

1 Minutes (Draft)
2 Scientific Advisory Subcommittee Meeting
3 May 5, 2008
4 DFS Central Laboratory, Classroom 1 & 2
5

6 Members Present
7

8 Wanda Adkins
9 Elizabeth Ballard
10 Jeffrey Ban
11 David Barron, Ph.D.
12 Joseph Bono
13 Katie Carlson
14 Dale Carpenter
15 Robin Cotton
16 Angie Cunningham
17 Barry Fisher
18 Michele Gowdy
19 Ann Marie Gross
20 Linda Jackson
21 Bradford Jenkins
22 Cathryn Knutson
23 Dan Krane, Ph.D.
24 Alka Lohmann
25 Peter Marone
26 Carna Meyer
27 Carissa Onorato
28 Alphonse Poklis, Ph.D.
29 John Przybylski
30 Stephen Rodgers
31 Norah Rudin, Ph.D.
32 Brian Shannon
33 Steven Sigel
34

35 Barry Fisher, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee, called the meeting the
36 order at 9:05 a.m.
37

38 Mr. Fisher thanked all the participants for participating in each of the subcommittee. Mr.
39 Fisher had all in attendance to introduce themselves and where they were from.
40

41 Mr. Fisher explained that at the Forensic Science Advisory Board meeting on January 9,
42 2008 that the Board requested the Scientific Advisory Committee to perform and review
43 the Y-STR testing that DFS is validating and report to the Board by the May 7, 2008
44 meeting. It was also requested other new technologies be reviewed for presentation to
45 the Board on May 7, 2008 for Breath Alcohol New Instrumentation, AccuTOF-Dart and
46 Mitochondrial DNA. He further explained that the Code of Virginia by statute formed

47 the Forensic Science Board as a policy board and part of their responsibility is to have the
48 Scientific Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations on new scientific
49 programs, protocols, and methods of testing for the Board's approval
50

51 As Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee, I created subcommittees to review
52 this information and that's why each of you are here today to look into the procedures
53 and protocols of each of the areas. Your subcommittees will report to the Scientific
54 Advisory Committee on May 6, 2008 and then the committee will decide on what
55 information to submit to the Forensic Science Board at its meeting on May 7, 2008.
56

57 Mr. Fisher explained that these meeting are covered by FOIA (Freedom of Information
58 Act) and are considered open meetings and maybe attended by the general public. All the
59 meeting will be recorded and minutes will be taken at the subcommittee meetings.
60

61 Mr. Fisher asked each committee at the end of their meetings today to be able to make a
62 decision or draw a conclusion on these new methodologies. He felt they each had three
63 choices:

- 64 1) DFS is not ready to implement
- 65 2) DFS is ready to implement
- 66 3) DFS is given provisional approval with further information to be given to
67 Scientific Advisory Committee for additional review.
68

69 Each subcommittee shall appoint a Chairman and this person will be required to address
70 the Scientific Advisory Committee on their recommendations at the meeting on Tuesday,
71 May 6th. Each subcommittee's recommendations should be addressed to Mr. Fisher by
72 the end of the day.
73

74 Mr. Fisher dismissed the sub-committees.
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91 MINUTES (draft)
92 Scientific Advisory Committee
93 Subcommittee on mtDNA
94 MAY 5, 2008
95 DFS Central Laboratory, 1st Fl. Conference Room
96

97
98 Members of Subcommittee Present:
99

100 Dr. Norah Rudin (Member, Scientific Advisory Committee)
101 Ms. Catherine M. Knutson (Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension)
102 Ms. Carna E. Meyer (Armed Forces DNA Identification laboratory)
103

104 Staff Members Present:
105

106 Mr. Brad Jenkins (Forensic Biology Section Chief)
107 Mr. Stephen Rodgers (Forensic Scientist II mtDNA)
108 Mr. Brian Shannon (Forensic Scientist II mtDNA)
109 Ms. Katie Carlson (Assistant to Department Counsel)
110

111 Individuals Present at Some Point During Proceedings:
112

113 Mr. Peter Marone (Department Director)
114 Mr. Barry Fisher (Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee)
115 Dr. Dave Barron (Director of Technical Services)
116 Dr. Dan Krane (Member, Scientific Advisory Committee)
117 Ms. Michelle Gowdy (Department Counsel)
118 Mr. Steve Sigel (Deputy Director)
119

