboratory study for each of the tested platforms

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### Rapid DNA Prototype Testing

- Received first R-DNA prototypes in Sept 2012
- R-DNA platforms have been evolving quickly over the last 12 months
- Many developmental changes and upgrades within the past year
  - Software, hardware, data processing, etc

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### Purpose of Interlaboratory Testing

- As of July 2013 R-DNA success levels were high enough to carry out an interlaboratory assessment of the R-DNA prototypes
- Data was collected and analyzed in August 2013
- Results will only be shown from the NIST/DHS instrument
  - Results will be presented at the Biometrics Consortium Conference by Peter Vallone (September 18<sup>th</sup>, Tampa, FL)

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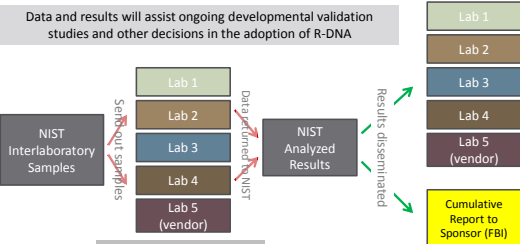
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### Interlaboratory Testing

- Each participant will be sent a standard sample set for testing
- Provide participants and sponsor with data and feedback
  - ✓ Each **participant** and will receive their specific performance feedback
  - ✓ The **sponsor** (FBI) will get a cumulative report for dissemination



In coordination with the FBI Rapid DNA Program Office (Dr. Tom Callaghan)

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### Interlaboratory Testing Plan

- Anonymous buccal collection of 50 samples
  - (5 replicates of 10 unique individuals)
  - Swabs were collected 15 months prior to testing
- Schematic of runs (10 chips)

	Chip									
lane	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	A	F	J	E	A	C	F	H	D	I
2	B	G	I	D	B	E	F	J	E	J
3	C	H	H	C	B	D	G	J	A	F
4	D	I	G	B	A	D	G	I	B	G
5	E	J	F	A	C	E	H	I	C	H
Ladder										

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### Defining Success

- A complete and correct CODIS core 13 STR profile (as called by the expert system software)
  - If any of the 13 loci allele calls were incorrect or absent this was deemed a lane failure
  - Comparing correct genotypes (lab generated) to the types exported to cmf
- Note: we are not including chips that failed due to hardware issues in success calculations

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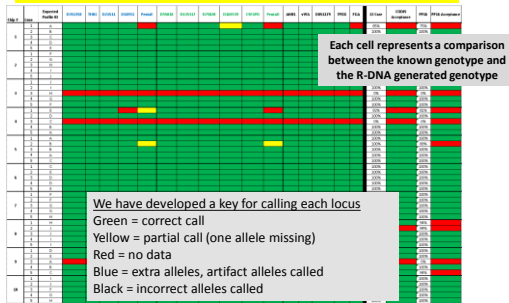
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### Run logs and heat maps

Information is recorded, logged, and reported

NIST, FBI, DFSC developed the worksheets and scoring rules




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### ANDE




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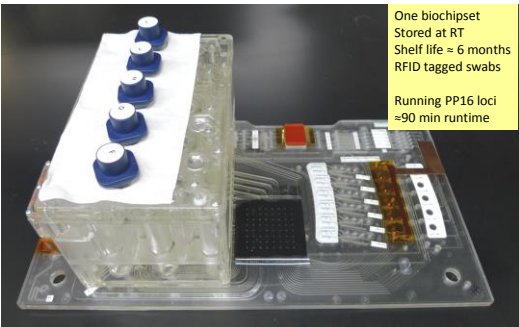
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### ANDE




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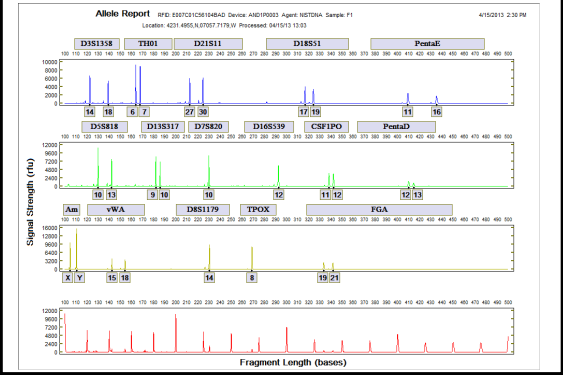
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### ANDE




