

February 1, 2018

Mr. Anthony Onorato
Chair
Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods
c/o FBI Laboratory
Chief, DNA Support Unit
2501 Investigation Parkway
Quantico, VA 22135

Dear Tony:

At their January 2018 meeting, the NDIS Procedures Board discussed a pending submission of a request to approve a Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) kit.

In the past, the NDIS Procedures Board has referred to the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM's) validation and interpretation guidelines in establishing data acceptance standards for technologies that are not in mainstream use by forensic DNA laboratories. One example of this is illustrated in Section 4.3 of the NDIS Operational Procedures Manual relating to Standards for Acceptance of Mitochondrial DNA Records at NDIS which requires compliance with the SWGDAM Interpretation Guidelines for Mitochondrial DNA Analysis by Forensic DNA Laboratories (available at <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/ndis-procedures-manual-ver4-approved-04272016.pdf/view>). The validation and interpretation guidelines developed and approved by SWGDAM for emerging forensic DNA techniques and technologies provide invaluable guidance to the DNA community and are used by the NDIS Procedures Board to establish minimum criteria for the acceptance of DNA data using these new techniques/technologies.

In this instance, the NDIS Procedures Board noted that there are currently no interpretation guidelines for the autosomal or mitochondrial results generated from NGS kits. In the absence of such interpretation guidelines (for establishing the minimum NDIS acceptance criteria), the NDIS Procedures Board cannot approve a kit for use at NDIS. Accordingly, as Chair and on behalf of a unanimous NDIS Procedures Board, we request SWGDAM's earliest consideration of the development, and approval, of autosomal and mitochondrial interpretation guidelines for NGS results.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to SWGDAM's interpretation guidelines for autosomal and mitochondrial DNA data generated by NGS.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Wilson
Chair, NDIS Procedures Board
Chief, CODIS Unit
FBI Laboratory