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The August 1, 2003 DNA Resource Report is listed below. This report also covers the weeks of July 11th, July 18th and July 25th.

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

SUMMARY

Virginia has netted 21 hits from violent felony arrestee DNA samples since January. The Iowa Supreme Court upheld the state's DNA database law. Some Missouri prosecutors will require DNA with felony plea bargains in the absence of an all felons DNA database. The US Military's DNA registry for casualties was used for the first time in a criminal identification case. A defendant is challenging DNA evidence collected from trash in New York, and dog DNA was used in a Massachusetts case. A DNA database for marijuana is being used in a criminal case in Connecticut.

DNA databases have linked identified serial crimes in Colorado (7 assaults), and Pennsylvania (a rape and a murder); and have linked offenders to unsolved crimes in New York (burglary), Florida (attempted murder and burglary), California (murder), Illinois (5 rapes), and Nebraska (rape). Oklahoma prosecutors are defending a law that removes the statute of limitations for crimes for which the statute had already tolled.

Backlogs problems made headlines in Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Los Angeles; and Florida's success at backlog reduction was in the news. A review of a scientist's DNA work at an Indiana lab will likely create further backlogs. Many labs have recently benefited from federal grant awards, including South Carolina, Tennessee and New Mexico. Missouri labs are facing funding reductions, Alabama is considering a tax package to help crime labs, and funding for the Louisiana DNA program (or lack thereof) is an issue in the gubernatorial campaign. Meanwhile, Congress has begun hearings on increased federal funding for crime lab DNA programs.

Post conviction DNA exonerations occurred in Pennsylvania, Kansas and Missouri. Indiana delayed an execution for DNA testing, and post conviction testing efforts are underway in Nebraska and Alaska; however, post conviction testing results in Utah's first case have further implicated the inmate. A California county is reviewing cases for possible post conviction testing.

In international news...In the UK, the Government is considering privatizing its DNA labs; a hit to a DNA sample of a murderer's family member assisted in the crime investigation; and post conviction testing has led to prisoner's release. An Australia state used dog DNA in a criminal case for the first time, and the same state is considering a separate lab for defendant DNA testing. New Zealand is considering expanding its offender DNA database, but at the same time is experiencing growing backlogs of casework. DNA has identified Kuwaiti POW remains in Iraq. A police officer in India has been convicted of "fudging" DNA samples in a criminal investigation. Kenya is using DNA to identify remains of a plane crash. Russian scientists visiting the US expressed interest in forensic DNA and a military forensic lab in Russia has fired its director.

