

69th Annual Scientific Meeting  
 Our Future Reflects Our Past: The Evolution of Forensic Science  
 February 13th - 18th New Orleans, Louisiana

**A Comparison of the Deconvolution and Likelihood Ratio (LRs) produced using a continuous probabilistic software from low-level samples when amplifying the entire extract or splitting the extract**

Todd Bille<sup>1</sup>, MS and Michael Coble<sup>2</sup>, PhD  
<sup>1</sup>Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, USA  
<sup>2</sup>National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA  
 February 17, 2017

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The opinions and assertions contained herein are solely those of the author and are not to be construed as official or as views of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Commercial equipment, instruments, software programs and materials are identified in order to specify experimental procedures as completely as possible. In no case does such identification imply a recommendation or endorsement by the U.S. Department of Commerce nor does it imply that any of the materials, instruments, software or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

*Research Funding by the NIST Special Programs Office and the NIST Law Enforcement Standards Office*

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**Brief Review  
 (not comprehensive)**

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## Back in the LCN days...



Forensic Science International  
112 (2000) 17–40

Forensic  
Science  
International

www.elsevier.com/locate/forensiint

An investigation of the rigor of interpretation rules  
for STRs derived from less than 100 pg of DNA

Peter Gill<sup>a,\*</sup>, Jonathan Whitaker<sup>a</sup>, Christine Flaxman<sup>a</sup>, Nick Brown<sup>a</sup>,  
John Buckleton<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Forensic Science Service, Priory House, Gooch Street North, Birmingham B56QQ, UK  
<sup>b</sup>ESR, Private Bag 92021, Auckland, New Zealand

Received 9 December 1999; received in revised form 12 February 2000; accepted 13 February 2000

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## The need for replicate testing and consensus profiles

Table 3  
Results from an actual case showing derivation of the consensus result<sup>a</sup>

Sample	Amel	VWA	THO	DS	FG	D21	D18	D19	D3	D16	D2
R <sub>1</sub>	XY	16,19	6,7	12,14	20,24	28,30	12,F	13,17	15,16	11,13	17,20
R <sub>2</sub>	XY	16,19	6,F	12,14	20,24,25	28,30	12,F	13,17	15,16	11,13	17,20
Consensus	XY	16,19	6,F	12,14	20,24	28,30	12,F	13,17	15,16	11,13	17,20
Suspect	XY	16,19	6,7	12,14	20,24	28,30	12,12	13,17	15,16	11,13	17,20
Negative 1	X	14	–	14,15	–	–	–	15	15	–	–
Negative 2	X	14	–	–	–	–	–	14	16	5	–

<sup>a</sup> See Table 1 for full locus designations.

Gill et al. (2000)

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## Low-template Mixtures

Validation of Testing and  
Interpretation Protocols for Low  
Template DNA Samples Using  
AmpF/STR® Identifier®

ONLINE

CMJ

CROATIAN MEDICAL JOURNAL  
Vol. 50, No 3 (2009)

Theresa Caragine<sup>1</sup>, Rebecca  
Mikulsovich<sup>1</sup>, Jeannie  
Tamanzi<sup>2</sup>, Ewelina Bajda<sup>1</sup>,  
James Sebestyen<sup>1</sup>, Howard  
Baum<sup>2</sup>, Mechthild Prinz<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Office of Chief Medical Examiner  
of the City of New York, The  
Department of Forensic Biology,  
New York, NY, USA

<sup>2</sup>Office of Forensic Sciences, New  
Jersey State Police, New Jersey, NJ,  
USA

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## Probabilistic Genotyping (I)

Forensic Science International: Genetics 6 (2012) 687–707

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

Journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig)



### Assessment of mock cases involving complex low template DNA mixtures: A descriptive study

Corina C.G. Benschop, Hinda Haned, Tanja J.P. de Blaey, Alexander J. Meulenbroek, Titia Sijen\*

Department of Human Biological Traces, Netherlands Forensic Institute, P.O. Box 24044, 2400 AA The Hague, The Netherlands

**Table 2**  
Overview of the alleles present in the NCM profiles of the evidentiary trace, the consensus profile and the reference profiles of donor 1 (victim), donor 2 (suspect) and donor 3 (unknown) contributor for which only 6 pg DNA was added. Table 1 of mock case 1. Yellow cells represent alleles that do not correspond to the victim and match an allele of the suspect. Blue cells mark alleles that cannot be explained by the two reference profiles (victim and suspect) that were handed in the RMs. Red cells represent alleles of the suspect that are missing in the consensus profile.

