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The August 27, 2004 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

A California Sheriff is focusing on collecting owed DNA samples from sex offenders. Cold hits aided investigations / prosecutions in California (2 rapes – guilty plea and a conviction), Virginia (rape), Florida (murder linked to burglar; rape), New York (murder linked to Minnesota inmate), and Missouri (murder). DNA was used in missing/identified persons cases in Arkansas, California, Mississippi and Wyoming; and was important to investigations in Pennsylvania (1992 murder), California (vandalism), Colorado (serial rapes), North Carolina (serial rapes), and Washington (1982 murder).

A murder suspect was exonerated through DNA in South Carolina after being held for two years. Post conviction DNA testing in Virginia has exonerated an inmate and linked another inmate to the crime. Possible post conviction DNA testing cases made the news in Ohio and Texas – problems at local crime labs contribute to the call for reviews.

In international news...DNA swab kits in Scotland have identified 14 people who spat on rail staff. Canada's DNA database reached its 2000th hit – including recent hits in a murder case, rape case and a burglary case.

NEWS ARTICLES

Forensic DNA

1. “Autopsy shows girl suffocated; family asks for DNA test.” Associated Press State & Local Wire, August 25, 2004.
In Arkansas, the family of a child whose body was found on the edge of a soybean field as asked for DNA tests to confirm the identity of the body. An autopsy has revealed that the child was suffocated. The girl's adoptive mother said her daughter was wearing different clothes than those found on the body. Authorities said they are certain of the identity of the dead girl, but they do not object to a DNA test.
2. “Men held for trial in Girl Scout's 1992 slaying.” Associated Press State & Local Wire, August 25, 2004.
In Pennsylvania, a district justice ordered three men to stand trial on charges they kidnapped and murdered an 11-year-old girl last seen walking home from a Girl Scout Halloween party nearly 12 years ago. The key evidence against the defendants included an FBI analysis of semen found on the victim's clothes and body. The DNA evidence links one of the men to sex acts performed on the girl, prosecutors said.
3. “DNA Exonerates Norfolk Man.” The Virginian-Pilot, August 24, 2004.
In Virginia, a man who spent nearly 22 years in prison for two rapes he did not commit went home to his family after DNA evidence exonerated him of the crimes. The man was convicted in 1982 of two rapes that occurred within 45 minutes of each other. Each woman was walking from her car to her apartment when she was attacked,

and both testified that the man convicted was the attacker. However, DNA samples collected for his trial were recently found at the state lab. The samples came from the files of a lab scientist whose habit of saving evidence exonerated another Norfolk man of a rape conviction last year. Neither the Norfolk Circuit Court nor the city police had retained evidence from the man's case. The DNA samples point to another man, who is serving a life sentence for an unrelated 1984 rape conviction.