NEWS ARTICLES

Forensic DNA

1. "Staff shortage slows work at crime lab." Atlanta Journal and Constitution, July 30, 2003.
Staffing problems at the Georgia's state crime lab have created a backlogs that threaten some prosecutions. In the last two years, the crime lab budget has been cut by over \$3 million, and the lab estimates that it needs 109 more people, at a cost of more than \$4.8 million, to control and then reduce the backlog. The 17 DNA analysts each have 10 to 15 open cases. "Facility-wise, we've made out well," said an agency official. "But . . . you can't keep asking people to do more and more. Then they'll start making mistakes."
2. "Governor delays execution to allow DNA tests." The Associated Press, July 29, 2003.
Indiana's Governor delayed a man's execution to allow for a DNA test sought by defense attorneys and backed by a prosecutor and three jurors. The prosecutor who tried the case and three jurors who helped convict the man also support the DNA testing, a request twice rejected by the Indiana Supreme Court.
3. "Attorney: DNA tests show death row inmate innocent." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 29, 2003.
In Pennsylvania, defense attorney's for a man on death row since 1983 for rape and murder say that new DNA test results on evidence prove he is innocent. The tests show that the inmate's DNA did not match physical evidence left on the victim's clothing and under her fingernails. If exonerated, the man will be the first person on death row in Pennsylvania to be cleared by DNA testing. The District Attorney's office said they would review the results.
4. "Chicago City Council settles \$1.5 million lawsuit over wrongful conviction." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 29, 2003.
The Chicago City Council agreed to pay \$1.5 million to settle a civil rights lawsuit brought by the one of four men cleared by DNA evidence in the 1986 murder-rape of a medical student. The case had raised allegations of coerced confessions and botched evidence even before new DNA evidence led to the release of the men who had been sentenced to life in prison.
5. "Boulder police investigate seventh in string of attacks on women." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 29, 2003.
In Colorado, police are looking for a suspect in a series of attack on women walking at night. Police have said DNA evidence links at least two of the previous attacks
6. "After years on death row in Missouri, inmate walks free." The Kansas City Star, July 29, 2003.
A Kansas City, Missouri man has been released after 26 years in prison, 18 of those years on death row. Two of the witnesses against the man have since recanted their story, and the prosecutor lacked the DNA evidence he felt was necessary to refile charges.
7. "Judges Accept DNA Evidence To Quash Murder Conviction." Press Association, July 29, 2003.
In the UK, the Court of Appeal ruled that new DNA evidence showed the conviction of a former sailor who spent 16 years in prison for the brutal murder of a barmaid was "plainly unsafe" and quashed the 1988 conviction.
8. "State's crime labs struggling with backlog." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 28, 2003.
Backlogs at the Kentucky crime lab has brought harsh questions from judges who do not understand why DNA testing for capital murder cases take six months to complete. Lab officials, citing a caseload that doubled to more than 40,000 in 2001 from about 20,000 in 1989, say they are overwhelmed by requests for tests on drugs, DNA, blood and other evidence. The General Assembly increased the lab's budget from about \$6.5 million two years ago to \$7 million in the fiscal year that ended June 30 and about \$7.5 million this year. Last year's budget increase allowed the lab to hire 11 new people, bringing the staff to 114 workers. This year's increase will allow the hiring of 15 more people.
9. "Reform Proposal Opens Access To DNA Evidence." Sunday Age (Melbourne), July 27, 2003.
In Victoria, Australia, a proposal is under consideration to allow people charged with serious crimes to have access to independent tests of DNA collected at crime scenes. Several groups have also suggested to the parliamentary inquiry that the Government should establish a separate forensic laboratory for the use of accused people. The Parliamentary Law Reform Committee began investigating the collection, use and effectiveness of forensic

sampling and the use of DNA databases in criminal investigations in April. The final report is expected to be finished by October.

