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Smith Alling Lane, P.S. provides governmental affairs services to Applied Biosystems. As part of this representation, the firm generates weekly reports on state and federal legislation and news articles. Applied Biosystems has authorized Smith Alling Lane to make these reports publicly available through this website. The information presented in these reports does not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of Applied Biosystems or Smith Alling Lane, P.S.

The October 10, 2003 DNA Resource Report is listed below.

These reports are prepared by Tim Schellberg and Lisa Hurst of Smith Alling Lane (253) 627-1091, on behalf of Applied Biosystems.

SUMMARY

DNA databases identified suspects in two crimes in Florida (1991 rape; 1996 murder), and a serial rapist in Indiana (burglar linked to four attacks). DNA evidence also aided investigations and/or prosecutions in California (2 unrelated murders, and a double homicide), Texas (murder) and Virginia (rape). The Los Angeles Police Department continues to make progress on its DNA backlog.

Several states included in the 9th Circuit Court's district have indicated that they intend to proceed with DNA database efforts, despite the controversial ruling from court regarding federal statutes. Several newspapers ran editorials in support of DNA database statutes. An Alaska court has ordered a temporary injunction against collection of DNA from certain offenders, based on the 9th court's ruling, and a New Jersey man is challenging the state's DNA database statute.

Post conviction DNA testing advocacy organizations in Florida are urging statewide policy on preservation of biological evidence, and a Florida judge has agreed to allow post conviction testing for a man on death row for a 1987 rape and murder. The Massachusetts Governor is advocating better post conviction DNA testing laws as a means for bringing back the death penalty.

In international news... Finnish police are getting broader authority for DNA collection. Backlog and funding problems with Canada's DNA program capture headlines. DNA evidence links a suspect to the murder of Sweden's foreign minister. To discourage teen loitering, a Japanese court posted warnings that cigarette butts would be collected and tested for DNA. A cold hit in Scotland solved a well-known rape case. An Australia murder case is facing problems from possible lab contamination of DNA samples. India is establishing a DNA Policy Advisory committee with the intent of making better use of forensic DNA technologies.

CORRECTION: An article summarized in the October 3, 2003 DNA Resource Report indicated that Interpol held 4 million DNA profiles of 41 national police forces. This information was incorrect, as Interpol does not itself hold the DNA samples. Rather, each national police force holds its own DNA profiles, and Interpol simply facilitates the sharing of DNA information between countries.

STATE LEGISLATION

Paternity

1. Wisconsin AB 557 – A court may not refuse to order genetic tests or refuse to admit the results into evidence if, before judgment is entered in an annulment, divorce, legal separation, custody, or paternity action, the child's mother or the man who is presumed to be the father of the child desires to rebut the presumption.