120 Call to Order:
121

122 Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 9:26am.
123

124 Mr. Jenkins welcomed the members and gave a brief introduction regarding the
125 establishment of the mtDNA Unit (Unit) and his vision for how the Unit would function
126 once online for casework. He briefly addressed casework flow and intended procedures.
127

128 Mr. Jenkins asked that as the first point of business the members select a Chair for the
129 subcommittee. Dr. Rudin offered to be Chair since she was the only Scientific Advisory
130 Committee (SAC) member and would be delivering the summation to the SAC. Ms.
131 Knutson was offered to chair the subcommittee. There was discussion regarding the
132 Chair duties and the decision was made to adopt Dr. Rudin as Chair.
133

134 Dr. Rudin asked for members to introduce themselves and to offer some background
135 regarding their credentials.

136

137 Ms. Knutson indicated that she was hired at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal
138 Apprehension (MN BCA) in the nuclear section and subsequently became a mtDNA
139 examiner when Minnesota became one of the four regional FBI mtDNA labs. She was
140 trained at the FBI and was co-leader for the Minnesota mtDNA lab setup and validation
141 and has been doing mtDNA casework since Oct. '05.

142

143 Ms. Meyer was hired by Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) as an
144 analyst in the mtDNA Unit. She works mostly bone cases. She is currently a supervisor
145 in the nuclear section and still supervises some mtDNA projects and is still working
146 mtDNA cases, mostly odd bone cases.

147

148 Dr. Rudin offered that she is a private forensic consultant, she had worked with the
149 California Department of Justice (CAL-DOJ) for a few years establishing their lab, and
150 she has held the role of tech-leader for several labs while concomitantly doing private
151 defense work. She performed sequencing in graduate school but has not done mtDNA
152 benchwork; she has reviewed lots of cases and data. She fulfills the molecular biology
153 position on the SAC.

154

155 First Order of Business:

156

157 Dr. Rudin indicated she had just received the validation summaries and would need more
158 time for a thorough evaluation. She asked the other members if they had comments about
159 the protocol and/or how they would like to proceed.

160

161 Ms. Knutson indicated that most of her questions could probably be answered by going
162 through the validation data and Ms. Meyer concurred.

163

164 Dr. Rudin asked if anyone had specific/pointed questions that could be answered.

165

166 Ms. Meyer asked who would be working in the section, knowing that Mr. Jenkins was
167 promoted. Mr. Jenkins detailed who would be doing the work and that a supervisor
168 would be hired, until then he would be providing oversight and technical review.

169

170 Ms. Knutson asked about the training program and if there would be specific training or a
171 combination of training/validation. Mr. Jenkins indicated there is a training program,
172 however the manual was not provided for review. Validation work and training through
173 AFDIL will serve as training for current staff members.

174

175 Dr. Rudin took a moment to explain that issues may arise at the SAC meeting on May 6th
176 regarding Chairman Fisher's best faith effort in appointing the subcommittee members.

177

178 Ms. Meyer asked who the laboratory was accredited by. Mr. Jenkins indicated that
179 ASCLD/LAB has conferred accreditation to the Department.

180

181 Review of Validation:

182

183 A review of the validation commenced.

184

185 Ms. Knutson asked if the Unit had finished validation, Mr. Rodgers indicated validation
186 was done and all data was here.

187

188 Ms. Meyer asked for status of the bone project with University of North Texas (UNT),
189 Mr. Rodgers indicated no data has been received from UNT at this point.

190

191 Dr. Rudin asked for all validation summaries in electronic format.

192

193 Dr. Rudin asked if either subcommittee member had experience with linear array analysis
194 (LA). Both members indicated they did not; discussion ensued regarding which labs did
195 perform this type of analysis. Mr. Jenkins offered that since we do not have hair
196 examiners to perform traditional type hair exams the LA will basically be a screening
197 tool, he also offered a brief explanation of situations where the LA would be employed.

198

199 Ms. Meyer asked about typos in summaries/manual and should she address that. Mr.
200 Jenkins indicated to please mark those areas and the Unit will review them.