10. "Editorial." The Times (Shreveport, LA), July 27, 2003.
"DNA roulette has consequences...State needs to figure how to fully fund program." The campaign for Governor in Louisiana has seen a lot of fingerpointing regarding the failure of the state to fund its DNA program for several years. The incumbent candidate recently chide his Republican opponent for what exploiting the recent South Louisiana serial murder case. The Republican's ads implied that if the state had appropriately funded DNA testing of arrest suspects and felons, the accused serial killer might have been caught sooner. However, the incumbent candidate was reprimanded by the mother of one of the victims in the serial killings, helping to make Republican's case that DNA funding was a legitimate campaign issue. Then, the former State Police Superintendent said the incumbent's Division of Administration took \$5.1 million from his agency that was intended to be used to establish a DNA testing program.
11. "DNA evidence shows murderer of jogger in Philadelphia park also committed a rape." The Associated Press, July 26, 2003.
In Pennsylvania, Philadelphia police believe a man who killed a female jogger last week also raped a woman at knifepoint in the same park in April. DNA tests indicate that a serial criminal is at work. [Newspapers had previously reported that detectives had "ruled out" any connection between the two crimes – prior to DNA testing.]
12. "DNA Tests On Two Bodies From Iraqi Mass Grave Match Missing Kuwaiti POWs." BBC Monitoring International Reports, July 26, 2003.
Two Kuwaiti prisoners of the war with Iraq have been pronounced as martyrs after DNA test of their remains found in a mass grave site in Iraq have been matched.
13. "Request for DNA test to again be considered." Omaha World Herald, July 26, 2003.
The Nebraska Supreme Court has ruled in favor of an inmate who wants access to post conviction DNA testing of a cigarette butt that was used against him at trial. This is the first review of a state law that allows DNA testing in old criminal cases if it might show someone is innocent. The request had been thrown out after a review by County District Judge, who said the cigarette was inconsequential to the conviction. The Supreme Court has ordered the case back to the District court for further consideration.
14. "Convicted burglar may face life term as 'persistent felon.'" Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, July 26, 2003.
In New York, a career burglar who left his blood on a broken window in a Rochester home could be sent to prison for life. Police officers recovered blood from the window and television of a home that had been burglarized. A hit on the DNA database led to the man's arrest in January. He has four previous felony convictions dating to 1974, including three burglaries, and was on parole for burglary at the time of the break-in.
15. "Scientists and police team up to create a DNA database of marijuana to stem trafficking." The Associated Press, July 25, 2003.
In Connecticut, researchers are compiling a database of DNA from marijuana seized by authorities in an attempt to track the nation's pot distribution network from grower to smoker. Over the past three years, scientists have mapped the genetic profile of about 600 marijuana samples taken from around New England. Using a single marijuana bud seized anywhere in the world, police would be able to quickly deduce whether a suspect is a homegrown dope dealer or part of an international cartel. A court case pending in Connecticut Superior Court will be the state's first attempt to get marijuana DNA admitted as evidence.
16. "DNA grant lends hand in solving criminal cases." Chattanooga Times Free Press, July 25, 2003.
The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation has received a \$3.37 million grant from the National Institute of Justice for backlogged DNA cases that have no suspects. There are an estimated 2,500 cases in Tennessee for this testing.
17. "Senior Indian Kashmir policeman suspended over fudging of DNA samples." Agence France Press, July 24, 2003.
A senior police officer in Indian Kashmir was suspended and a junior officer dismissed for their alleged involvement in fudging DNA samples of five men slain in the wake of a massacre. Police had claimed the five were involved in the gunning down of 37 villagers in 2000 on the eve of a historic visit of then US President Bill Clinton to New Delhi. After protests, the state government ordered the bodies to be exhumed for DNA samples, which were said to confirm the police's claim. But two Indian forensic agencies confirmed last year that the

samples were fudged, and fresh samples taken in April 2002 confirmed relatives' allegations the men had nothing to do with the massacre.

18. "Kenyan pathologists begin DNA analysis to identify remains." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 24, 2003.

Kenyan pathologists have begun DNA analysis to identify the remains of 12 Americans with ties to North Carolina and two South Africans killed when their chartered plane crashed into Mount Kenya. The Americans and two South African pilots were killed July 19 when their twin-engine turboprop hit the lowest of the mountain's three peaks in cloudy weather.

19. "VFW helping in search for relatives of missing servicemen." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 24, 2003.

A nationwide search for family members of servicemen still listed as missing in action from the Korean War and the Vietnam War is underway in an effort to obtain DNA samples that could identify bodies turned over to the United States by other countries.

20. "DNA On Cup Led To Capture." Gloucestershire Echo, July 24, 2003.

In England, a burglar who was caught out when he used a tea cup has been sentenced to more than four months in prison. He had taken equipment worth £1,300 from a workshop.

21. "DNA Leads To Arrests As Police Swoop." Herald Express (Torquay), July 24, 2003.

In the UK, ten people were arrested as 30 officers took part in swoops codenamed Operation Nickel. Nine men and one woman were detained for alleged offences ranging from aggravated burglary, which can carry a life sentence, to criminal damage. "We are getting more and more DNA identifications as the database grows. It could be that we will be knocking on people's doors, weeks, months or even years after offences have been committed." Det Sgt Giles Boyling said: "We are combining together to arrest and process as many offenders that are outstanding for DNA, fingerprints and bail offences.

22. "The Double-Helix Dichotomy." Miami New Times, July 24, 2003.

Article questions why police want to collect DNA from a growing number of suspects, but refuse themselves to provide samples when asked to do so for a database to be used for elimination purposes. The vice president of Miami PD's union, the Fraternal Order of Police, says the FOP never took an official position on the matter because it died with the chief's decision. But he's pretty sure where the union would stand. "I don't see a need for DNA," he reports. "It's an intrusion on my privacy and my rights... We might as well live in a communist state where the government has total control over everybody."