4. "DNA samples don't ID Jane Doe." Alameda Times-Star, August 24, 2004.
In California, investigators have learned that DNA samples from an unidentified person are not those of a woman who had disappeared from her hometown in northern Mexico two years before. She is also not one of seven other missing Mexican girls whose mothers provided DNA samples to sheriff's investigators almost three months ago. The DNA samples provided by the women have been added to state and national missing persons databases.
5. "Sex attacks on rail travellers up 24%." Evening Times (Glasgow), August 24, 2004.
In Scotland, over the last 18 months, 14 thugs who spat on rail staff were identified using DNA evidence from a pioneering swab scheme. Police chiefs have received 54 reports of assault on rail workers since the scheme was introduced - all of which involved spitting. A total of 36 samples were submitted, leading to the identification of 14 thugs and a further 13 profiles placed on the police DNA database. There are around 150 assaults on rail staff every year, a third of which involve spitting.
6. "Rosenthal is not swayed by DNA evidence." The Houston Chronicle, August 24, 2004.
In Texas, the Harris County District Attorney said he finds new DNA evidence in a 1987 rape case unconvincing and that his office must do a thorough investigation before it takes action in the case. DNA tests recently conducted for the first time on evidence from the rape point to a man who was a suspect during the original investigation and exclude the man convicted as a contributor. He is currently serving a 60-year prison sentence for the rape and kidnapping. His conviction was secured, in part, with evidence from the Houston Police Department's troubled crime laboratory that outside experts now say is "scientifically unsound."
7. "'Cold Hit' On DNA Solves Lathrop Rape 7 Years Later." Modesto Bee, August 24, 2004.
In California, a cold hit through the DNA database to an unsolved rape has resulted in a guilty plea. In July 2002, the victim's sexual assault examination records from the 1997 crime were sent to state crime lab for analysis. In December 2003, investigators at the lab made a "cold hit." The man is already serving a combined sentence of over 30 years for a series of crimes carried out in 1997, including rape, armed robbery and attempted murder.
8. "DNA Hit Produces Rape Plea." The Washington Post, August 24, 2004.
In Virginia, a man who raped a woman after escaping from a West Virginia prison road crew 14 years ago pleaded guilty to rape and abduction. The man admitted to dragging the woman off her bicycle and into a nearby wooded area on July 26, 1990. A DNA sample taken from the victim linked the crime to the suspect after a cold hit on the DNA database. The man was serving time sexual assault and burglary when he escaped. He was later stopped by the Florida Highway Patrol in a stolen car and was extradited to West Virginia, where he was convicted of escape, robbery and the aggravated assault of another woman.
9. "Sheriff keeps closer tabs on sex offenders." Alameda Times-Star, August 23, 2004.
In California, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office has embarked on an aggressive campaign to update its database of convicted sex offenders and arrest those who are not complying with the law. There are roughly 200 registered sex offenders who live in the unincorporated areas of the county. Included in the plan is an effort to collect DNA samples that are owed. The sheriff has determined that 28 registered sex offenders have not yet given samples required by law. Those who do not respond to a recent wave of reminder letters will be subject to arrest.
10. "Body found off Union County highway ID'd as Memphis-area woman." Associated Press State & Local Wire, August 23, 2004.
In Mississippi, the body of a woman found off a highway has been identified as a 25-year-old Memphis, Tennessee-area woman. The woman was identified through DNA testing and fingerprints. Autopsy results revealed she had been manually strangled, and police are now looking into whether the woman was a victim of a truck-driving serial killer who preys on prostitutes and leaves their bodies off major highways.
11. "Task of identifying chain collision victims continues." Associated Press State & Local Wire, August 23, 2004.
In Wyoming, authorities are using DNA tests and dental records to identify the dead from a chain collision involving 35 vehicles that killed four people and injured 37. Authorities have an idea who the victims might be,

based on registration of the vehicles and inquiries from worried family members. "We do have a good idea of who belongs where, but we're not 100 percent sure which one goes with which vehicle," said a spokesman. "Until we can positively identify the bodies and make that certainty as to where each one of those occupants belongs, we cannot release it."

12. "Inmate wants appeal, but DNA gone." Plain Dealer (Cleveland), August 22, 2004.
In Ohio, an inmate incarcerated for a 1990 rape is hoping that critical attention focused on a Cleveland crime lab technician will earn him a new day in court. The technician handled the DNA testing for the inmate's case, but unfortunately the evidence the technician tested is now missing. The original prosecutor in the case had serious doubts about the technician's competence, and wrote in a memo about the case that the crime lab "really messed this one up."
13. "Suspended crime-lab technician lands a job." Plain Dealer (Cleveland), August 22, 2004.
Despite mounting questions about his competence, the Cleveland, Ohio crime-lab technician whose flawed analysis helped send an innocent man to prison for 13 years has been hired to head the forensic science program at Youngstown State University. University officials said the man was hired for the position on the recommendation of Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge, who is the former prosecutor who sent a man to prison for rape in 1988 with the now-discredited technician's testimony. He was suspended without pay in June after the inmate's lawyers and forensics experts accused him of "scientific fraud" for his 1988 testimony that the inmate was a likely source of semen and a hair found on a washcloth used by the rapist.
14. "Hair May Link Student to SUV Vandalism." Associated Press Online, August 21, 2004.
In California, a graduate student indicted in a series of firebombings and vandalizing of sport utility vehicles was linked to one targeted SUV dealership by DNA taken from a hair found at the scene. Prosecutors have disclosed that forensics experts matched DNA from hair and saliva samples taken from the suspect to a hair found on a headband at the dealership. A physics student at the California Institute of Technology, the suspect was indicted in March in connection with the damage or destruction of about 125 vehicles in the San Gabriel Valley last August.
15. "Burglar Charged In Death Of Ex-Columbus Woman." Columbus Dispatch, August 21, 2004.
In Florida, a burglar could face the death penalty after being charged with fatally stabbing a woman. The man is serving a one-year sentence in Texas for burglary. Police identified the suspect by matching his DNA to evidence taken from the scene of the slaying. Florida authorities had a sample of Murphy's DNA on file after he was convicted of another burglary in Florida in 2002.
16. "Arrest set for alleged Boulder rapists." Associated Press State & Local Wire, August 21, 2004.
In Colorado, a judge has ruled that enough evidence exists to try a man for the rapes of four Boulder women. Boulder police arrested the man in June after they said DNA evidence linked him to four violent rapes in an apartment complex between 1993 and 1998. An undercover police officer surreptitiously collected DNA samples from the man, his car, his home and his bicycle. The Colorado Bureau of Investigations said tests showed it matched DNA gleaned from the Boulder rapes. Police said genetic evidence also connects the man to an unsolved sexual assault in Colorado and a 1995 assault in Texas.
17. "Sex worker charged in city's first murder of '04." Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada), August 21, 2004.
In Canada, Hamilton (Ontario) police say DNA evidence led them to arrest a female prostitute they have charged with committing the city's first murder of 2004. Police could not divulge what the DNA evidence was or where it was discovered.
18. "Rape suspect has lengthy record." The Miami Herald, August 21, 2004.
In Florida, police have arrested a man with a long criminal history and charged him with raping a 17-year-old girl as she walked to her bus stop on the first day of school. He was identified by investigators who were checking DNA from a sexual assault that took place two months earlier. The man has been arrested 18 times since he was a teenager. His record includes four felony charges, and he served short jail terms in three of those (three months in 1995 for grand theft auto, six months in 1998 for aggravated battery and one year in 2000 for selling cocaine). The department's crime laboratory determined that DNA samples from the June rape matched those provided by the victim in this week's rape.
19. "Shelby Police Reveal DNA." Charlotte Observer, August 20, 2004.