NEWS ARTICLES

Forensic DNA

1. "British DNA test strengthens case against Lindh murder suspect." Agence France Presse, October 8, 2003.
DNA tests by Britain on traces from the knife used to kill Sweden's foreign minister have strengthened the case against a suspect held in connection with the murder. Reports say the DNA found on the knife matched that of the suspect who is being held in connection with the case. The DNA results are expected to be a crucial part of the case brought by prosecutors. Swedish press reports are speculating that there may be some complications in the DNA testing, including the possibility that the victim's DNA may have been mixed with that of the murderer, making findings less certain.
2. "DNA evidence leads to arrest of Apopka man." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, October 8, 2003.
Improved DNA testing has led to the arrest of a man in Florida on charges in a 1991 rape. Investigators from across central Florida are resubmitting old evidence from unsolved cases to the FDLE lab with the hope of identifying a suspect. The suspect is a registered career criminal who was in jail last November for a violation of probation. As a convicted felon, he was required to provide a DNA sample.
3. "DNA link to Moran death weapon." Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia), October 8, 2003.
In Australia, a prisoner's DNA is believed to have been found on the shotgun used to kill a drug kingpin.
4. "Man Guilty in Death of D.A. Assistant." Los Angeles Times, October 8, 2003.
In California, a defendant has pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter of one of Kern County's former Assistant District Attorneys. Investigators had made a DNA match with the suspect from a knife found near victim's body. The victim is largely credited with the establishment of a DNA program in the county – without which his killer might not have been caught.
5. "Councilors approve revamped sex offender law." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, October 7, 2003.
Sex offenders face a host of new registration requirements under a measure approved by Albuquerque (New Mexico) city councilors. Under the measure, police can collect photographs, fingerprints and DNA samples from any sex offender convicted after 1970.
6. "Court tried to warn off youth loiterers with DNA test threat." Japan Economic Newswire, October 7, 2003.
In Japan, a district court in Yamagata Prefecture admitted it put up posters warning teen loiterers smoking and drinking in the court's compound at night that they could face arrest based on DNA tests of cigarette butts. The warnings read, 'In collaboration with the Shinjo Police Station, we are considering identifying offenders by way of DNA analyses of cigarette butts and other items in order to arrest them or take them into custody.' The warnings, signed by the head of the court branch and affixed with an official seal, said junior and senior high schools would be notified about any students caught so they could be punished by school authorities as well. The court has withdrawn the posters, saying some expressions used were not appropriate.
7. "Crime lab's sad state a crime: former manager." The Leader-Post (Regina), October 7, 2003.
In Canada, the RCMP's forensic lab system has been described as a workplace that's so understaffed that only 12 per cent of DNA cases meet the RCMP's 30-day deadline. Instead, routine cases, such as bank robberies, take several months to complete -- a situation called "deplorable". When a former employee left the RCMP on Sept. 28, he said there was a backlog of 700 cases -- with roughly 2,300 DNA samples waiting for analysis. The current turn-around time for routine DNA cases is 93 days, which is better than it has been in the past.
8. "Crime lab raises bar in DNA tests." The Miami Herald, October 7, 2003.
After a recent contamination problem at the Broward County (Florida) crime lab, the lab will now start analyzing 16 genetic "markers" instead of the 9 markers it was previously looking at. Outside audits concluded that an isolated human error led to a DNA contamination issue when genetic material from an unrelated rape case was confused with DNA from a murder case. The crime lab will be introducing robotics soon to cut turn around times.
9. "Team Wants Evidence Excluded." Modesto Bee, October 7, 2003.

Lawyers representing Scott Peterson, accused of killing his wife and unborn child, have asked a judge to exclude DNA evidence, alleging detectives mishandled the items. Two hairs were submitted to a state crime lab along with two of Laci Peterson's hairbrushes. The defense contends that the DNA tests used are unreliable and that the detectives broke "the chain of custody" when they examined the items alone. "These two Modesto Police officers supposedly found a second strand of hair while reviewing the evidence alone and without any supervision by a criminalist or lab technician," wrote the defense attorney. California case law requires a three-part test to determine if new scientific techniques are admissible in court. The defense contends testing mitochondrial DNA -- a practice the Federal Bureau of Investigation first employed in 1996 -- is inaccurate.

10. "RCMP crime lab 'used to be a great place to work.'" National Post (Canada), October 7, 2003.
Despite a growing backlog of DNA cases, Canada's RCMP has reportedly decided to close more forensic facilities in Edmonton, Regina, and Halifax. Many RCMP forensic analysts have left in recent years for jobs in the United States. An employee who was recently lost said, "I was not 'lured' away to the U.S. labs, but I had to make a decision based on the future of my career and where I saw it going with the RCMP. I was extremely disappointed that it got to that point but felt that to continue on under the conditions within the RCMP system was not healthy either for myself or for my career."
11. "DNA puts more repeat burglars under thumb." Northern Territory News, October 7, 2003.
In Australia, a criminal with 129 prior convictions was one of 28 offenders identified and arrested by police as part of an operation against burglars. Operation Genesweep Four used DNA and other forensic evidence to identify and charge criminals. "The offenders identified during this operation had a combined history of 1143 prior convictions for previous offences," said the Crime Commander. Under the latest round of Operation Genesweep, criminals were identified and charged with a total of 45 offences. Each had an average of 22 prior convictions.
12. "High court takes 20 appeals, rejects 808." Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, October 7, 2003.
The Illinois Supreme Court will hear a defendant's argument that he should not have been compelled to give DNA evidence to law enforcement authorities without a search warrant. Instead, the defendant eventually gave his DNA sample through a grand jury subpoena. (*People v. Vernon Watson*, No. 96392.)
13. "Police: DNA tests tie Muncie man to rapes of two girls." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, October 6, 2003.
Indiana detectives are reviewing evidence in sexual assaults in dozens of cities after DNA tests linked a man to the rapes of two Muncie girls and attacks on women in two other Indiana cities. Detectives canvassed the neighborhood where the girls were raped and came across the suspect, who lived nearby. He was not at first considered a suspect in the rape, but was arrested on unrelated warrants. DNA tests on 23 other men who lived in the neighborhood did not match with the girl's attacker, but two the state crime lab reported a match to the suspect from a sample a judge ordered him to give in an unrelated burglary case.
14. "Finnish police likely to take more DNA samples." Nordic Business Report, October 6, 2003.
A new law in Finland will allow police to take DNA samples from those who are suspected of crimes that would lead to a minimum of six months in jail. Under the current law, a DNA sample is allowed if the minimum jail sentence for someone found guilty is at least one year. Last year the police took 1,900 samples, and it is expected that the figure will be up to 10,000 samples taken per year in a few years' time.
15. "New evidence turns up in review of rape case." Philadelphia Inquirer, October 6, 2003.
In Pennsylvania, evidence in a 1998 rape that was reanalyzed at the state crime lab has yielded a DNA profile that will be loaded into the state's DNA database. The evidence was reanalyzed after revelations about possible problems in evidence handled by a former forensic scientist at the crime lab. The analyst had analyzed evidence five years ago from the rape but failed to detect semen. An arrest warrant naming "John Doe" has been prepared in the case, which stems from a "stranger rape" in August 1998. This case is just one of nearly 90 cases that the District Attorney's Office has reviewed since June, when it became public that forensic evidence from more than 600 cases in 27 Pennsylvania counties had been called into question after the analyst's work was audited.
16. Editorial. San Jose Mercury News, October 6, 2003.
Editorial regarding the 9th Circuit's ruling on collection of DNA samples for the database. Excerpt: "Certainly prisoners and, to an extent, parolees, give up some freedom and expectation of privacy upon conviction. Violent criminals are more likely to be repeat offenders; taking blood from them is a minimal intrusion when it leads to