23. "Checking Their Work Following foul-ups." The Recorder, July 24, 2003.

The Santa Clara County District Attorney's office has undertaken an audit of old sexual assault convictions where DNA exists. The decision came after the fourth post conviction exoneration in two years for the county. The office is still figuring out what DNA evidence still exists in the crime lab freezer and police evidence lockers. Prosecutors will then examine sexual assault convictions from before 1992. If cases meet a list of criteria - including whether the conviction was based on circumstantial evidence and whether the defendant has maintained his innocence - the office will ask imprisoned defendants if they want the evidence to undergo DNA testing.

24. "Burglar Charged With Attempted Murder." Tampa Tribune, July 24, 2003.

In Florida, a man who stabbed a woman 14 times while burglarizing her home has been identified through a cold hit on the DNA database. Blood from a broken window at the 1997 crime scene was linked to a man on the database for a sexual assault conviction. The suspect has a lengthy criminal record, including burglaries that date back to 1979.

25. "DNA test on dog." The Advertiser, July 23, 2003.

In Victoria, Australia, DNA evidence was used in court to identify a dog that allegedly savaged a nine-year-old boy. A court heard DNA evidence taken from saliva on a jacket belonging to the victim was matched to a blood sample taken from the dog, named Bronx.

26. "Crime lab sees progress in old cases; Serial killer." Daily Advertiser, July 23, 2003.

In Louisiana, the first five of 400 backlogged sexual assault kits have been returned to the Acadiana Crime Lab with DNA profiles. About \$650,000 was given to the lab to process backlogged rape kits for cases that had no suspect. Police now hope to begin matching the unsolved crimes with known offenders on the DNA database.

27. "DNA reviews to swell crime lab's backlog." The Indianapolis Star, July 23, 2003.
In Indiana, handling the review of 64 DNA tests may more than double the time it takes the Marion County - Indianapolis crime lab to process evidence. New tests are being conducted on every DNA match made by a former scientist at the lab who resigned last August. The scientist stands accused of skipping steps in the DNA analysis process. The lab's delays in analyzing evidence could increase to 15 months, said Director Jim Hamby, up from the six-month lag now. The retesting could cost up to \$160,000 from the lab's \$2.9 million annual budget.
28. "Officials wait and see on mandatory DNA samples." Kansas City Star, July 23, 2003.
Prosecutors in Jackson County, Missouri who have been frustrated by the state legislature's failure to expand the DNA database to include all convicted felons, have recently announced a new policy of requiring a DNA samples as part of felony plea bargain agreements. Several other counties in the state are considering similar policies, while others are watching Jackson County to see what happens. The current Missouri DNA law applies only those convicted of murder, severe sex offenses and most, but not all, violent felonies.
29. "Innocence Project seeks DNA evidence in Alaska case." Anchorage Daily News, July 22, 2003.
The Innocence Project has filed its first case in Alaska, seeking DNA testing of evidence used to convict a man of raping and beating a prostitute. The man is in the 10th year of a 26-year prison sentence, and he has always denied involvement in the 1993 assault. The Alaska Attorney General's office said that the state is still formulating a policy for dealing with such requests, and until then, decisions will be made case-by-case.
30. "DNA test backlog may delay murder trial." Dominion Post (Wellington, New Zealand), July 22, 2003.
In New Zealand, a murder trial could be delayed until next year because of a backlog in processing DNA evidence. Forensic scientists have blamed the backlog on a big increase in police use of DNA testing. The testing should be completed in a few months, but the accused wants an independent scientist to then examine the results.
31. "Sigsbee's Lawyers Say Straw Sample Stole His Privacy." The Post Standard (Syracuse), July 23, 2003.
In New York, lawyers for a man linked to a murder through DNA analysis conducted on a straw the suspect discarded at a fast food restaurant say the evidence should be suppressed as an illegal search. The judge did not seem receptive, indicating that accepting the defense argument would probably invalidate DNA as legitimate evidence in all criminal cases, but reserved decision. The lawyers maintain that the suspect voluntarily threw away the straw, but he never surrendered his privacy rights to his DNA in the saliva on the discarded straw. The judge has also reserved decision on the prosecution's request for another DNA sample from the suspect to confirm the first tests.
32. "DNA Law Paying Off, Va. Officials Say." The Washington Post, July 20, 2003.
Since being implemented in January 2003, Virginia's law to require DNA from violent felony arrestees has produced hits in 21 unsolved crimes, including a homicide in January in Richmond. Civil libertarians are concerned about the new law, fearing a further erosion of privacy and due process. Such concern is merited, but only if law enforcement agencies abuse the system. Officials are supposed to expunge a sample if the suspect is cleared or convicted of a lesser offense. As of July 1, Virginia had collected DNA samples from 3,929 people who were charged with serious crimes, and about 23 percent, or 902 of those genetic profiles, have since been destroyed.
33. "DNA test absolves man after 18 years." The Wichita Eagle, July 20, 2003.
In Kansas, post conviction DNA testing has exonerated a man who had been convicted of rape.
34. "Military DNA records lead to arrest." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 19, 2003.
A suspect in a murder was arrested in Puerto Rico based on DNA collected by the military, and a Department of Defense official said it was the first time the military DNA registry had ever been used in a criminal case. The Military has been collecting blood samples since 1992 to identify casualties, but had never before released a sample for use in a criminal case because privacy rules prevent that from happening in most cases. Among other rules, the crime being investigated must be a felony and the registry must be the only source of DNA evidence available. This situation qualified because authorities had blood from two people on the victim's clothing, but the suspect could not be brought in for testing because he was in hiding. Not even the military police has used the DNA registry before.

