



## April Newsletter

*Better Justice Through Better Science™*

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### *Cybergenetics News*

*[Sexual Assault Awareness Month](#)*



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month—a time to stand with survivors and commit to improving how we respond to sexual violence. At Cybergenetics, we help investigators and lawyers understand sexual assault DNA evidence. Our long-established TrueAllele® system goes far beyond other methods. We deliver crucial untapped DNA identification information. We invented computer unmixing of complex DNA mixtures. Our answers dig deeper into the DNA data, transforming failure into success. When your crime lab or vendor says a rape kit is “inconclusive,” that becomes our starting point for finding DNA truth.

TrueAllele has helped resolve hundreds of sexual assault cases, many stalled by complex or degraded DNA. By making challenging evidence interpretable, we help move cases forward—identifying offenders and innocents, and giving real answers to survivors and families. This month, and every month, we reaffirm our commitment to the pursuit of truth. We apply powerful, science-driven tools to aid sexual assault justice when other scientists cannot.

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## ***Case Highlights***

*[Wisconsin v. David Kahl – closing the Brittany](#)*

*[Zimmermann cold case](#)*

In 2008, 21-year-old University of Wisconsin student Brittany Zimmermann was found brutally stabbed and strangled in her Madison home. Prime suspect David Kahl had long been on investigators’ radar. But crime labs

often cannot interpret their DNA data. The evidence from Zimmermann's clothing was too "limited" for them to handle.



Photo: Brittany Zimmermann. Credit: MPD.

The Madison Police Department turned to Cybergenetics, and the case turned. TrueAllele's math engine easily separated the four- and five-person mixtures into probabilistic genotypes. Comparing them with Kahl's DNA, our computer immediately identified Kahl on five items of victim clothing. After a decade of forensic failure, TrueAllele found [the first definitive DNA link](#).

Kahl pleaded guilty in 2022. He was sentenced in 2023 to life in prison without parole.

**Newsroom**



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DNA Screening**

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[West Virginia v. Tyler Kennedy – defending the  
accused with better DNA technology.](#)

On the morning of April 24, 2016, a West Virginia teenager awoke and learned she'd been sexually assaulted while unconscious at an alcohol-stoked party the previous night. The state crime laboratory tested DNA swabs from her rape kit. But their limited data analysis methods failed. "Due to the nature of the sample and the large number of possible contributors, no conclusions were made."




Lacking DNA evidence, prosecutors erroneously charged the wrong man, Tyler Kennedy (21). His defense lawyer contacted Cybergenetics for scientific help with the "inconclusive" DNA mixtures.

Accurate TrueAllele® computing effortlessly unmixed the four- and five-contributor mixtures. The computer revealed informative non-matching statistics. Kennedy's DNA was *not found* in the DNA evidence. He was statistically excluded by better science. Moreover, the objective computer implicated two other men at the party, showing their DNA was on intimate victim swabs.

On April 26, 2018, a Cybergenetics analyst testified about the TrueAllele results. The technology showed that Kennedy didn't leave his DNA at the crime scene. And that two other men *had* left their DNA. In short order, the jury [found the defendant not guilty](#) of sexual assault.