	D18S51/18	AMA	D21S11/21	D22S10/22	AMEL	D16S11/16	D20S11/20	D19S11/19	
Aug 1	12 13 24 26 36 38	16 18 19 2 8 11 20 22 23 25 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 37 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	X Y	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Reporting Officers and Prob Gen (LRmix)  
LT-DNA mixture interpretation is feasible

## Probabilistic Genotyping (II)

Science & Justice

Volume 53, Issue 2, June 2013, Pages 103–114



DNA mixture genotyping by probabilistic computer interpretation of binomially-sampled laser captured cell populations: Combining quantitative data for greater identification information

Jack Ballantyne<sup>a, b</sup>, Erin K. Hanson<sup>a</sup>, Mark W. Perlin<sup>c</sup>

Laser Capture Microdissection

## Probabilistic Genotyping (III)

Forensic Science International: Genetics 13 (2014) 82–89

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Forensic Science International: Genetics**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fgig](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fgig)

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Verifying likelihoods for low template DNA profiles using multiple replicates

Christopher D. Steele<sup>a,\*</sup>, Matthew Greenhalgh<sup>b</sup>, David J. Balding<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>LEI, Genetics Institute, Forensic Building, Crown Street, London WC1E 6JE, UK  
<sup>b</sup>Oxford Cellmark Ltd, Abingdon Business Park, Blacklands Way, Abingdon OX14 1JX, UK

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Recommendation that the inverse match probability is the upper bound of the LR

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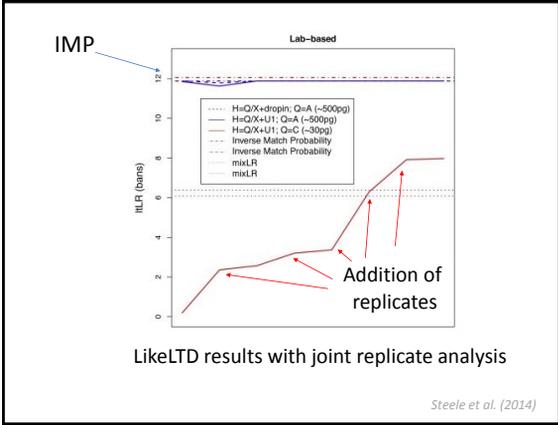
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Forensic Science International 264 (2016) 139–145

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Forensic Science International**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/forensic](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/forensic)

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Original Research Paper

**Low-template DNA: A single DNA analysis or two replicates?**

Simone Gittelson<sup>a</sup>, Carolyn R. Steffen, Michael D. Coble

<sup>a</sup>National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, United States

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(discrete probabilistic model of interpretation)

2 replicates generally have a greater expected net gain compared to a single analysis

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## Joint Analysis – an example (Continuous Model)

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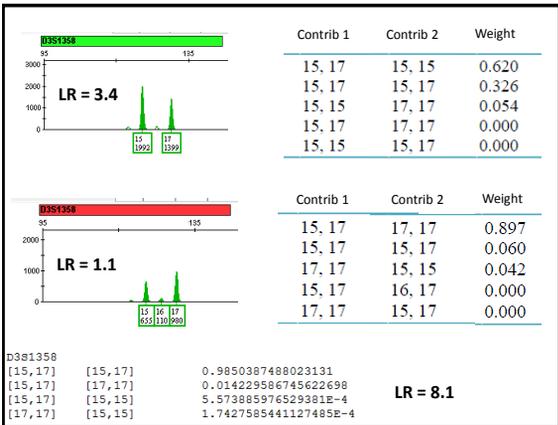
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Electrophoresis 2014, 35, 3125–3133 3125

**Todd W. Bille<sup>1</sup>**  
**Steven M. Weitz<sup>2</sup>**  
**Michael D. Coble<sup>2</sup>**  
**John Buckleton<sup>2</sup>**  
**Ju-Anne Bright<sup>2</sup>**

Research Article

**Comparison of the performance of different models for the interpretation of low level mixed DNA profiles**

<sup>1</sup>Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

- Used two samples with low allele sharing. 2 PCR amps.
- 1:1, 2:1, 3:1, 4:1, and 5:1
- 500, 400, 300, 200, 100 pg input DNA
- CPI, RMP (2p), Discrete Model, Fully Continuous Model

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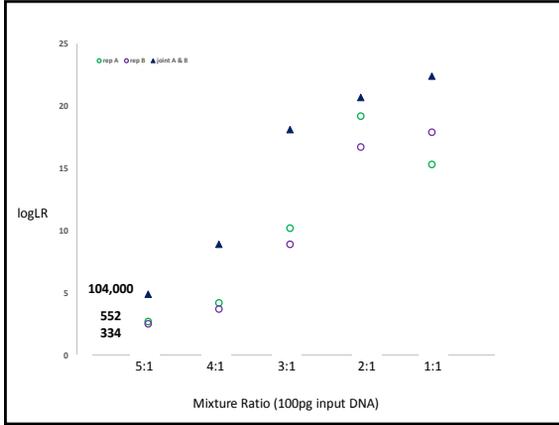
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Michael Coble – Replicate Testing




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Typical evidentiary items tested at the ATFE Lab

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Is it better to do one amp, or split the extract and do replicates?