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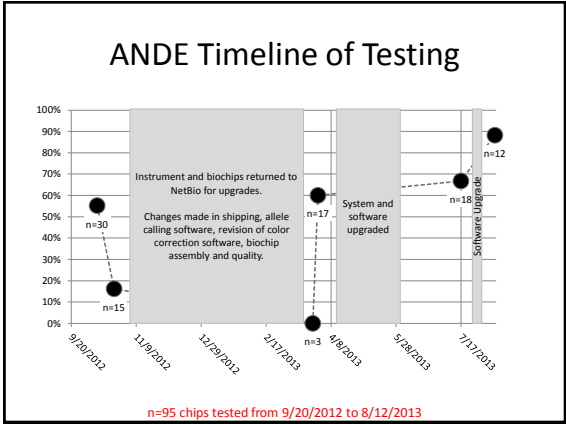
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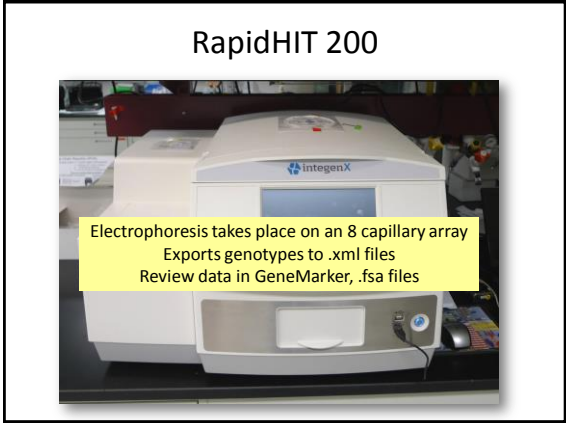
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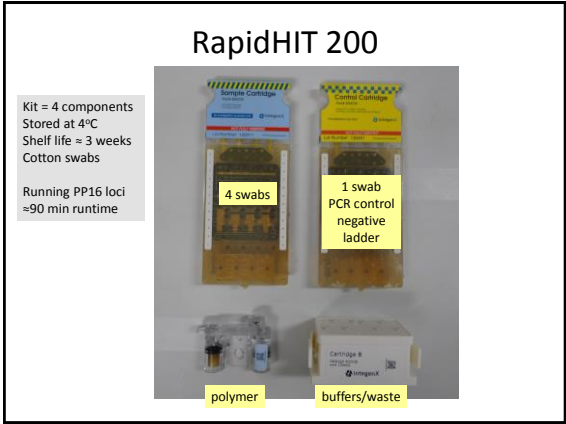
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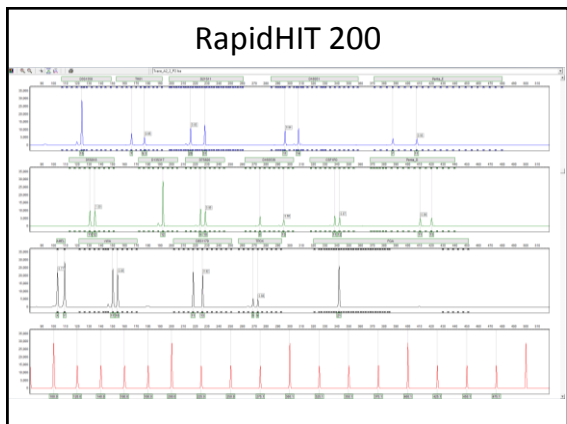
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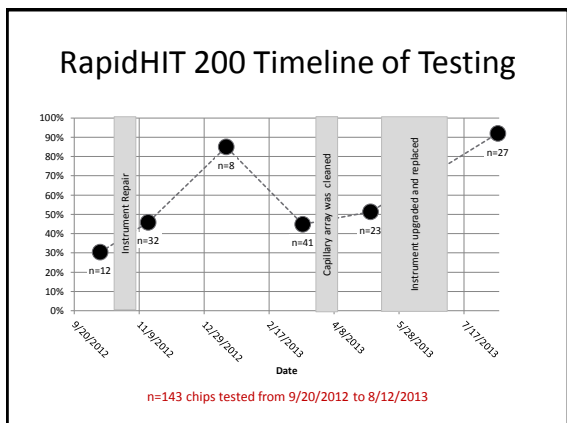
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### When can developmental validation begin?

- When a final version of the software, chemistry, and hardware (**the box**) has been locked down
- Right now it would be similar to testing an STR kit that is still being optimized
  - Primer concentrations, PCR primer sequences, mastermix, annealing temperatures, etc
- Or CE instrument that is undergoing optimization
  - Capillary array material changes, formulation of spectral matrices, collection software, etc

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### Topics

- Rapid DNA (Pete Vallone)
- **Y STRs (Becky Hill)**
- Next Gen Sequencing (Kevin Kiesler)

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### Outline

- Rapidly Mutating (RM) Y-STRs – Overview
- Population Genetic Parameters
  - current Y-STR kits
- Utility for common Y-STR haplotypes
- Utility for close relatives
- Conclusions

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### What has happened in the past decade...

- **Selection of core Y-STR loci** (SWGAM Jan 2003)
- “Full” Y-chromosome sequence became available in June 2003; over 700 Y-STR loci identified (only ~20 in 2000)
- **Commercial Y-STR kits released**
  - **Y-PLEX 6,5,12 (2001-03)**, **PowerPlex Y** (9/03), **Yfiler** (12/04), **PPY23** (6/12)
  - Yfiler Plus (coming soon)**
- Many population studies performed and online databases generated with thousands of Y-STR haplotypes
- Forensic casework demonstrations showing value of Y-STR testing along with court acceptance
- Some renewed interest in Y-STRs to aid familial searching