prosecuting molesters and murderers. A DNA data base is not only a valuable way to identify criminals, it's sometimes the only way.”

17. “Don't do the crime if you can't give the DNA.” Courier-Post (Cherry Hill, NJ), October 5, 2003.
Editorial regarding New Jersey’s expansion of the state’s DNA database to include all convicted felons. Excerpt: “At a time when cameras are watching us everywhere and we can't be sure if the FBI is reading our e-mails, gathering DNA samples from convicts seems like a step further toward a police state. But it isn't. It's just the next logical step in criminal identification -- not much different than taking fingerprints or mug shots, two other procedures that, once upon a time, also sprang from new technology.”
18. “DNA databank questions.” Omaha World Herald, October 5, 2003.
Editorial regarding the 9th Circuit’s ruling on collection of DNA samples for the database. Excerpt: “A pronouncement from the U.S. Supreme Court, if it ultimately takes up the case, would be welcome. While editorially we have urged caution on sweeping DNA sampling of the general population, different standards are often applied to the rights of convicts. There is a clear government interest involved, as well - especially in the cases of sex offenders. Scientific evidence amply demonstrates that they are likely to repeat their offenses... If or when that time comes, they should not ignore the fact that the advent of DNA checks of felons, within proper constraints, has furthered justice in hundreds of cases.”
19. “U.N. team finds faulty investigations into murders in border city.” The Associated Press State & Local Wire, October 4, 2003.
A team of six experts from the United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime has reported that a lack of resources and faulty techniques has hampered investigations into the murders of dozens of young women in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez. Among deficiencies reported was a new DNA testing laboratory in the northern state of Chihuahua that lacked trained personnel to run it. Relatives of some of the victims have questioned the identifications of more than 100 bodies found so far, and authorities have been slow to provide scientific results based on DNA samples.
20. Op-Ed; As You Were Saying.” The Boston Herald, October 4, 2003.
Op-Ed points out that proving a person did not commit a crime through the use of DNA evidence is much easier than proving a person was in fact the true perpetrator. “The net result is that DNA testing is not a panacea for all the problems of determining guilt or innocence in any criminal case, yet alone determining the appropriate punishment. Romney [Massachusetts Governor] would do well to admit this and stop the pretense that science will enable his panel to achieve what no society has ever achieved - a foolproof capital punishment system.”
21. “Boy, 15, Charged With Rape, Burglary In Newport News.” Daily Press (Newport News, VA), October 4, 2003.
In Virginia, a 15-year old boy was arrested and charged with the rape and burglary of a 23-year-old woman in June. In an unrelated stop later the same month, police detained a teen that matched the suspect's general description. He was questioned by the police about the rape, and DNA samples were taken. The DNA found at the crime scene has been found to match that of the teen.
22. “Caught by DNA over a year after horror sex attack at city church.” Evening Times (Glasgow), October 4, 2003.
In Scotland, a man who tried to rape a Canadian woman outside a Glasgow church was snared by a DNA sample - 18 months after the attack. After the attack, the victim went to the hospital, where she spat out blood just outside the hospital gates. Police later recovered this sample and the crime lab recovered a DNA profile. The man was caught by police who ran a routine DNA test on him after he was arrested for a minor offense.
23. “Groups work to preserve DNA evidence.” Florida Times-Union, October 4, 2003.
In Florida, directors of two criminal justice watchdog groups (Florida Innocence Initiative and Florida Innocence Project) are calling for a statewide system to preserve biological evidence that may free innocent men and women in state prisons. The organizations have said a uniform system is needed to ensure DNA evidence being stored in police department lockers and prosecutors' vaults stays intact and available. Such a system is a step toward guaranteeing that innocent inmates are exonerated and unpunished criminals are caught, they said.
24. “Fears Jaidyn bib DNA tests corrupt.” The Mercury, October 4, 2003.
In Australia, DNA found on a bib a toddler was wearing the day he disappeared reportedly matches the DNA of a rape victim. Police have reportedly interviewed the woman and say she is not connected – which means the samples may have been contaminated. The Victorian Police Association points out that the possible contamination