In North Carolina, police have revealed that semen was collected from the underwear of one of three elderly women who died last year under mysterious circumstances. Police now suspect that at least one of the victims was sexually assaulted, although the rape test was inconclusive. The DNA sample is the only concrete evidence police were able to obtain in any of the three cases. The three women were found dead Aug. 23, Sept. 20 and Nov. 10 in their homes. Their phone lines had been disabled and their doors were unlocked. Police have never classified the deaths as homicides but continue to investigate all three.

20. "DNA leads authorities to charge man in 22-year-old killing." Associated Press State & Local Wire, August 20, 2004.
In Washington, a convicted sex offender serving time for kidnap and sexual assault was charged with murder in the 1982 strangling of a 15-year-old girl after authorities traced him through DNA evidence. DNA testing was not available in 1982 and was inconclusive in 1989 and 1998 because the sample was degraded. But a private laboratory, using newer techniques, was able last year to establish a partial genetic profile of the suspect. When the partial profile was compared to the DNA authorities found a match.
21. "Break-in suspect tracked by DNA." Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada), August 20, 2004.
In Canada, a burglar has been identified through a hit on the DNA database. In early July, a thief forced his way into a number of residences, stealing small items like CDs and other easy-to-unload goods. During one robbery, he somehow managed to injure himself on the way in, leaving his blood behind. "I don't know if we approach our crime scenes differently," said one investigator. "We are being much more open-minded. There is potential that there could be DNA evidence there. When it comes to DNA, it's not limited. It's everywhere. It's really becoming endless. When (a suspect) enters a crime scene, he brings something in. When he leaves a crime scene, he takes something out. This is just another piece of the pie."
22. "DNA evidence results in dropped murder charge." Associated Press State & Local Wire, August 19, 2004.
In South Carolina, prosecutors have dropped a murder charge against a man held for two years after DNA tests on a knit cap the gunman wore did not match his. Police arrested the man after a witness identified him from a photo lineup of 25 men. Police also suspected the man after he "lied about being in the area of the shooting and fleeing the area shortly after the shooting," said the prosecutor. The man's attorney questioned why he was not released last fall after results of two hair samples from the killer's cap tested by the State Law Enforcement Division and a lab in New Orleans excluded the man as a suspect.
23. "Man admits murder in 1986 stabbing." Associated Press State & Local Wire, August 19, 2004.
In New York, a man has admitted bludgeoning and stabbing to death an upstate restaurant owner almost 18 years ago. The man had been a cook at the diner owned by the victim. The key to the case was a cigarette butt found in a beer bottle in the victim's house. DNA taken from that butt this year led authorities to the suspect, who had a 1994 criminal conviction in Minnesota. "This was a defendant who would have gotten away with murder but for the DNA databanks that are in place nationwide," said the District Attorney.
24. "City looks to Ohio for fix of crime lab woes." The Houston Chronicle, August 19, 2004.
In Texas, the Houston Police Chief has spoken with his counterpart in Cleveland, Ohio, about the possibility of reviewing hundreds - perhaps thousands - of old criminal cases from Houston dating more than a decade. He is trying to learn more about how the Ohio city has handled its recent crime lab scandal by appointing an independent judicial official, known as a "special master," to oversee the re-examination of cases with convictions that may have been tainted by bad science.
25. "DNA Does It." The Ottawa Sun, August 19, 2004.
Canada has recently made its 2,000th hit on the RCMP's National DNA Data Bank. On the day of the 2,000th hit, however, some 40 DNA matches registered almost simultaneously within the bank's computer brain in Ottawa, so it was virtually impossible to single out which hit was the milestone. The hits include 30 break-and-enters, two sexual assaults, one case of manslaughter, one assault with a weapon, two assaults, one hit-and-run, two murders and one attempted murder. The 2,000 matches represent the bank's assistance in over 137 murders, 352 sexual assaults and 275 armed robbery cases.
26. "Eye-color test added to DNAPrint's toolbox." Sarasota Herald-Tribune, August 19, 2004.
Retinome, a genetics test that determines a person's eye color, was announced this week by DNAPrint Genomics Inc. It will supplement DNA Witness, another company test that measures a person's racial mix from among four major population groups worldwide. Retinome works by pinpointing about 20 positions of genetic variability in