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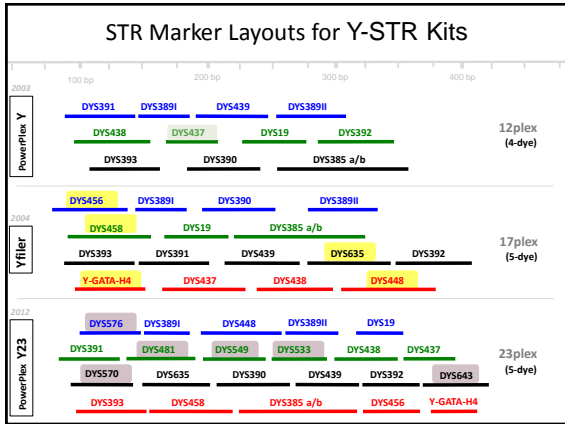
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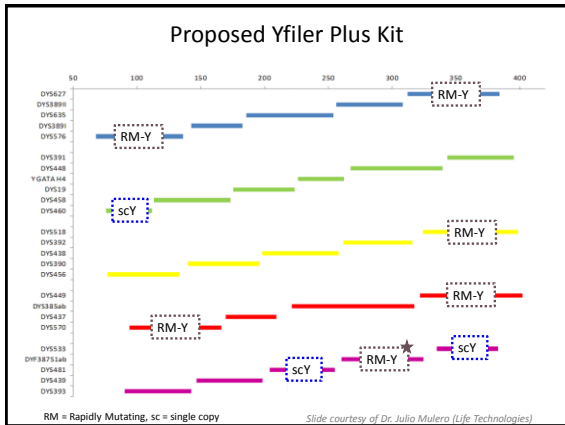
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### NIST U.S. Samples (>1450)

- **NIST U.S. population samples**
  - 260 African American, 260 Caucasian, 140 Hispanic, 3 Asian
- **U.S. father/son paired samples**
  - ~100 fathers/100 sons for each group: 200 African American, 200 Caucasian, 200 Hispanic, 200 Asian
- **NIST SRM 2391b**, PCR-based DNA Profiling Standard (highly characterized)
  - 10 genomic DNA samples, 2 cell line samples
  - Includes 9947A and 9948
- **NIST SRM 2391c**, PCR-based DNA Profiling Standard
  - 4 genomic DNA (one mixture)
  - 2 cell lines (903 and FTA paper)

Hill, C.R., et al. (2011) Concordance and population studies along with stutter and peak height ratio analysis for the PowerPlex® ESX 17 and ESX 17 Systems. *Forensic Sci. Int. Gener.* 5(4): 269-275.

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### Discrimination Capacity

- is a measure of the number of unique haplotypes in a given population

$$DC = \frac{\#H}{N}$$

← # of Haplotypes

↑  
Population size

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N = 948 males				
# haplotypes	PowerPlex Y 816	Yfiler 930	PowerPlex Y23 945	Yfiler Plus* 946
discrimination capacity	0.8608	0.9810	0.9968	0.9979
# times haplotype observed	PPY (12 loci)	Yfiler (17 loci)	PPY23 (23 loci)	Yfiler Plus* (26 loci)
1	751	916	942	944
2	42	11	3	2
3	12	2	.	.
4	4	1	.	.
5	2	.	.	.
6	2	.	.	.
7	.	.	.	.
8	1	.	.	.
9	.	.	.	.
10	.	.	.	.
11	1	.	.	.
12	.	.	.	.
13	.	.	.	.
14	.	.	.	.
15	.	.	.	.
16	.	.	.	.
17	.	.	.	.
18	.	.	.	.
19	.	.	.	.
20	1	.	.	.

Number of unique and shared haplotypes observed with various combinations of Y-STR loci across 948 U.S. population samples

944 haplotypes occur once; and 2 sets of sample pairs cannot be resolved from one another

\*Note: Analysis does not include information from DYS460 – only 26 of the 27 markers in Yfiler Plus were examined in this study.

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N = 948 males			
# haplotypes	Yfiler 930	New Loci* 945	Yfiler Plus* 946
discrimination capacity	0.9810	0.9842	0.9979
# times haplotype observed	Yfiler (17 loci)	New Loci* (9 loci)	Yfiler Plus* (26 loci)
1	916	918	944
2	11	15	2
3	2	.	.
4	1	.	.
5	.	.	.
6	.	.	.
7	.	.	.
8	.	.	.
9	.	.	.
10	.	.	.
11	.	.	.
12	.	.	.
13	.	.	.
14	.	.	.
15	.	.	.
16	.	.	.
17	.	.	.
18	.	.	.
19	.	.	.
20	.	.	.

9 of the 10 new loci alone perform slightly better than Yfiler

\*Note: Analysis does not include information from DYS460 in this study

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### Disadvantages of the Y-Chromosome

- Loci are not independent of one another and therefore rare random match probabilities cannot be generated with the product rule; must use haplotypes (combination of alleles observed at all tested loci)
- **Paternal lineages possess the same Y-STR haplotype** (barring mutation) and thus fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, and paternal cousins cannot be distinguished from one another
- **Not as informative as autosomal STR results**
  - More like addition ( $10 + 10 + 10 = 30$ ) than multiplication ( $10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1,000$ )

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## Rapidly Mutating (RM) Y-STRs

Trying to separate close male relatives

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## Rapidly Mutating Y-STRs

The American Journal of Human Genetics 87, 341–353, September 10, 2010

ARTICLE

Mutability of Y-Chromosomal Microsatellites: Rates, Characteristics, Molecular Bases, and Forensic Implications