shows that better police forensic resources are needed

25. "Reverse Court Decision On DNA." The Oregonian, October 4, 2003.
Editorial regarding the 9th Circuit's ruling on collection of DNA samples for the database. Excerpt: "The question is: Do convicted felons and parolees enjoy the same protections against such searches? We do not believe they do... There's no question that DNA testing of parolees and prisoners advances the interests of justice. Such testing has greatly amplified the resources of law enforcement in Oregon and led to the solving of dozens of crimes. The DNA unit of the Oregon State Police forensic lab keeps track of the matches it has made using DNA samples. As of mid-September, it could boast of 263 successful "hits." DNA sampling is invaluable to the public. Whether involving blood samples or cheek scrapings, the 9th Circuit Court panel should not be allowed to deprive law enforcement of this rigorous, scientific tool to solve crimes."
26. "Judge Will Allow New DNA Test In Rape-Murder Case." Orlando Sentinel, October 4, 2003.
A Florida judge agreed to allow newer DNA testing on a small semen sample that might prove the innocence or confirm the guilt of former police officer, who is on death row for raping and killing an 11-year-old girl in 1987. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement tested cuttings from the child's clothing, scrapings of her fingernails and other evidence, but found little aside from a slide with evidence taken from the pink panties she was wearing. That slide showed the presence of sperm. However lab analysts so far have been unable to remove the sample -- stuck between the slide and a cover slip with a gluelike mounting medium -- without destroying it. Discussion over how to remove the sample are ongoing.
27. "Court Disallows Taking DNA Samples from Parolees without Cause." The Register Guard, October 4, 2003.
A Chief Deputy District Attorney in Oregon said the 9th Circuit court majority ruling against the collection of DNA from convicted persons focused on the use of blood tests. He noted that Oregon officials use a swab to extract DNA from the mouth of a donor. Moreover, an earlier federal appeals court ruling upheld Oregon's DNA law, ruling the process is more akin to fingerprinting criminals for future identification than it is to collecting personal information for broader purposes. Oregon American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director said the ruling draws the line on DNA collection before it's too late. He said the government continues to expand its DNA collection system and stringent safeguards should be imposed on who can be required to submit DNA.
28. "Cold case cracked." The San Francisco Chronicle, October 4, 2003.
A Texas inmate has been charged with raping and strangling to death a woman at a popular reservoir in California 25 years ago, after DNA evidence linked him to the crime. The case was reopened in 2000 as part of the sheriff's department's review of unsolved murder cases. A detective realized that blood found under the victim's fingernails could be analyzed for DNA evidence. The inmate is now awaiting extradition to California to face charges of murder and rape that could make him eligible for the death penalty -- he would have been eligible for parole in Texas in November 2003.
29. "Deputy DA appointed to Superior Court." The San Diego Union-Tribune, October 4, 2003.
A national DNA expert who helped prosecute the O.J. Simpson and David Westerfield cases has been appointed a San Diego County Superior Court judge. Deputy District Attorney George "Woody" Clarke was named to the bench yesterday by California's Governor. During his 21 years in the county District Attorney's Office, Clarke has risen to the top of his field. He is regularly called upon by prosecutors nationwide to assist in DNA cases. Clarke serves as coordinator of the San Diego DNA Project, which reviews the cases of defendants convicted and imprisoned. He also coordinated a county program that investigated unsolved sexual assault cases using DNA. His appointment to the bench is a great loss for the District Attorney's Office and for prosecutors who need assistance on DNA cases, colleagues said.
30. "DNA leads to arrest in 1996 homicide." St. Petersburg Times, October 4, 2003.
A 7-year-old DNA sample taken from a victim turned up a match in a Florida's DNA database, and proved to be the key piece of evidence that allowed Hillsborough deputies to solve a 1996 murder case. Deputies said they cracked the cold homicide case through the use of DNA testing. It was their first use of the new technology to solve a crime using a blind hit on the DNA database. The offender was on the database for a 1998 burglary conviction, and a sample from the crime was submitted to the DNA lab in January of this year.
31. "Over 18,000 bodies exhumed in eight years from Bosnia's mass graves." Agence France Presse, October 3, 2003.
Eight years since the end of Bosnia's 1992-95 war more than 18,000 bodies have been exhumed from over 300 mass graves throughout the country, most of them of Muslims, according to forensic teams. Bosnia's largest known

