



# February Newsletter

*Better Justice Through Better Science™*

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## Cybergenetics News

[Cybergenetics at AAFS 77](#)



Cybergenetics is excited to attend the 77th Annual Scientific Conference of the *American Academy of Forensic Sciences* (AAFS) in Baltimore, Maryland, from February 19th to 22nd. We're looking forward to reconnecting with forensic professionals, discussing the latest advancements in DNA interpretation, and showcasing how TrueAllele® continues to be a driving force in the field of forensic science.

Visit us at **booth #104** to learn more about our products and services. Plus, don't miss two insightful talks and a poster presentation (see summaries below) by our forensic scientists. On Friday, February 21st, they will share valuable research and casework applications.

Stay tuned for updates, expert insights, and highlights from the conference!

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## *Case Highlights*

*Maryland reliability ruling holds*



In 2018, an 83-year-old woman was raped and murdered in her Baltimore apartment. The city’s crime laboratory used their TrueAllele® technology to connect condoms from the scene to Tyrone Harvin, who was 14 years old when the crime occurred. After withstanding a 2021 *Daubert* defense challenge, the lab was able to testify about their reliable TrueAllele results. The jury convicted Harvin. He was sentenced to life in prison for rape and murder.

In 2024, the *Maryland Appellate Court* affirmed TrueAllele’s admissibility. Harvin appealed. On January 29, 2025, the *Maryland Supreme Court* [denied Harvin's petition](#) for writ of certiorari. TrueAllele legal precedent is established throughout Maryland.

Cybergenetics invites anyone in Maryland who needs more information from DNA evidence to send their case for free TrueAllele screening. Prosecutors, defenders, crime labs, police and innocence groups are all welcome to find truth in their complex DNA evidence. When your DNA report comes back “inconclusive”, contact Cybergenetics to Know the Answer™.

## Rulings



Need reliable DNA truth?

Complimentary TrueAllele®  
DNA Screening

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## [New York post-conviction motion](#)



In 2017, John Bittrolff was convicted of two New York cold case murders. The bodies of Rita Tangredi and Colleen McNamee had been found in wooded areas on Long Island over twenty years earlier. Both women had been strangled and bludgeoned to death.

The *Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County* sent old “inconclusive” DNA evidence data from the case to Cybergentics for more informative TrueAllele® re-examination. The computer found new DNA evidence from Colleen’s crime scene: a male profile on her vaginal swab, stretch pants and male dungarees, and two additional male profiles.

On January 23, 2025, [Bittrolff moved](#) “for an order vacating the judgment of conviction entered against him on the ground that there exists a reasonable probability that the verdict would have been more favorable to him if this information was known to the jury.”

The motion noted that “prosecutors in Suffolk County have used TrueAllele to re-analyze data on twenty-eight criminal cases and had a witness from [Cybergentics] testify at trial on six occasions about TrueAllele’s findings.”

**Motion**

 **Cybergentics** Need better DNA for justice?

**Complimentary TrueAllele®  
DNA Screening**

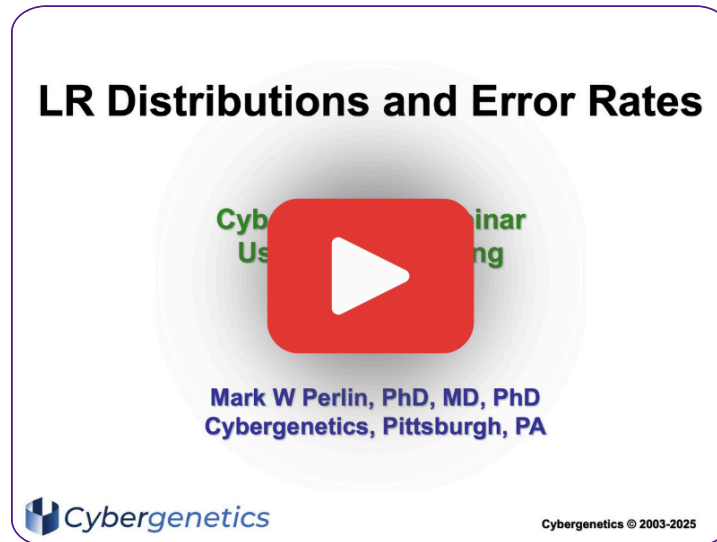
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# Technology Developments

## TrueAllele LR distribution webinar



On January 23, 2025, Cybergenetics presented a [TrueAllele® user webinar](#) on “LR Distributions and Error Rates”. Chief Scientist Dr. Mark Perlin addressed many questions surrounding probabilistic genotype information in the context of low match statistic cases. The forensic science presentation featured live TrueAllele software demonstrations.