Kaye N. Ballantyne,<sup>1</sup> Miriam Goedbloed,<sup>1</sup> Eixin Fang,<sup>2</sup> Onno Schaap,<sup>3</sup> Oscar Lao,<sup>1</sup> Andreas Wollstein,<sup>1,3</sup> Ying Choi,<sup>1</sup> Kate van Duijn,<sup>1</sup> Mark Vermeulen,<sup>1</sup> Silke Brauer,<sup>1,4</sup> Ronny Decorte,<sup>3</sup> Micaela Foerster,<sup>5</sup> Nicole von Wurmb-Schwarz,<sup>6</sup> Peter de Knijff,<sup>6</sup> Damian Labuda,<sup>7</sup> Helene Vezina,<sup>8</sup> Hans Knoblauch,<sup>1</sup> Rüdiger Levinig,<sup>9</sup> Lutz Roewer,<sup>10</sup> Ralf Phoki,<sup>11</sup> Tadewee Dobson,<sup>12</sup> Lotte Henke,<sup>13</sup> Jürgen Henke,<sup>14</sup> Manohar R. Furtado,<sup>3</sup> and Manfred Kayser<sup>1\*</sup>



Manfred Kayser

Forensic Science International: Genetics 9 (2012) 208–219

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/fig

13 markers evaluated



A new future of forensic Y-chromosome analysis: Rapidly mutating Y-STRs for differentiating male relatives and paternal lineages

Kaye N. Ballantyne<sup>1,2</sup>, Victoria Keer<sup>1,3</sup>, Andreas Wollstein<sup>4,5</sup>, Ying Choi<sup>6</sup>, Sofia B. Zuniga<sup>7</sup>, Arwin Ralf<sup>8</sup>, Mark Vermeulen<sup>9</sup>, Peter de Knijff<sup>10</sup>, Manfred Kayser<sup>11\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Forensic Molecular Biology, Erasmus MC University Medical Center Rotterdam, 3005 CA Rotterdam, The Netherlands

<sup>2</sup>College of Forensic Sciences, University of Chicago, 60607 Chicago, Germany

<sup>3</sup>Department of Human Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center, 3720 GB Leiden, The Netherlands

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### Gene Diversity

- is a measure of the uniqueness of a particular marker in a given population

$$GD = (1 - \sum_i x_i^2)$$

↑  
Relative frequency  
of each allele

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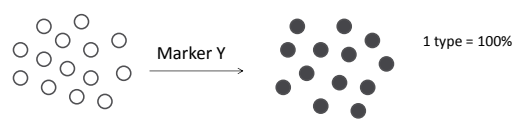
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N = 100

$$GD = (1 - \sum_i x_i^2)$$

0

$$DC = 1/100 = 0.01$$

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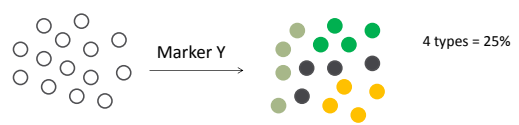
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N = 100

$$GD = (1 - \sum_i x_i^2)$$

0.75

$$DC = 4/100 = 0.04$$

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Marker Y

$N = 100$

$GD = (1 - \sum_i x_i^2)$

0.99

$DC = 100/100 = 1.0$

100 types = 0%

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### Gene Diversity of the Markers

Marker	GD	DC	Marker	GD	DC
DYS576	0.766	0.035	DYS526a/b	0.923	0.138
DYF399S1	0.993	0.587	DYS626	0.794	0.043
DYF387S1	0.870	0.098	DYS627	0.848	0.043
DYS570	0.743	0.035	DYS518	0.791	0.039
<b>RM-01 (all)</b>	<b>0.9998</b>	<b>0.9764</b>	<b>RM-02 (all)</b>	<b>0.9985</b>	<b>0.8661</b>

Marker	GD	DC
DYS385a/b	0.929	
DYF403S1a/b	0.923	0.791
DYF404S1	0.902	0.110
DYS612	0.832	0.043
DYS449	0.796	0.043
DYS547	0.798	0.039
<b>RM-03 (all)</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>0.9984</b>

All 13 RM Y-STRs resolved 948 males

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### Paternal Relatives in the Database

	PPY-23	mtDNA	Kinship Index	RM Mutations
Y27	match	n/a	Father-Son	0
Y28	match	n/a	<b>254,325,532</b>	
Y16	match	match	Full Sib	0
Y17	match	match	<b>155,463</b>	
ZT79994	match	match	Full Sib	1
ZT79995	match	match	<b>56,327</b>	
GT37828	match	C1 (Native)	Cousin	4
C87H	match	n/a	<b>0.228</b>	
PT84348	match	L1b (African)	Cousin	3
ZT80369	match	C1 (Native)	<b>0</b>	
ZT79304	match	L2a (African)	Cousin	3
PT84253	match	L1b (African)	<b>0.568</b>	

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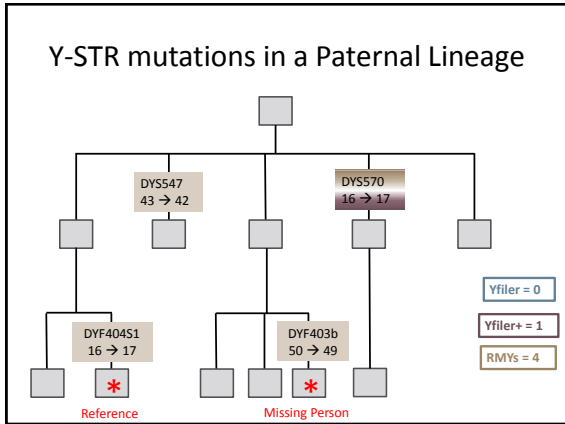
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### Mutation Rate Information