201

202 Ms. Knutson asked about LA and its similarity to early DNA analysis, specifically HLA-
203 DQalpha and presence of a control "dot". Mr. Jenkins explained the differences from
204 that earlier form of analysis. Controls "dots" are not present in this system.

205

206 Dr. Rudin asked members about implementation of Chelex procedure in their labs.
207 Members addressed if and where they use the procedure. Members also addressed
208 current extraction protocols in place at their respective laboratories.

209

210 Dr. Rudin asked if Ms. Meyer was involved in the training of the Unit staff. She
211 indicated she was involved for a short time during the Unit visit.

212

213 Dr. Rudin asked what the Trace section will be doing regarding their role in hair analysis.
214 Mr. Rodgers explained that the Trace section will be screening the hairs but offering no
215 formal report regarding hair comparisons. Discussion ensued between members and Mr.
216 Rodgers regarding the extent of documentation by the Trace section particularly in light
217 of the fact that the mtDNA Unit may often times consume the hairs. Members agreed to
218 summarize the issue as a major point for final subcommittee report.

219

220 Ms. Knutson and Dr. Rudin discussed what if any independence the MN BCA has
221 regarding their protocols, since Minnesota is one of the FBI regional mtDNA labs.

222

223 Ms. Meyer asked if IUPAC nomenclature will be used for reporting base calls,
224 particularly heteroplasmy. Mr. Shannon indicated that heteroplasmic calls will be an "N"
225 to the best of his knowledge.

226

227 Ms. Knutson re-addressed Trace documentation issue as Mr. Jenkins had returned to
228 meeting. Mr. Jenkins explained how the Unit will be documenting the hairs. Dr. Rudin
229 suggested that explicit documentation be presented in the standard operating procedures
230 (SOP's) of what the Unit will be doing.

231

232 Ms. Knutson asked to review primer set sensitivity studies to determine input DNA
233 levels.

234

235 Dr. Rudin suggested that members begin reviewing protocol and address validation issues
236 as they come up in the protocols. Members agreed.

237

238 Review of Protocol:

239

240 Dr. Rudin asked for comments on Chapter 1 – Introduction and Sample Requirements.

241

242 Members commented on low-copy number (LCN) precautions. Members commented
243 that LCN and contamination prevention protocols need to be addressed more in depth.

244

245 Members discussed “buzzword” terminology and sample handling requirements and the
246 fact that they all agreed buzzwords should be removed. Contamination prevention and
247 sample handling requirements need to be clearly specified in the SOP. A “*Say what you*
248 *are doing in the protocol*” approach was suggested.

249

250 Ms. Knutson addressed the control region amplification and HV III data and indicated it
251 needs to appear in the protocol. Discussion regarding issues associated with that data
252 ensued.

253

254 Discussion between members regarding bones and unidentified remains next took place.
255 Ms. Knutson and Dr. Rudin discussed when nuclear analysis will be attempted and that
256 this issue should also be addressed further in the SOP.

257

258 The next discussion was about the requirement of knowns for unidentified remains
259 analysis. Mr. Shannon attempted to explain how things will work when Unit is online.
260 Discussion moved into area of contextual bias. Dr. Rudin discussed her philosophy of
261 the analysis of knowns and questioned samples and how that issue should be addressed
262 within the protocol. Members discussed how samples were analyzed in respective
263 laboratories. Discussion touched on how samples are searched in the mtDNA database.

264

265 Ms. Knutson discussed how nuclear examiners will handle samples if it may be a
266 situation where the sample will move forward for mtDNA. She suggested that issue be
267 addressed with nuclear examiners as they may need to be more careful with sample than
268 current nuclear protocol suggests.

269

270 Dr. Rudin and members discussed sample requirements for knowns.

271

272 Chapter 2 - Extraction

273

274 General discussion regarding “batching” procedures and how controls will flow occurred
275 first. Members agreed that batching is acceptable but it really needs to be spelled out
276 more comprehensively in the SOP’s and how the controls for those batches will work.

277

278 Dr. Rudin suggested that each protocol be associated with “checkboxes” for when
279 procedures are complete and data is collected. Dr. Rudin was very emphatic about
280 quality issues and how the procedures should be written clearly. Members agreed.