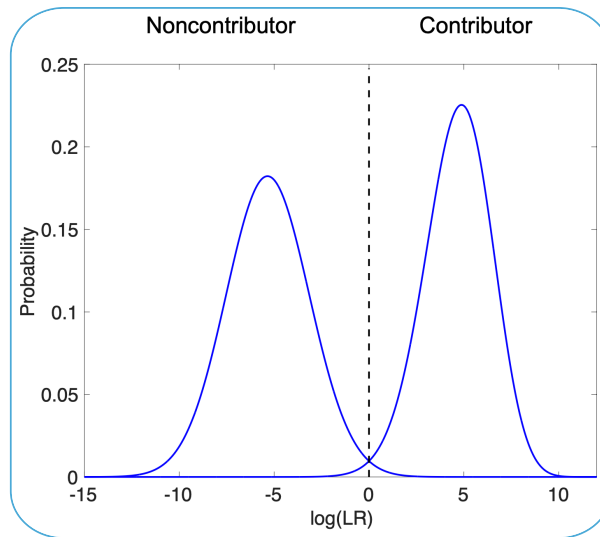
The webinar covered reporting LR error rates, exclusionary results, efficient validation, working without “ground truth”, eliminating analytical and reporting thresholds, and rebutting “fake science” arguments. LR distributions give powerful intuitive answers.

Criminal cases included *US v Curtis Johnson*, *GA v Kerry Robinson*, *US v Alejandro Sandoval*, and *US v Ravel Mills*. Prosecutors, defenders and innocence groups used the neutral TrueAllele evidence. In some cases, TrueAllele overcame admissibility challenges.

[Webinar](#)



## SWGAM PGS validation comments




The FBI's *Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods* (SWGAM) recently invited comment on their new guidelines for internal validation of probabilistic genotyping systems (PGS). On February 14, Cybergenetics [posted their comments](#).

Our comments noted that the new guidelines focused on specific issues with a particular PGS product, rather than on general reliability approaches. Cybergenetics expanded the scope of SWGAM's PGS validation guidelines by discussing these general principles.

Advanced PGS software doesn't need lab calibration, data thresholds, or parameter settings. Genotype LR information, LR distributions, and LR error rates provide validation and reporting solutions. LR sensitivity and specificity can be exactly measured without computing LR values. Casework data can be used to validate PGS, without having "ground truth" knowledge.


Read Cybergenetics' PGS validation comments to learn how this is done.

Comments

 **Cybergenetics** Need more DNA information?

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DNA Screening**

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## AAFS Conference



Cybergenetics will be presenting at the *American Academy of Forensic Sciences* (AAFS) conference held in Baltimore, Maryland from February 19th to 22nd. In addition to being available at Cybergenetics trade show booth (**#104**), our forensic analysts will deliver two TrueAllele® talks and give a poster presentation (**B138**) on Friday, February 21st.

### **Any data, same answer**

11:30 - 1:00 PM - [Different TrueAllele Users, Same DNA Answer: A Multi-Center Proficiency Study](#) - Poster Presentation prepared by **William Allan**, MASc

- Objective TrueAllele® genotyping gets the same DNA match statistics when given the same data. It doesn't matter what laboratory, or which analyst, is running the software. The answers don't depend on DNA sequencer or STR kit. TrueAllele learns lab parameters directly from the evidence data; no software calibration is needed. Our multi-center study supports these findings.

### **Rebutting DNA rhetoric**

1:45 - 2:10PM - [Overcoming Unscientific Opposing Arguments Using Relevant Data](#) - Talk by **Jennifer Bracamontes**, MS

- Opposition lawyers and experts devise flawed arguments to attack reliable scientific evidence. This presentation gives conceptual tools that help rebut baseless rhetoric. Rebuttal methods include LR distributions and error rates. The examples come from criminal cases and admissibility hearings. Science and data can overcome misleading arguments. This talk shows how.

### **Cartridges made easy**

2:30 - 2:45 PM - [Getting More From Less: Low-Level DNA Mixtures on Cartridges](#) - Talk by **Kari Danser**, MS

- Firearm cartridges are common crime scene evidence. Many labs struggle to get DNA information from cartridges. But TrueAllele solves the cartridge DNA problem. The talk shows how TrueAllele extracted more DNA information from cartridge casing data than manual review. The information contrast was striking with cartridges having low-level or mixture DNA.

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