"We treat our military investigators the same. No one gets access, including the criminal investigative divisions of the Army, Navy and Air Force."

35. "4 companies bid to become crime lab for Dallas police." The Dallas Morning News, July 19, 2003.
Four companies submitted bids hoping to replace the county as the Dallas Police Department's crime lab for DNA, drug and toxicology analysis. The Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences, which has been doing the city's lab analysis for about 30 years, did not submit a bid. Officials sent a response to the city this week, saying that the county is prohibited by the state from agreeing to some of the specifics in the proposal and that such an agreement would compromise the lab's impartiality. It included its 2002 costs for services. The Dallas County District Attorney has criticized the city for seeking a private lab that he says would be controlled by the Police Department.
36. "I Give Up." The Advertiser, July 18, 2003.
In Australia, the man charged with the murder of a schoolgirl was gave a DNA sample to police just hours before he surrendered. Police have taken more than 120 DNA samples from people questioned during the inquiry.
37. "Transient charged in murder of musician." Alameda Times-Star, July 18, 2003.
In California, the slaying last year of an accomplished jazz percussionist, mystified San Leandro police detectives for months. But a blood-stained t-shirt and jacket found in the victim's home was matched through the DNA database to a registered sex offender. The homicide was the first case cleared through DNA analysis in the history of the San Leandro Police Department.
38. "Embattled Houston police chief to announce retirement." The Associated Press, July 18, 2003.
Houston's police chief, facing criticism over botched DNA testing at his department's crime lab and other problems, has told his staff he will retire in September, several months earlier than expected. Bradford has fought off accusations he failed to restore the department's problem-plagued DNA section. An outside audit in December revealed serious deficiencies at the crime lab, including lack of training for personnel, insufficient documentation and possible contamination of samples. Since then, the district attorney's office has referred more than 300 cases to be retested.
39. "Crime lab officials say changes have helped." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 18, 2003.
North Dakota's state crime lab was part of the North Dakota Health Department. But on July 1, it became a division of the attorney general's office. Changes at the state crime lab have been a big help for staff, especially dealing with a sharp increase in methamphetamine-related cases. "I think it's a good idea to have this in the attorney general's office rather than the Health Department because crime is something the attorney general's office focuses on. The Health Department was unable to put it (the crime lab) front and center where I think it belongs," said the Attorney General.
40. "Bid specifications for crime lab draw criticism." The Dallas Morning News, July 18, 2003.
Questions remain about whether contracting with a new crime laboratory would save the city of Dallas money, given that two potentially large costs will not be included in vendors' proposals. The city's bid specifications say proposals should not include the cost of expert witness testimony and such charges will be the responsibility of whoever calls the witness. There is also a question of whether using a private vendor would jeopardize the department's participation in a national DNA database.
41. "More testing would double the number of convicts freed by DNA evidence." The Associated Press, July 16, 2003.
The US House Judiciary subcommittee on crime, terrorism, and homeland security is considering increasing federal funding for DNA testing. A congressional hearing was recently held on the matter. All witnesses encouraged funding for processing no suspect rape kits, but opinion on post conviction testing matters was divided.
42. "Dog implicated by DNA in coop raid spared death." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 17, 2003.
In Massachusetts, a dog linked by DNA testing to a chicken coop massacre has been spared a death sentence, though one more violation will seal her fate. The dog was implicated after the father of the chicken coop's owner, got fed up after a third raid on the coop in the last 14 months, and had dog hairs found at the scene analyzed for DNA at a California lab. No one saw the animal kill the chickens.
43. "Locker search is upheld by court." Des Moines Register, July 17, 2003.
The Iowa Supreme Court upheld a state law that requires some prison inmates to submit blood samples to build a DNA profile. A group of inmates at the claimed the law violates their privacy and amounts to punishment beyond