Meioses	Mutations	Group
63	15	AfAm
89	25	Asian
91	11	Caucasian
88	20	Hispanic
331	71	total (21.4%)

Marker	# of Mutations
DYF399S1	15
DYF403S1a/b	11
DYS627	7
DYS612	7
DYS518	6
DYS570	5
DYS626	5
DYS547	4
DYS526a/b	3
DYS576	3
DYS449	3
DYF404S1	1
DYF387S1	1

+1 Repeat (Son)	-1 Repeat (Son)	Group
8	6	AfAm
11	13	Asian
5	6	Caucasian
8	12	Hispanic
+2 Repeat (Son)	-2 Repeat (Son)	Group
0	1	AfAm
1	0	Asian
0	0	Caucasian
0	0	Hispanic

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### Interpretational Issues

- We will need to move away from simply “excluding” based upon a set number of discordant markers.
- A Likelihood Ratio can provide weight to the evidence based upon competing propositions.
- This will require information on the **haplotype frequency** and **mutation rate data**.

Relating two deep-rooted pedigrees from Central Germany by high-resolution Y-STR haplotyping  
 Manfred Kayser<sup>1\*</sup>, Mark Vermeulen<sup>2,3,4</sup>, Hans Knoblanch<sup>5</sup>, Herbert Schuster<sup>6</sup>,  
 Michael Krawczak<sup>7</sup>, Lutz Roewer<sup>1</sup>

Forensic Science International: Genetics 1 (2007) 125–128.

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### NIST Y-STR Data

- All PPY23 Y-STR haplotypes have been submitted to the Y-HRD and U.S. Y-STR databases
- Much of this data presented has been recently published in Profiles in DNA and FSI: Genetics



Short communication  
Haplotype data for 23 Y-chromosome markers in four U.S. population groups

Michael D. Coble\*, Carolyn R. Hill, John M. Butler  
National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-0114, United States



Variability of New STR Loci and Kits in US Population Groups

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### Summary

- Rapidly Mutating Y-STRs are highly diverse markers that can discriminate common haplotypes and close relatives.
- These markers may create interpretational issues for paternity/missing persons cases, but LR's can be useful for evaluating these situations.
- An international consortium is gathering frequency and mutation rate data.
- We plan on testing Yfiler Plus with our population samples as soon as the Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) gets signed by both parties (NIST and Life Tech)

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### Topics

- Rapid DNA (Pete Vallone)
- Y STRs (Becky Hill)
- **Next Gen Sequencing (Kevin Kiesler)**

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### Use of NGS for forensic applications

Highly-parallel/high-throughput next-generation sequencing technologies provide the ability to directly sequence forensically relevant targets  
*Issues: sample input amounts, back compatibility, new workflows, cost, throughput, etc*

- Mitochondrial whole genome analysis
  - Potential for improved sensitivity, mixture detection, multiplex sequencing of full mitochondrial genomes
  - **Detection of minor SNP variants – heteroplasmy**
- Going in depth **into** STR loci
  - STRs are useful for legacy (databases)
  - SNPs within STRs identify 'sub-alleles'
- Forensically relevant SNPs: newer human identity applications: biogeographical ancestry, externally visible traits, complex kinship, **degraded samples, low template**

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### Initial Goals

- To characterize NIST forensic SRMs with NGS
  - **Further characterizes the materials with a new technique**
  - **Supports adoption of NGS in forensic community**
  - SRM 2391c: PCR Based DNA Profiling Standard
    - Not all STR loci have full sequence information
  - SRMs 2392 and 2392-I: Mitochondrial DNA Sequencing
    - Confirm Sanger data with a high coverage sequencing technology
  - Understand bias between NGS platforms: chemistry and bioinformatics
- Is there a need for a new material?
  - Forensic validation

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### NIST Standard Reference Materials

<http://www.nist.gov/srm/>

*Traceable standards to ensure accurate measurements in our nation's crime laboratories*

#### Human Identity SRMs

- SRM 2391c – PCR-Based DNA Profiling
- SRM 2392 & 2392-I – mitochondrial DNA
- SRM 2395 – Y-STR DNA Profiling
- SRM 2372 – Human DNA quantitation



Genomic DNAs characterized for the expanded CODIS core loci and Y-STRs



Standard Reference Material

**Calibration with SRMs enables confidence in comparisons of results between laboratories and technologies**

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## Characterization of the existing SRMs

### Current Status

- **2391c PCR Based DNA profiling standard**
  - 68 STR markers (51 autosomal + 17 Y chromosome)
  - STR repeat lengths (alleles) were certified using multiple (unique) PCR primer sets
  - Sanger sequencing was only performed for loci without multiple PCR primer sets (**only 10% of markers**)
- **2392 & 2392-I Mitochondrial DNA sequencing standard**
  - Entire mtGenome (≈16,569 bp) was certified by Sanger sequencing
  - Multiple F/R strand coverage across the mtGenome