Gristdale and van Dael Investigative Genetics 2013, 8:14  
http://www.investigativegenetics.com/content/8/1/14

**Investigative Genetics**

**RESEARCH** **Open Access**

Comparison of STR profiling from low template DNA extracts with and without the consensus profiling method

Kelly S Gristdale<sup>1</sup> and Angela van Dael

Suggests it is better to do one amp (compared to the consensus method)

Steele *et al.* (2014) Suggest replicates with PG may tilt the argument

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### Methods

- Two samples mixed at 1:1, 3:1, and 5:1 ratios
- DNA concentrations of 1.0, 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, 0.625 ng PCR input
- Single source and 2-person mixtures tested.
- The mixtures were tested for both “pristine” and “degraded” conditions – in the degraded examples, the “major” component was exposed to UV light to induce DNA damage.

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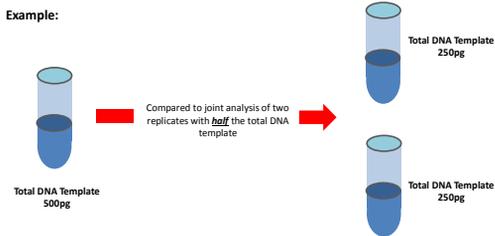
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### Methods




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### Methods

- Evidence mimicked DNA recovered from a Molotov cocktail where a single source or 2-person mixture was recovered.
- $H_1$  = POI & UNK
- $H_2$  = UNK & UNK

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# Results – Single Source

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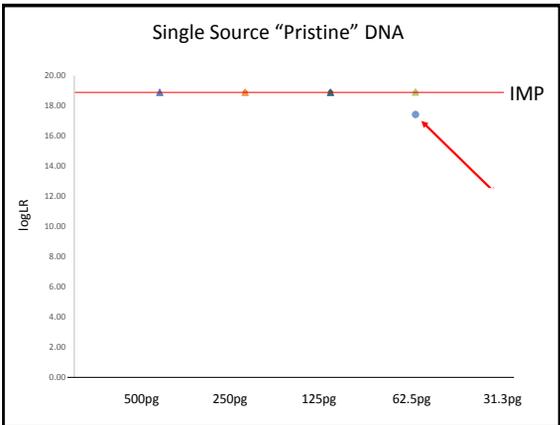
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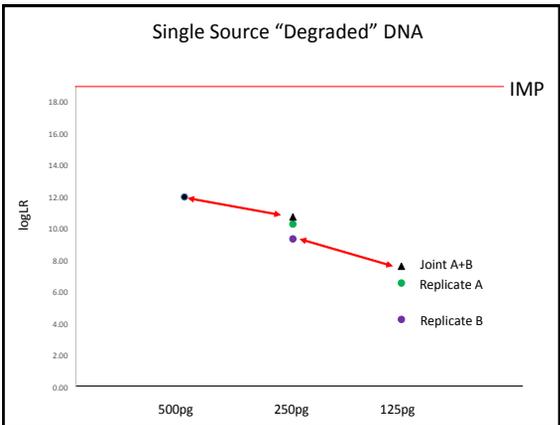
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Results – 2-person Mixtures  
(Pristine DNA)

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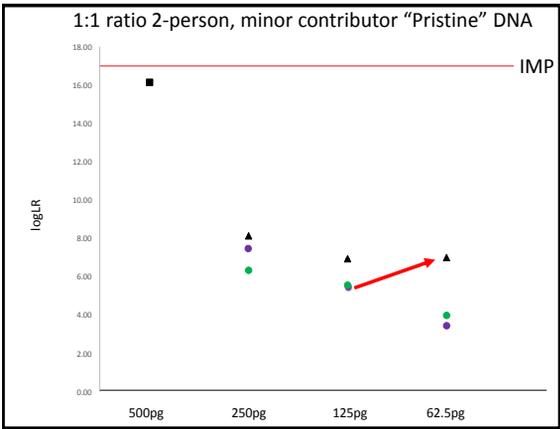
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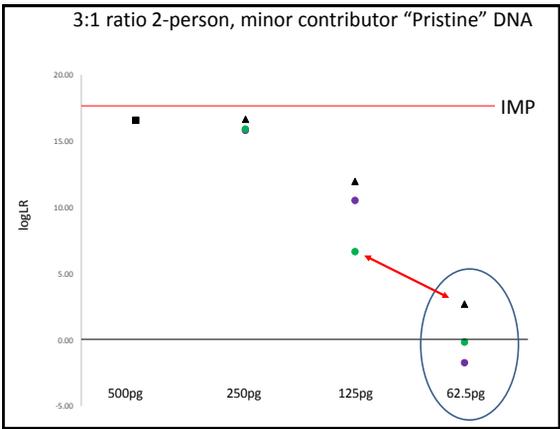
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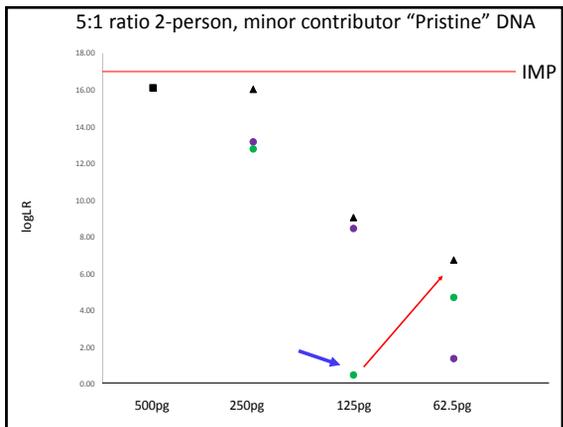
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Results – 2-person Mixtures  
(Degraded DNA of the major contributor)