human pigmentation genes along the DNA. By contrast, DNA Witness uses 175 "ancestry informative markers."

27. "Bay State Man Arrested In Rape." Hartford Courant (Connecticut), August 18, 2004.
In Connecticut, a man was arrested in the rape and stabbing of a woman at a subway stop earlier this month in Massachusetts. The man was identified as a suspect when police matched a DNA sample taken from the victim with his DNA sample in the state police database.
28. "DNA testing to reveal source of Dead Sea Scrolls." The Jerusalem Post, August 18, 2004.
In Israel, authorities are hoping that DNA testing of animal bones discovered in excavations at the Qumran plateau will reveal the origins of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Archeologists believe the findings will resolve the debate sparked nearly half a century ago with the discovery of the biblical manuscripts in 11 separate caves on the shores of the Dead Sea. The seven bone deposits of mules eaten and buried inside cleaning pots and storage jars by the Qumran community in the 1st century BCE will undergo DNA testing. Archeologists will compare the findings of the bones with the DNA of the scrolls conducted over the past five years.
29. "20 years after murder, DNA leads to suspect." The Kansas City Star, August 18, 2004.
In Missouri, prosecutors charged a man in the rape and murder of a Kansas City woman almost 20 years ago. DNA from semen at the crime scene where the victim's husband found her raped and stabbed to death matched that of a man in a criminal database. The man had a 1980 sexual abuse conviction. He also has three burglary convictions and one for sexual misconduct. In the past few years, charges have been filed against more than 20 Jackson County men in rapes, murders or both as a result of DNA work on old evidence.
30. "Jury convicts man in 'cold hit' case." Press Enterprise (Riverside, CA), August 17, 2004.
In California, Riverside County's first prosecution based on DNA matched to an unsolved crime has resulted in a conviction. Jurors agreed that a man sexually attacked a woman in 1997 four months after he was paroled as a convicted rapist. The defense had argued consensual sex.
31. "DNA Used To Nail 1991 Rapist." The Toronto Sun, August 17, 2004.
In Canada, the National DNA Databank and a teenager's dirty socks led to the sentencing of her rapist to five years in prison -- 13 years later. It's the second case in which the Toronto Police cold case sex crimes squad has obtained a conviction using the four-year-old databank. It's believed to be the third such case provincially. The suspect was identified when he was ordered to provide a DNA sample last year after an unrelated assault conviction. The victim, a young prostitute, was attacked in the backseat of a car. The attacker wiped up the semen with her socks and she later handed them over to police. The prosecutor said the case was "unusual" because the socks were the only evidence that had survived, including the rape kit. She said it was "the socks themselves which led to the conviction of the accused."
32. "Arrest made in 1983 killing." The Orange County Register, August 5, 2004.
In California, investigators tracking old DNA evidence said they have cracked a decades-old murder case for the second time in two months. A man living in Oregon was being held on suspicion of murder in connection with the strangulation of a Los Angeles prostitute whose body was found in 1983. DNA from fingernail scrapings was entered into the DNA database. The suspect, known to use 18 aliases, could not be found at first because he had not registered as a convicted sex offender as required by law.

Paternity

33. "Court asked to 'depublish' child-support ruling." The Washington Times, August 19, 2004.
A child-support agency is asking the California Supreme Court to stop a ruling in which DNA tests voided a man's obligation to pay child support from becoming a legal precedent. The alleged father in the case said he was never properly served child-support papers and was assigned child support in absentia. He recently underwent a DNA test that proved he was not the father of the boys. When he went to court with his proof, however, the trial court ruled that he still had to pay the child support because he did not protest it in time. He appealed and, on June 30, the appellate court handed him a victory, reversing the trial court decision and declaring that Los Angeles County "should not enforce child-support judgments it knows to be unfounded."