**Trials**



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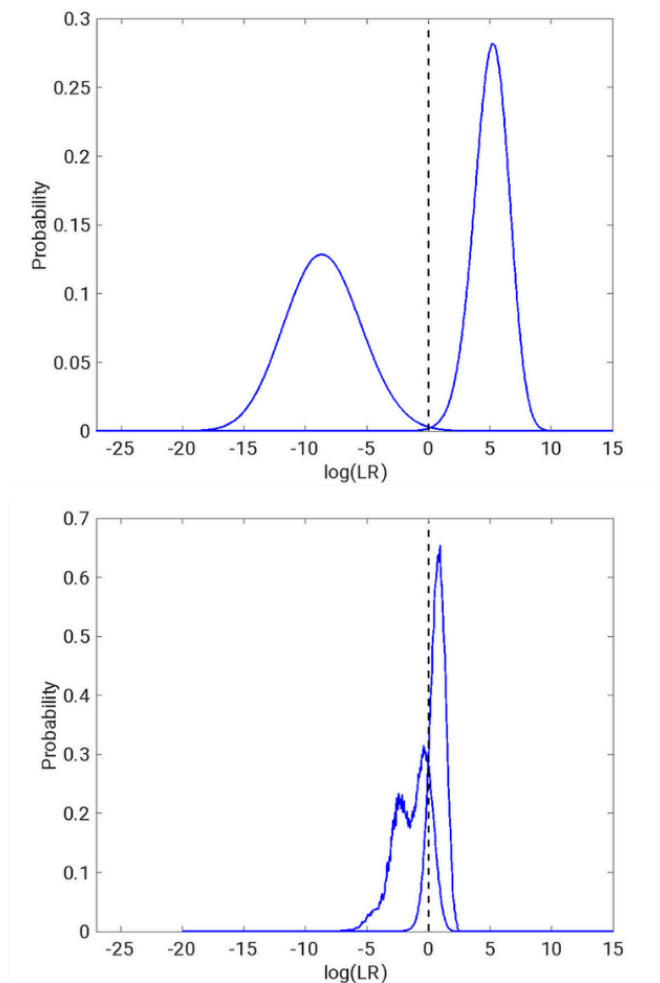


## *Massachusetts v. Edward Wright – why TrueAllele outperforms other software*

Edward Wright "has been wrongfully incarcerated for more than 40 years for a murder he did not commit," according to the New England Innocence Project (NEIP). In working to secure Wright's exoneration, TrueAllele® and some other probabilistic genotyping (OPG) program were both used to examine the same DNA data from a washcloth. This foreign OPG software, called STRmix™, was developed ten years after *Made in America* TrueAllele was invented.

The two PG programs both statistically excluded Wright from the washcloth, but they differed in the strength of their conclusions. TrueAllele gave a strong exclusionary match statistic, or likelihood ratio (LR), of 1 over 475 million. The OPG's LR was 1/6.5, a hundred million times weaker. Why did the OPG fail to get the full DNA match information?


TrueAllele's LR distribution curves are widely separated, thus able to accurately distinguish match (right) from nonmatch (left) LR scores (Figure A). But the OPG's curves collapse toward zero and overlap (Figure B); they cannot make that match distinction 7% of the time. The OPG's LR value falls in the curve overlap region. By using far more DNA data, TrueAllele can get far more match information.



The top Figure A shows TrueAllele nonmatch (left) and match (right) LR distributions on a logarithmic scale. Bottom Figure B shows the two OPG distributions.

On Friday, April 11, 2025, the Court [overturned the conviction of Edward Wright](#). "Judge Buccì found that the prosecution knowingly and intentionally withheld 'significant' exculpatory evidence of a break-in to the crime scene." Building on their success in Wright's sixth motion for a new trial, the NEIP is now seeking his release from prison.

**Ruling**

 **Cybergenetics** Need more accurate science?

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**DNA Screening**

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# Conferences



If you are attending upcoming conferences, stop by our booth to learn how TrueAllele interprets complex DNA evidence data that traditional methods can't resolve. We'll share real case examples, explain how to request a free DNA screening, and answer questions about how TrueAllele supports investigations, defense strategies, and post-conviction reviews. Whether you're reexamining evidence or dealing with inconclusive lab results, we're here to help!

## **APRIL**

- *RISS - Human Trafficking Summit* (Regional Information Sharing Systems)
  - Location: San Diego, CA
  - Dates: April 20-24
- *NACDL - 18th Annual 'Making Sense of Science: Forensic Science & the Law Seminar*
  - Location: Sahara Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV
  - Dates: April 24-26
- *WAHI - Annual WAHI Training Seminar* (Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators)
  - Location: The American Club, Kohler, WI
  - Dates: April 29 to May 2

Stop by our trade booth to learn how TrueAllele technology can help you solve your most complex DNA cases.



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