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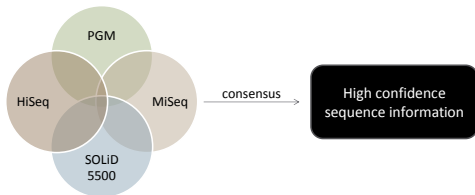
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## Multiple NGS Platforms

- Use of multiple platforms to obtain a consensus sequence for the SRMs
  - Identify and reduce the false positives and negatives
  - Identify and account for bias in a specific chemistry and/or informatics pipeline




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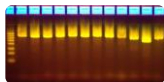
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## Sequencing Studies

Performed on four NGS platforms for SRM 2392 and 2392-I

- **Ion Torrent PGM**
  - Experiments performed at NIST
  - Edge Biosystems (outsourced)
- **Illumina HiSeq 2000**
  - Beckman-Coulter Genomics (outsourced)
- **Illumina MiSeq**
  - Edge Biosystems (outsourced)
- **SOLiD 5500**
  - Experiments performed at NIST

12 Amplicon PCR  
0.8 kb to 1.9 kb



Illumina MiSeq and HiSeq platforms will be online at NIST by the end of this year

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### Data Processing Pipeline: Signal Processing, Alignment, and Variant Calling

	Ion Torrent PGM	Illumina MiSeq	Illumina HiSeq	SOLID 5500
Signal Processing Output: FASTQ	Torrent Server	MiSeq Reporter	HiSeq Control	LifeScope
Read Mapping Output: BAM	Torrent Server	Novoalign	BWA	LifeScope
Variant Calling Output: VCF	Torrent Server	GATK	GATK	GATK

**Abbreviations:**  
 FASTQ – Unaligned reads in text format with quality scores  
 BAM – Binary Alignment Map (Aligned reads)  
 VCF – Variant Call File  
 BWA – Burrows Wheeler Aligner  
 GATK – Genome Analysis Tool Kit

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### Sequence Coverage Summary

Experiment	Average Read Depth (AQ20*)	Experiment Design
EdgeBio PGM	280 x	Seven mtGenomes + spike-in controls**
NIST PGM Run 1	6,500 x	Three mtGenomes
NIST PGM Run 2	9,000 x	Three mtGenomes
Illumina MiSeq	49,000 x	Seven mtGenomes
Illumina HiSeq	41,000 x	Seven mtGenomes + spike-in controls**
NIST SOLID	29,000 x	Seven mtGenomes + spike-in controls**

\* AQ20 = reads with alignment quality score of 20 or above  
 = less than 1 error per 100 bases

\*\*Spike-in control was NIST SRM 2374: DNA Sequence Library for External RNA Controls

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### False Positives and False Negatives

Using platform specific informatics pipeline

	PGM 1	PGM 2	PGM 3	HiSeq	MiSeq	5500
9947A	FP 1	5	3	21	9	11
	FN 3	4	3	3	3	3
CHR	FP 2	6	10	21	9	10
	FN 3	5	4	3	3	4
HL-60	FP 1	8	8	20	9	8
	FN 1	2	1	1	1	1
Avg Coverage	280	6,500	9,000	49,000	41,000	29,000

Calls made to the rCRS  
 On average 0.04 % error rate

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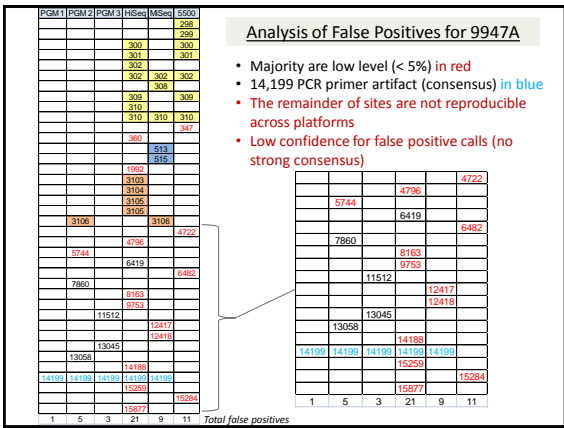
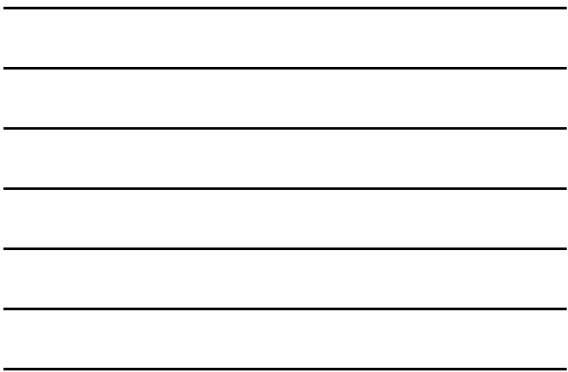
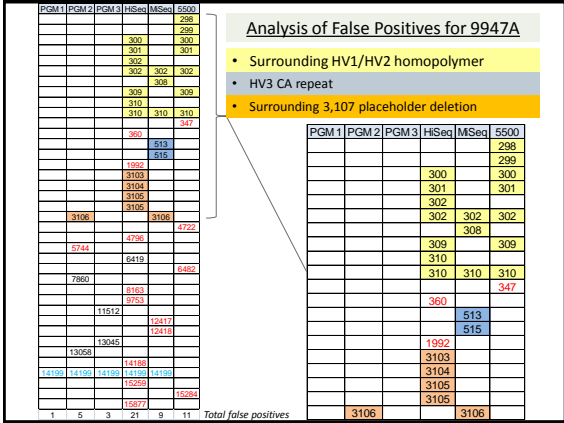
### False Positives and False Negatives