their sentences. But the court ruled that the law is not punishment. "In fact, if the petitioners commit no further crimes, it will have no effect on them."

44. "Los Angeles; Official Seeks Police Plan for DNA Backlog." Los Angeles Times, July 17, 2003.
A Los Angeles City Councilman called on Los Angeles police officials to account for how they plan to process DNA rape evidence when state funding runs out in the fall. The Councilman proposed that the Los Angeles Police Commission and LAPD report back within 45 days on how much evidence still must be analyzed before being entered into a state database. The detective who heads the Robbery/Homicide Division's cold-case unit said that continued funding of DNA analysis is crucial for three reasons: It provides quicker closure for victims, saves time and money on investigations and helps prevent sexual predators from victimizing others.
45. "Law officials worry crime lab cuts will slow investigations." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 16, 2003.
The Southeast Missouri Regional Crime Lab faces \$40,000 in cuts this fiscal year. The lab's budget was \$325,000 for the last budget year. Crime lab and law enforcement officials in southeast Missouri are voicing concern that state budget cuts could slow down the prosecution of crimes. The crime lab handles about 4,000 cases a year for 21 counties. Two other regional crime labs are facing similar cuts.
46. "How DNA Sampling Boosts War On Crime." Press Association, July 16, 2003.
The UK's DNA database has reached one million profiles. Last year 21,000 crimes were detected using DNA evidence, up 132% on 2000. The proportion of crimes solved by police where DNA is loaded into the database is 38%, compared with the overall figure of 24%. In cases of domestic burglary the annual detection rate is around 14%, but rises to 48% when DNA is recovered from the crime scene. There is a 40% chance that a crime scene sample will be matched immediately with an individual's profile. Every month more than 3,000 DNA samples taken from a crime scene are matched with a name on the database.
47. "Reviving Unsolved Mysteries." Charlotte Observer, July 13, 2003.
Hundreds of unsolved rapes going back 10 years or more, as well as dozens of other crimes in South Carolina, will get a fresh look from investigators thanks to a \$450,000 federal grant that will pay for DNA analysis.
48. "DNA testing backfires on convicted Utah rapist." Deseret News (Salt Lake City), July 13, 2003.
In Utah, a convicted rapist gambled that DNA testing would exonerate him, but instead the sophisticated new tests confirmed the jury nailed the right guy after all. He is the first inmate in Utah to make use of a law enacted in 2001 that permits inmate to use DNA testing to clear their names. Negative results are forwarded to the Board of Pardons
49. "Forensic science laboratories may be put up for sale." The Times (London), July 12, 2003.
In the UK, a review of the Forensic Science Service (FSS) has recommended that ministers sell off a majority stake of between 51 per cent and 75 per cent to raise Pounds 30 million for new laboratories to meet an upsurge in demand. The final decision is expected to be taken next week. Police fear that a sell-off will lead to an increase in fees for analysis of samples, currently ranging from Pounds 40 for a standard DNA sample, to Pounds 195 to search an item for bodily fluids, which they have to meet from their budgets.
50. "Albuquerque gets grant for DNA testing." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 11, 2003.
The city of Albuquerque, New Mexico has been awarded more than \$674,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice to use DNA analysis to help solve crimes. The city, the Albuquerque Police Department Crime Laboratory and the state Department of Public Safety will use the grant to review 737 no-suspect cases.
51. "Pryor Backs Tax Package Funding Called Crucial To Law Enforcement Performance In State." Birmingham News, July 11, 2003.
Alabama's Attorney General supports the Governor's proposed \$1.2 billion-a-year tax and accountability package saying it is necessary to avert a catastrophe in Alabama's criminal justice system. Speaking at graduation ceremonies for 26 new state troopers, the Attorney General said a funding crisis has led to far too few state troopers on Alabama highways, lengthy delays in drug and DNA test results from state crime labs, and vastly crowded prisons.
52. "Man awaiting trial on rape charged in 5 more assaults." Chicago Sun-Times, July 11, 2003.