281

282 Discussion turned to contamination prevention and wipe tests. Members agreed to
283 discuss later.

284

285 Dr. Rudin stressed that the manual really needs to be a stand-alone document.

286

287 Discussion turned again to Chelex and which procedures will be utilized for extraction.
288 Mr. Shannon explained Unit’s extraction procedures and members again addressed what
289 they used in their respective labs.

290

291 Ms. Knutson and Ms. Meyer asked for clarification on when cuttings will be saved and
292 freeze/thaw cycles for samples.

293

294 Ms. Meyer asked about validation of UV tissue grinders. Mr. Shannon indicated the
295 procedure was adopted from AFDIL and was not validated. Ms. Knutson indicated
296 AFDIL should be cited.

297

298 Ms. Knutson suggested a xylene clean-up wash for all hairs that the Unit does not know
299 where they are from, and asked about the Trace section and their participation in removal
300 of hairs from mounting media. Further discussion took place regarding when blanks
301 would be started in those situations. Ms. Knutson suggested more guidance for nuclear
302 examiners when forwarding hairs. Dr. Rudin suggested more information be provided
303 and that this was a training issue.

304

305 Ms. Knutson indicated that procedure for pooling of hairs should be spelled out if it is
306 going to be done.

307

308 Discussion ensued regarding cleaning procedures, particularly the Waring blender cup,
309 and how it should be done. Members also addressed when the Reagent Blank should
310 begin, it was suggested that it start with a swabbing of the blender cup.

311

312 Mr. Jenkins fielded questions regarding issues that had arisen earlier in meeting when he
313 was not present.

314

315 Dr. Rudin indicated she had an adjudicated case and would like to give the Unit the data
316 to see how the Unit would interpret it based on the current protocols/interpretation
317 guidelines. It is an FBI case done with d-rhodamine, predecessor to Big Dye chemistries.

318

319 Lunch break at 11:49am, returned to business at 12:15pm.

320

321

322

323 Chapter 3 - Amplification

324

325 The main concerns were once again sample requirements and handling, when samples
326 would go to LA and when they would go directly to sequencing. Mr. Jenkins addressed
327 the issues regarding how to triage samples to assure the best results.

328

329 Dr. Rudin indicated she liked the LA technology, however she indicated it creates a
330 whole set of issues if in fact DFS is the first forensic lab to use it.

331

332 Members asked that the SOP's be clarified regarding analysis scheme and how samples
333 will be analyzed. (LA, Primer sets, control region).

334

335 Members asked about what was validated for amplification. Mr. Jenkins indicated that
336 half reactions are not validated at this point.

337

338 Mr. Jenkins explained primer set amplification strategy and sensitivity studies.

339

340 Dr. Rudin indicated she thought the Unit had done an excellent job in creating the
341 protocol.

342

343 Chapter 4 - Product Evaluation

344

345 Review of this chapter began with a discussion regarding sensitivity of NuSieve product
346 gels and what if fluorescence is not seen. How low do you need to go and take the
347 sample forward? Mr. Rodgers clarified the point that using the LA study, samples will
348 move forward with sequencing to see what the result would be. Discussion ensued as to
349 what the decision tree is.

350

351 Mr. Rodgers explained that the information members wanted could be found in the
352 specific chapters regarding LA, sequencing etc. Members suggested that SOP's be
353 clarified incorporating a more clear decision tree for sample flow through lab.

354

355 Members discussed if the Unit has addressed primer binding site mutations. Mr. Jenkins
356 indicated the Unit has and they are aware of potential influence on interpretation.

357 Members understood that Unit could interpret potential problems from LA data. It was
358 reiterated that this should be made clear in the SOP's.

359

360

361 Chapter 5 – Linear Array

362

363 General discussion began regarding the HL60 as a control and how it is interpreted. Mr.
364 Jenkins indicated the Unit follows manufacturer's guidelines for array strips.

365

366 Discussion of validation and sensitivity followed. Members indicated that the validation
367 summary should capture that data better.

368

369 Chapter 6 – Purification and Sequencing

370

371 Ms. Knutson questioned where the primers were listed as she did not see them in the
372 reagents list and what the concentration of working stock is.

373

374 Discussion focused on batching and associated controls and how they would be
375 sequenced. In addition, how would associated controls for a particular set of samples
376 move through the process with those samples was discussed. Members agreed that the
377 protocol should specifically address that scenario.