mass grave, near Zvornik in the east, contained the remains of 629 people believed to have been Muslim civilians who were executed when Bosnian Serb forces captured the area at the outset of the war. So far 11,500 exhumed bodies have been identified. The identification of Srebrenica victims had been an almost impossible task prior to the introduction of DNA testing. The DNA testing, set up by the International Commission on Missing Persons includes a sophisticated database matching victims' DNA with that from blood samples of living relatives.

32. "Court rules in favor of prisoners." The Daily Review (Hayward, CA), October 3, 2003.
A spokeswoman for the California Attorney General said the 9th Circuit's ruling regarding the collection of DNA samples from federal convictions for the database does not undermine the California law. "Our review of the panel's decision is that it does not have a direct impact on California because it is specific to the federal DNA database collections and federal inmates. California's law and the databank have been upheld by the Third District [California] Court of Appeal as constitutional under both the state and federal constitutions." But the office admitted that the practice of having federal prison officials collect DNA on the state's behalf might have to stop if the ruling survives further appeals. And the State is concerned that public safety might be compromised if federal inmates get out of prison in California without being on law enforcement's DNA radar.
33. "DNA Databank Of Criminals Mooted." The Economic Times, October 3, 2003.
India's central government is expected to set up a DNA Profiling Advisory Committee as a first step to ensure uniform quality control measures for DNA testing in the country. Efforts are also on to formulate a policy for creating a DNA databank of criminals and convicts. As of now, DNA tests are not admissible as direct evidence, however, DNA test results were being accepted by courts as additional evidence.
34. "State has collected samples since 1990." Spokesman Review (Spokane, WA), October 3, 2003.
Washington State intends to continue with its DNA database program, despite the 9th Circuit's ruling on the federal statute. "The 9th Circuit's decision today, as we understand it, doesn't have a direct impact on Washington," said a spokesman for the Washington Attorney General. He said, the court ruling involved criminals convicted under the federal system. The state law covers state and local convicts. Also, the 9th Circuit case involved a parolee rather than current prison inmates. The state crime lab intends to, "continue on course until the AG or someone else tells us not to."
35. "Man Convicted in Rape, Murder of 2 Boys." Associated Press Online, October 2, 2003.
In California, a 40-year-old man was convicted of raping and murdering two boys in 1993, two years after he was linked to the slayings though new DNA extraction techniques. When the DNA match was made, the man was serving a 70-year prison sentence for raping a woman six months after the boys' deaths. Last year, he was linked to the rape and 1989 slaying of a woman in Palm Beach County, Florida.
36. "Death Penalty Push Lifeless In Suburbs." The Boston Globe, October 2, 2003.
Massachusetts Governor appointed a panel of experts to develop a statute that would rely on the latest in scientific technology, including DNA testing, to make sure that only the guilty are executed. He has proposed a narrow application of the death penalty, reserving it for terrorism, cases where law enforcement officers are slain, and first-degree murders "committed with extreme atrocity." Massachusetts currently does not have a death penalty, but the Governor, who contends that capital punishment is a deterrent, said that DNA evidence also holds the hope of providing a "standard of proof that is incontrovertible."
37. "Congress reaches death penalty deal." Chicago Tribune, October 2, 2003.
Republican and Democratic negotiators in Congress announced an agreement on new nationwide protections to guard against execution of innocent Death Row inmates, paving the way for passage of federal legislation. Supporters of the bill, including those in leadership positions, expect the bill to pass this year. The compromise also authorizes \$755 million over five years to fund Bush's initiative to clear up a backlog in DNA testing of evidence in rape cases and expand the FBI's national DNA database. "DNA is a guilty man's worst enemy and an innocent man's best friend," said Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.). "We have the tools available to us. We have to make the money available."
38. "Police Making Progress on Backlogged DNA Samples." City News Service, October 2, 2003.
Los Angeles police have made considerable progress through more than 1,000 backlogged DNA samples since August, and authorities expect to complete the work by early next year. A \$500,000 state grant has allowed police to send many of the samples waiting to be tested to outside laboratories for processing, and officials expect to be fully caught up by February. A City Councilman has also called for a four-step effort to increase the frequency of