In Illinois, a man awaiting trial for a rape last year was charged with five more attacks after DNA pointed to him as the "SUV rapist" who targeted young women alone on the streets of Chicago. In one case, the assailant left a tissue in the underwear of the victim and in a second case, DNA was found on a tissue thrown out of a window as the victim was dropped off.

53. "Court officials help Russia revamp justice." Connecticut Post, July 3, 2003.
In a recent visit to the Connecticut state crime lab, the director of Moscow Open Social University (Pskov branch) criminal law program, asked how DNA evidence is collected and used in a courtroom. He said that DNA has yet to be used as direct evidence in Russian courts. "We don't have the technology yet for judges to feel comfortable with it," he said.
54. "Police had DNA samples in '87 murder, but couldn't match them." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 10, 2003.
In Pennsylvania, a man charged with raping and murdering a 10-year-old girl in her bedroom 16 years ago gave blood and hair samples to investigators in 1988, but police said that even with repeated DNA testing, they were not able prove until this week that his DNA was at the crime scene. The first examination was inconclusive, and a second test, requested in 2000, but not performed by the FBI's crime lab until 2002, said a pubic hair found on the girl's body contained a DNA sequence similar to the suspect's but not specific enough. The final test that prompted the arrest was performed using advanced equipment that the city's crime lab didn't begin using until last year.
55. "Men Face Mass DNA Tests Over Jodi Murder Hunt." Evening News (Edinburgh), July 10, 2003.
In Scotland, detectives investigating the murder of a schoolgirl are considering DNA testing up to 1400 men living near where she was killed. The victim is believed to have fought against her attacker, causing forensic and DNA evidence to be left on her clothing. Officers have refused to disclose what samples have been gathered, but police say mass DNA testing is now an option.
56. "Bill Gives Police New Powers To Take DNA." The Christchurch Press, July 9, 2003.
In New Zealand, police authority to gather DNA samples from criminals would be expanded in legislation pending before Parliament. The law provides for DNA samples to be taken from an offender's mouth as an alternative to giving blood. Suspects will be allowed to take their own sample under supervision, and prison officers will be able to help police use reasonable force to detain a suspect while a DNA sample is taken. The New Zealand Police Association supported a proposal to allow collection from anyone charged with a crime, with the samples to be destroyed if a person was not convicted, but the idea was dismissed by the committee as unworkable.
57. "State defends its case in rape." Tulsa World, July 8, 2003.
Prosecutors in Tulsa County (Oklahoma) contrast the state's statute-of-limitations law with California's. DNA sets apart a 1987 Tulsa rape case from a California law that erased the statute of limitations for sex-related child abuse, which was recently ruled unconstitutional by the US Supreme Court. Prosecutors note that while the Supreme Court was concerned with Stogner's ability to preserve and present evidence of innocence after decades had passed (California case), the Tulsa suspect's "best evidence is well-preserved -- he has an unlimited supply of his own DNA, which can be tested and compared against the samples preserved from the crime scene."
58. "FDLE reduces backlog of cases needing DNA testing." The Miami Herald, July 6, 2003.
The Florida Department of Law Enforcement says it is close to analyzing the DNA in all of its hundreds of unsolved, backlogged criminal cases. Florida's backlog is down to about 1,000 "nonsuspect cases" after officials reduced the number by 800 cases this year. FDLE has a plan to close the remaining cases soon. Of 56 backlogged cases analyzed by independent crime labs, 16 produced hits on the DNA database, and another batch, the first 13 outsourced cases, revealed nine hits. What pushed the process forward was a \$2.79 million grant from the National Institute of Justice.
59. "Burgled? Why You Still Don't Know Who Did It." Sunday Star Times, July 6, 2003.
In New Zealand, hundreds of burglary investigations are being held up because DNA scientists have been told to focus on serious crime. One case has been waiting nine months for Environmental Science and Research scientists to find time to work on it. Last year, 85% of reported burglaries were unsolved. The 3000 cases submitted for DNA analysis from the total of 60,000 reported burglaries last year was called "the tip of the iceberg", and there is potential to increase the number of common crimes solved.
60. "DNA database proves worth." Omaha World Herald, July 7, 2003.