378

379 Dr. Rudin addressed her concern regarding Xterminator procedure and use of film on
380 plates. Mr. Jenkins indicated that the procedure has worked well and Mr. Rodgers added
381 a more complete view of the process to allay Dr. Rudin's concerns.

382 Ms. Knutson indicated that those points would be valuable to capture in a validation write
383 up.

384

385 Ms. Meyer asked if a witnessing procedure is used for plate loading. Dr. Rudin
386 commented that it is a weak link but didn't quite know what to suggest.

387

388 Discussion continued regarding available methods of clean-up and validation procedures.
389 Members encouraged clarification within the protocol about when to use Edge gels or
390 Xterminator. All members agreed that a validation should be written regarding
391 sequencing. The members commented that the data is there and just needs to be
392 summarized. Validations seem to be piece-meal and need to be bolstered by the data. In
393 general, the validation studies don't seem to support the sequencing procedure and a
394 write-up of that data is necessary.

395

396 Chapter 7 - Electrophoresis

397

398 Ms. Knutson asked about spatial and spectral calibrations for instrument and where the
399 procedures are in the protocol. She suggested that this chapter should include; how to do
400 it, criteria for when to do it and when those procedures are successful.

401

402 Members suggested that naming conventions need to be addressed. It would help with
403 information flow and understanding of the data. It would also help in keeping injections,
404 re-extractions, re-amps etc all straight. Data management would be streamlined.

405

406 Discussion also covered manual input of sample names etc. as opposed to electronic
407 import to avoid errors.

408

409 Further discussion regarding Q's and K's on the same plate, how it was addressed and the
410 absence of contamination and crosstalk. Members suggested a specific write-up on the

411 3130 as well as one for the data showing the lack of contamination on plates with both
412 Questioned samples (Q's) and known samples (K's). Mr. Jenkins indicated the Unit has
413 the data. Discussion continued regarding ways to run these types of plates, if at all.
414 Members indicated how their laboratories ran sample plates and offered risk vs. benefit
415 analysis of different ways.

416
417 Dr. Rudin suggested "*demonstration experiments*". Write down what you expect and
418 show that it works.

419
420 Ms. Knutson covered the topic of the "*comments*" column in the instrument software,
421 and its value to function as an audit trail. Discussion continued regarding whether any
422 cell is truly locked during re-extraction of data.

423
424 Ms. Meyer asked about default injection times and if separate run modules exist. Mr.
425 Rodgers indicated that the Unit did have separate modules for both Xterm and Edge.

426
427 Ms. Knutson suggested that the Unit should more clearly define when capillaries will be
428 changed, as well as how negatives will be injected and that it is consistent with the
429 sample injection. Clearly state all of this in the protocol. Also, she indicated that this
430 particular chapter might be an alternative area for spectral and spatial explanations and
431 how-to.

432
433 Sample storage and re-injection will have to be addressed further in the manual.

434
435 Ms. Meyer asked how Unit will interpret data if multiple injections have been done. Can
436 controls be used from one injection while samples from a different injection are used?
437 Mr. Jenkins indicated that issue would be addressed in the interpretation chapter.

438
439 Chapter 8 – Sequence analysis / Sequencher

440
441 Dr. Rudin commented again on naming conventions for analysis software to manage data
442 flow.

443
444 Discussion revolved around print-outs vs. electronic file saving. Mr. Rodgers indicated
445 there would be a little of both and that the software can save data as PDF files.

446
447 Dr. Rudin stressed that the SOP's need to be clearly written.

448
449 Mr. Rodgers explained the Unit's print-outs and what data is captured in those to address
450 specific questions members had. There was further discussion of nomenclature
451 specifically in regards to keeping the naming of samples straight.

452
453 Individual Laboratory visits were conducted. Dr. Rudin commented that the physical
454 plant/facility was excellent. Ms. Knutson indicated the lab was set-up as it should be and
455 that the laboratory set-up should be captured in the SOP's.

456

457 Dr. Rudin addressed that a written report is required by 8:00am tomorrow and they
458 should come to an agreement on major points before the end of the day.