future DNA testing; a report from the LAPD about the current process for when detectives refer sexual assaults and other cases with DNA evidence for testing; the development of a new policy to test current cases in real time; a quarterly report on the number of cases tested and the amount of funding needed to keep pace with incoming cases; and a report from the LAPD about plans for local implementation of the "DNA Bill of Rights."

39. "S.J. parolee tries to block DNA testing." Courier-Post (Cherry Hill, NJ), October 2, 2003.
A New Jersey parolee is seeking an injunction in Superior Court to block a law that requires anyone convicted of a crime in New Jersey to provide a DNA sample for a state database. The law also requires the 110,000 people already in prison or under the supervision of either a parole or probation officer to submit DNA by providing saliva samples. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison in December 2000 for possessing 25 pounds of the drug. He served 17 months before being admitted to the 20-month parole program in April 2002. The defendant also previously tried to change his legal name to NJWeedman.com, and is head of the Legalize Marijuana Party. He has filed a motion for the injunction on the grounds that the measure is an ex post facto law.
40. "Part 3: Catching The Bombers." Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia), October 2, 2003.
In the investigation of the Bali bombing in Indonesia, evidence gathered by forensic teams which provided corroborating evidence includes: a cotton bud which had been used to clean an ear was found to contain DNA which matched DNA taken from one of the suspects after his arrest; and toothpicks found in one of the vehicles used by the bombers contained DNA which matched another suspect's DNA. The men's DNA was also found in human remains at the scene, and reference samples were collected from the men's families and from their personal possessions as a means of confirming their identity.
41. "Man surrenders in 1982 slaying." The Houston Chronicle, October 2, 2003.
A man wanted in Houston in connection with a slaying more than two decades ago has surrendered to Alabama law enforcement authorities. He was charged with capital murder in 2001 after Houston police used DNA to link him to the slaying of a 14-year-old girl in 1982. Brashar was suspected and questioned in the killing, but investigators didn't have enough evidence to arrest him or the technology to match DNA found at the scene to blood samples he gave during the investigation, police said. With advancements in DNA analysis, police later matched the samples.
42. "Argentina: Dispute Grows Over Identity In 'Disappearance' Case." Inter Press Service, October 1, 2003.
A human rights group in Argentina announced that it would turn to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to challenge a Supreme Court ruling that a young woman does not have to undergo genetic testing to verify her identity. The human rights group is seeking the sons and daughters of victims of forced disappearance, who were either abducted along with their parents or born into captivity. Many of the babies were reportedly given to military families. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the young woman, who changed her mind after initially agreeing to undergo a DNA test, on the grounds that the results could be used as evidence that would complicate the legal situation her parents who are on trial for illegally adopting her. The Supreme Court said it would be "an aberration" to make the young woman undergo the blood test by force, and added that the DNA test was not necessary to convict the parents because they have already confessed to illegally adopting her.

Paternity

43. "Internet ordering brings paternity testing home." Times Picayune (New Orleans), October 5, 2003.
Home DNA paternity tests are becoming popular, but experts warn men to weigh the implications before using one: The results can lead to feelings of betrayal and lawsuits. Moreover, a Chicago divorce attorney, pointed out that courts generally won't consider home DNA tests because without independent control of the chain of custody, a person can lie about whose DNA was collected. An attorney also could raise doubts about whether instructions were followed properly.
44. "Dad Rejects DNA Evidence That He Fathered Daughter's Child." African Eye News Service (South-East Africa) – AAGM, October 1, 2003.
In South Africa, a man accused of raping and impregnating his 14-year-old daughter has rejected DNA results proving he fathered the child. The man argued in court that he and his daughter shared the same genes, which is why he could be linked to the baby. He claimed someone else impregnated her and that he knew the young man. The court postponed the case in order to bring in DNA experts to explain their findings.