In Nebraska, four unsolved cases have been linked to suspects through the DNA database. In one case, the database linked an unsolved rape in Ohio to a rapist in a Nebraska prison. In Nebraska's other success, investigators learned last year that they had a serial rapist only because the database showed the same DNA in three attacks.

61. "Killer trapped by a blood spot and nephew's DNA." The Times (London), July 5, 2003.
In the UK, a 1988 murder was solved after a DNA sample from the crime scene was linked to the perpetrator's nephew. Although the DNA search failed to produce a single perfect match, it came up with 600 names of people whose DNA was close enough to warrant further investigation. Detectives concentrated on those with a close link to the area, but the best match they could come up with belonged to a 15-year-old boy who had been convicted of a relatively minor car crime. He also had not been born at the time of the murder. Through additional interviews and investigations, the detectives eventually identified the uncle as the perpetrator.
62. "A Top Forensic Expert Is Sacked." Moscow Times, July 4, 2003.
In Russia, the Defense Ministry has fired the head of the military's main forensic laboratory in southern Russia and ordered that the lab be merged with a military morgue, raising fears that the remains of scores of soldiers killed in Chechnya might never be identified. The shake-up at the laboratory, which over the past eight years has used DNA tests to identify hundreds of soldiers, including the 126 killed when a Mi-26 helicopter was shot down last August at the Khankala base near Grozny, appears to be the result of friction between the ministry and the Colonel who has headed the lab since it was set up in 1995.

Genetic Privacy / Research

63. "Panel Advises Combining Functions at NIH." Associated Press Online, July 29, 2003.
A new report recommended that the National Institute on Drug Abuse be combined with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and that the National Institute of General Medical Sciences merge with the National Human Genome Research Institute. NIH has grown to 27 institutes and centers in recent years, raising concerns that the agency has become fragmented and hard to manage.
64. "As role of race in research questioned, a DNA databank proposed for blacks." The Associated Press, July 19, 2003.
Howard University plans to seek DNA from 25,000 people of African descent. NitroMed Inc is developing a heart drug specifically for people of one race. A group of federally funded scientists hope to study thousands of American blacks in search of genes related to schizophrenia.
65. "Russia: DNA Storage Centre Opens In Yekaterinburg." BBC Monitoring International Reports, July 19, 2003.
Russia's first human DNA storage bank has been established in Yekaterinburg. Any person is free to have their DNA stored if they can afford to part with a sample of their blood, a piece of nail, a hair and 550 dollars.

Paternity

66. "DNA Testing: Paternity tests help safeguard Guatemalan children slated for foreign adoption." Managed Care Weekly Digest, July 28, 2003.
Orchid BioSciences announced that its Orchid GeneScreen unit has entered into an agreement with the Guatemalan government to provide DNA testing services to confirm the identity of Guatemalan children being adopted by foreign nationals.