Using platform specific informatics pipeline

		PGM 1	PGM 2	PGM 3	HiSeq	MiSeq	5500
9947A	FP	1	5	3	21	9	11
	FN	3	4	3	3	3	3
CHR	FP	2	6	10	21	9	10
	FN	3	5	4	3	3	4
HL-60	FP	1	8	8	20	9	8
	FN	1	2	1	1	1	1
Avg Coverage		280	6,500	9,000	49,000	41,000	29,000

False negatives were concentrated in C stretch regions of the genome  
The FN sites 13,759 and 5,228 were due to low coverage

9947A (FN) = 309.1, 309.2, 315.1, 13,759  
CHR (FN) = 309.1, 315.1, 16193.1, 16183, 16189  
HL-60 (FN) = 315.1, 5,228





### Heteroplasmy at Positions 1,393 and 7,861 SRM 2392 Component B (9947A)

Nucleotide Position	rCRS Reference Sequence	SRM 2392 Component B Sanger Call	EdgeBio PGM	NIST PGM run 1	NIST PGM run 2	EdgeBio Illumina HiSeq	Beckman Genomics Illumina HiSeq	NIST SOLID
93	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
156	T	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
214	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
263	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
309.1	-	C						
309.2	-	C						
315.1	-	C						
790	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
1393	G	G/A	G/A	G/A	G/A	G/A	G/A	G/A
1438	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
4135	T	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
4769	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
5464	T	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
7861	T	C	T/C	T/C	T/C	T/C	T/C	T/C
8448	T	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
8960	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
9315	T	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
13372	T	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
13759	G	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
15326	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
16311	T	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
16529	T	C	C	C	C	C	C	C

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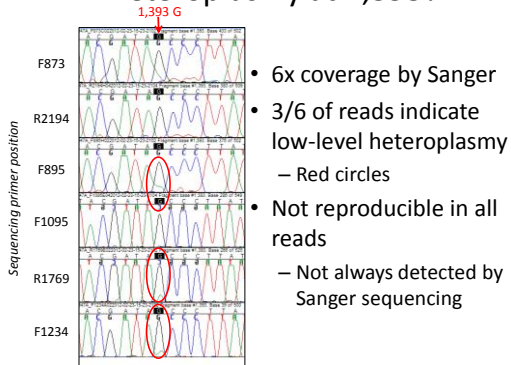
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### Heteroplasmy at 1,393?




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### Heteroplasmy detected by NGS at Site 1,393 and 7,861

- Agreement across platforms (**high confidence**)  
1,393 ≈ 18.0% (± 2.2%) minor component "A"  
7,861 ≈ 14.2% (± 2.9%) minor component "T"

Experiment	1,393 "G" (rCRS)	1,393 "A" (Var.)	Coverage	7,861 "T" (rCRS)	7,861 "C" (Var.)	Coverage
PGM at EdgeBio	77.3 %	22.7 %	97 x	14.1 %	85.9 %	71 x
PGM NIST Run 1	83.9 %	16.1 %	1385 x	20.0 %	80.0 %	191 x
PGM NIST Run 2	83.3 %	16.7 %	1571 x	15.0 %	85.0 %	571 x
NIST SOLID	82.9 %	17.1 %	22,719 x	12.5 %	87.5 %	17,499 x
Illumina MiSeq	82.1 %	17.8 %	6,517 x	11.6 %	88.4 %	3,715 x
Illumina HiSeq	82.3 %	17.7 %	48,071 x	11.8 %	88.2 %	42,101 x
<b>Average</b>	<b>82.0 %</b>	<b>18.0 %</b>		<b>14.2 %</b>	<b>85.8 %</b>	

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## Summary of mtDNA Work

- The consensus data from the four NGS platforms for the mitochondrial SRMs agree with Sanger sequencing data
  - G/A heteroplasmy at 1,393 confirmed
  - T/C heteroplasmy at 7,861 confirmed
  - C insertions and deletions are issues (assemblers/variant callers)
  - The majority of false positives are of low abundance and not reproducible across platforms
- Continuing work
  - Experiments for setting a variant calling threshold
  - Evaluate a three amplicon approach for mitochondrial DNA enrichment
  - Sequence the mitoSRMs on the PacificBiosciences platform (Collaboration with Children's National Medical Center)
  - Benefit from a standardized (forensic) informatics pipeline (CLC bio software, NextGENe)
  - Evaluate improved variant callers from Life Technologies and Illumina

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## NIST SRM 2391c PCR Based Profiling Standard

- Certified Reference Material for STR typing
  - Five components
    - A – Single-source female
    - B – Single-source male
    - C – Single-source male
    - D – Mixed-source (Components A and C)
    - E – Single-source female cells on 903 paper
    - F – Single-source male cells on FTA paper
- Components A, B, and C have been sequenced at NIST on the PGM




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## Sample Preparation

- PCR primers and conditions were from Kline *et al.* 2011
- All loci amplified in single-plex, purified, then pooled
- Libraries were barcoded to run all samples in one run