459

460 Chapter 9 - Interpretation

461

462 Initial discussions regarding interpretation focused on amplification/sequence coverage.
463 What will be considered full reportable coverage, two forward reactions, forward and
464 reverse, do they come from separate extraction, separate amplifications etc. Members
465 suggested and Mr. Jenkins agreed that separate amplifications are better. Ms. Knutson
466 explained their lab's take on situation and suggested that the positive control will aid in
467 interpretation.

468

469 The Unit will not use single strand data for exclusionary purposes.

470

471 Discussion ensued regarding which samples will be confirmed by a separate analyst. The
472 Unit will modify SOP's to say all data will be re-aligned.

473

474 Ms. Knutson suggested that the interpretation level be clarified; what is above noise level
475 and how it will be called.

476

477 Dr. Rudin expressed her feelings about contextual bias again and something the Unit
478 should keep in mind as far as support for conclusions. Discussion ensued regarding how
479 MN and AFDIL handle the interpretation of K's and Q's. Dr. Rudin strongly encouraged
480 analyzing Q's first before K's. Dr. Rudin requested specific language in protocol
481 addressing contextual bias. Mr. Rodgers indicated the software does not allow two
482 contigs to be open at once and that may be a way to address contextual bias.

483

484 Discussion turned to reagent blanks and how they are interpreted. Mr. Jenkins attempted
485 to explain the Unit's method with an illustration. There was extensive discussion
486 regarding this as well as extensive discussion regarding contamination. Ms. Knutson
487 indicated that, unfortunately, contamination occurs in mtDNA analysis. Dr. Rudin
488 encouraged going back to re-extract if signal appears in blanks/controls, particularly if
489 you are not limited by sample extract.

490

491 Ms. Knutson indicated most if not all mtDNA SOP's allow for contamination and
492 indicated that conservation of sample is an important argument. Dr. Rudin encouraged
493 transparency in the Unit and suggested several ways to account for or manage the
494 problems regarding contamination in report writing. Members agreed to make a
495 recommendation with separate opinions regarding matter. Issue was tabled.

496

497 Discussion turned to the presence or absence of a contamination log. Mr. Jenkins
498 indicated the Unit did not maintain one and did not see the value, particularly in a
499 mtDNA lab, since the information is contained within the case file. Dr. Rudin indicated
500 the benefits she saw in maintaining one and encouraged the adoption of it. Ms. Knutson
501 and Ms. Meyer addressed what their laboratories did in relation to this issue.

502

503 Discussion ensued regarding tracking of samples through multiple injections, which
504 controls are used and what data from those multiple injections can be utilized. (eg.
505 positive fails in one injection, but works in a subsequent one).
506

507 Dr. Rudin discussed her philosophy regarding the positive and negative control, she
508 disagreed with the protocol regarding going back if the positive fails yet moving forward
509 if the negative fails.
510

511 Dr. Rudin commented that she liked the Unit moving forward with the LA as a screening
512 tool. Ms. Knutson suggested clarifying the interpretation of heteroplasmy with the LA.
513

514 Ms. Meyer suggested the Unit should utilize the IUPAC nomenclature for heteroplasmic
515 sites.
516

517 Dr. Rudin liked the wording regarding interpretation of length heteroplasmy at HVII.
518 Ms. Knutson did not like the wording at all. Extensive discussion ensued regarding
519 interpretation of the HVII c-stretch. Dr. Rudin suggested the discussion be tabled until
520 everyone had a chance to look at the data from her adjudicated case. Ms. Knutson
521 suggested not utilizing the area at all as the community appears to be moving that way.
522

523 Ms. Meyer reiterated that Unit should indicate that all samples will be re-aligned by
524 second examiner.
525

526 Members indicated that the protocol should have a lot more information regarding
527 mixture interpretation.
528

529 Chapter 10 – CODIS / Popstats
530

531 Ms. Knutson suggested changing wording from forensic database to SWGDAM database.
532

533 Dr. Rudin agreed that 95% confidence interval is the best way to provide a statistic right
534 now.
535

536 Discussion began regarding search parameters and which populations will be reported.
537 Ms. Knutson suggested that we should report all populations if the mitotype is observed.
538 Discussion ensued regarding the searching parameters and how things are done in the
539 community. Dr. Rudin wanted to check with others in the community to help provide
540 wording and methods for stat calculations in populations less than 100 samples.
541

542 Ms. Knutson cautioned the Unit regarding a search outside of HVI and HVII and that it
543 would be beneficial to insure that the popstats calculation is correct for those instances.
544

545 Chapter 11 - Report Writing
546

547 Dr. Rudin wanted clarification within the report of what the term exclusion means. Mr.
548 Jenkins suggested incorporating it into the METHODS section of the report.