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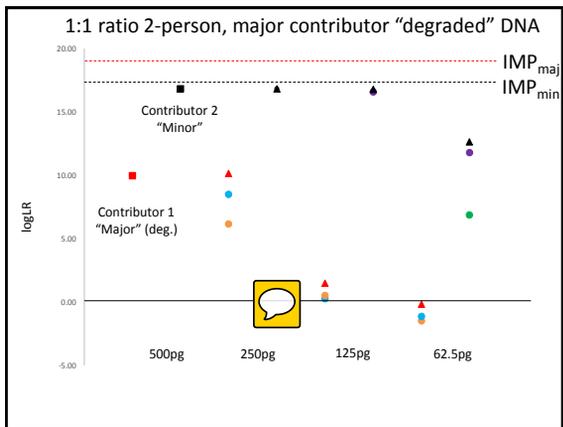
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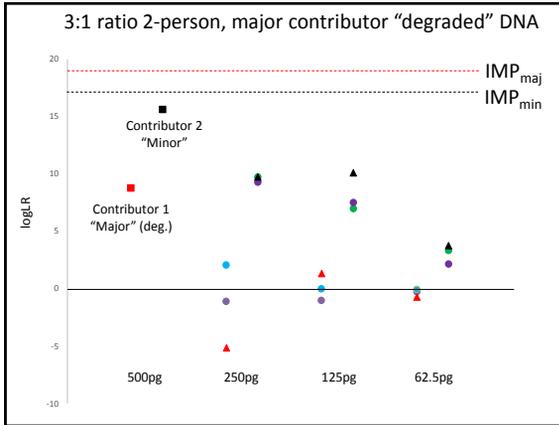
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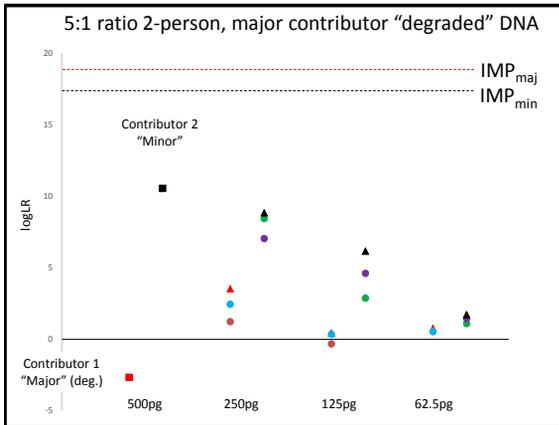
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### Conclusions

- In general, the joint analysis of replicates produces a higher LR than either of the individual replicates – but never exceeds the Inverse Match Probability.
- The analysis of a single amplification (total template of X ng) *usually* gave a higher LR than splitting the template (total DNA template of X/2 ng) and producing a joint analysis.

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### Conclusions

- Additional studies are planned using a range of allele sharing between the contributors and testing higher order mixtures (3 and 4 contributors).

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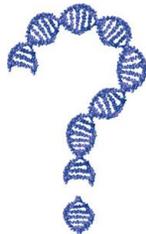
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### Thank you!

Becky Steffen (NIST)

Steven Weitz (ATFE)



*NIST Special Programs Office and the  
NIST Law Enforcement Standards Office*

mcoble@nist.gov

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**FORENSIC SCIENCE  
ERROR MANAGEMENT**

**INTERNATIONAL  
FORENSICS SYMPOSIUM**

July 24-28, 2017 @NIST, Gaithersburg, MD

July 24-28 @NIST, Gaithersburg, MD

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- Legal Factors
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- Laboratory Management
- Criminalistics
- Digital Evidence



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[go.usa.gov/x9yEK](http://go.usa.gov/x9yEK)

Or search for "NIST 2017 forensic error management"

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