Forensic Science International: Genetics 1 (2013) 106–112  
 Contents lists available at ScienceDirect  
**Forensic Science International: Genetics**  
 journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fgi](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fgi)

Short communication  
**STR sequence analysis for characterizing normal, variant, and null alleles**  
 Margaret C. Kline<sup>a</sup>, Carolyn R. Hill, Amy E. Decker<sup>b</sup>, John M. Butler  
<sup>a</sup> National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, NIST 9112, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, USA

**ARTICLE INFO**  
 Article history:  
 Received 4 June 2013  
 Received in revised form 22 June 2013  
 Accepted 4 September 2013

**ABSTRACT**  
 DNA sequence variation is known to exist in and around the repeat region of short tandem repeat (STR) loci used in forensic identity testing. While the vast majority of STR alleles represented in forensic DNA databases are monomorphic, some – notably alleles associated with the Y-chromosome, a number of repeat alleles have been reported to exhibit a complex difference in a polymorphic chain structure (PCR repeat tandemness) in the DNA template (i.e. a “dup” or “trip” allele) with one set of primers and not with another. The group at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has developed a standard system to test primer binding to the repeat and non-repeating DNA flanking an STR. This system is the basis for the NIST PCR primer development and testing used for our STR allele sequencing work involving 20 autosomal STR and 17 Y-chromosome STRs on affected areas with the results from 13 samples and 17 test alleles.

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## Analysis Methods

- We are using NextGENe for mapping reads to alleles
  - from Softgenetics
  - Forensic setting filters out reads < 80 % of reference
  - Reads must span all the way across repeat
  
- NextGENe needs a reference file for mapping reads
  - Create virtual allelic ladders for each locus using known sequence variants
  - Contains repeat structures for STR alleles
    - ...CAGGTG GATA GATA GATA GATA GATA TCATTG...
    - ...CAGGTG GATA GATA GATA GATA GATA GATA TCATTG...
    - ...CAGGTG GATA GATA GATA GATA GATA GATA TCATTG...
  - CODIS core loci plus Amelogenin (also D2, D19, Penta D & E)
    - Z02 alleles (in Butler - Advanced Topics in Forensic DNA Typing: Methodology)
  - How much flanking sequence is needed?
    - This has an effect on the analysis
  - What about unknown alleles?
    - This is a limitation

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## Results from NextGENe

D3S1358 (15, 19) for SRM Component B




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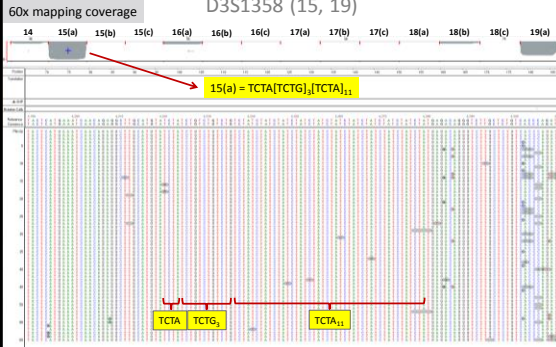
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## Results from NextGENe

D3S1358 (15, 19)




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### Summary of STR Work

- SRM 2391c Components A, B, and C sequenced
  - Used both 200 bp and 400 bp chemistry
  - Ion Torrent PGM – 314 (v2) and 316 (v2) chips
- Analysis parameters are being optimized
  - Some loci were more difficult to analyze (e.g. CSP1PO)
    - Changed flanking region sequence to 35 bp either side
    - Improved specificity to alleles, reduced # of reads mapping
  - Dropouts at D18 (16 allele) for SRM Components B and C
- Illumina MiSeq being installed at NIST next week

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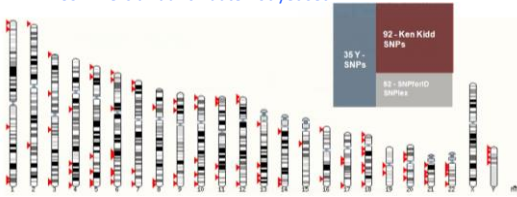
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### Life Technologies

Coming Soon for PGM

- HID SNP Panel v2.2
  - Autosomal loci chosen for high heterozygosity and low Fst
  - Genotype match probability  $10^{-31}$  to  $10^{-35}$
  - 179 loci amplified in a single multiplex PCR
  - Short amplicons  $\approx$  150 bp
  - Commercial launch date not yet set




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### Life Technologies

Future Plans

- Ancestry informative and phenotypic SNP panel
- For generating investigative leads, subject exclusion
- 245 SNPs
  - 202 Ancestral SNPs
  - 45 Hair and eye color SNPs




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Thanks for your attention!

Questions?

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Outside funding agencies:

FBI - Evaluation of Forensic DNA Typing as a Biometric Tool

NIJ - Interagency Agreement with the Office of Law Enforcement Standards

**NIST Disclaimer:** Certain commercial equipment, instruments and materials are identified in order to specify experimental procedures as completely as possible. In no case does such identification imply a recommendation or imply that any of the materials, instruments or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

**Points of view are those of the presenters** and do not necessarily represent the official position of the National Institute of Standards and Technology or the U.S. Department of Justice.

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