549

550 Discussion turned to data appearing in the reports in the form of charts. Dr. Rudin would
551 like to see all data reflected in the chart. Ms. Knutson suggested consistency. If you
552 chart, chart it all, or leave the mitotypes out across the board. Mr. Jenkins attempted to
553 explain the historical perspective of DFS and the interpretation of the Code of Virginia.

554

555 Dr. Rudin suggested changing the title of the main sections in "Report Writing" to
556 eliminate "*inconclusive*". Inconclusive = conclusion cannot be reached.

557

558 Dr. Rudin didn't like the use of the term "*consistent*" either; she suggested defining
559 terminology more clearly.

560

561 There was extensive discussion regarding "most probative sample". How and when stats
562 will be done, when the database will be searched; numerous examples regarding these
563 situations were discussed.

564

565 Chapter 12 – Quality Control

566

567 Mr. Jenkins explained the Unit's procedure for peer review.

568

569 Ms. Knutson wanted the quality controls for the 3130*xl* defined more to incorporate
570 spectral and spatial, changing out the array and associated descriptions of reasons to
571 perform these tasks.

572

573 Ms. Knutson indicated that the Unit's QC of primers may be too extensive. Unit is
574 essentially doing a sensitivity study each time, quite possibly overkill. May want to
575 revisit after a year or so.

576

577 Ms. Knutson suggested that the Unit test HL60 with a control region amplification as it is
578 a larger piece of DNA. In addition, add TE to critical extraction reagent.

579

580 Discussion ensued regarding utilization of bone for QC of the bone extraction procedure.

581

582 Mr. Jenkins explained which chemistries will have internal QC and which will not. He
583 did not envision QC'ing Xterm, Edge gels, and formamide. Discussion ensued regarding
584 the pros and cons of the issue.

585

586 Members did not comment on chapter 13.

587

588

589 Return to Validation Data and Summaries:

590

591 General comment was that summaries do not support protocol as written. The Unit has
592 done the work but needs to more thoroughly explain the completed work in the
593 summaries.

594

595 Dr. Rudin raised concern with Chelex again after seeing comment in validation
596 paperwork. Mr. Rodgers explained that the comment was more of a concern for the
597 quant than the extraction.
598

599 Mr Jenkins explained why electropherograms appeared as they did for the sensitivity
600 studies. Combination of input DNA and injection time will sometimes result in a higher
601 background.
602

603 Ms. Knutson commented on Body Fluid/Hair study and suggested that the SOP's should
604 reflect that four washes will be conducted.
605

606 Ms. Knutson suggested elaboration within the concordance study since some differences
607 do exist between the LA and sequencing.
608

609 Ms. Meyer suggested trimming primer data from contigs to reflect the true amount of
610 data generated for the sample. She also indicated that if you have a longer read you
611 might as well report it out.
612

613 Ms. Knutson indicated the Hair / Environmental study supports the request for more
614 documentation from Trace section in light of the results.
615

616 Ms. Knutson mentioned and Dr. Rudin concurred that it would be beneficial to collect all
617 data, as it appears that Unit has done a lot of work, and correlate it all to the various
618 validation studies.
619

620 Numerous comments from members made regarding the validation studies and the need
621 to further collate data to better support validation summaries. Dr. Rudin specifically
622 mentioned that the summaries should be worded to answer the question of the validation
623 study. She also suggested the removal of the word "*consistent*" from summaries.
624

625 At this point subcommittee members agreed to draw meeting to a close. Dr. Rudin
626 discussed draft summary of recommendations that would go into the report to the SAC.
627

628 Dr. Rudin indicated she would provide annotated SOP's, and would generate a report that
629 would reflect the differences of opinion. She commented that everybody had supplied a
630 "*good faith effort*" and hoped that the Unit would incorporate the suggestions.
631

632 Mr. Jenkins adjourned meeting at 6:57pm.