



March 1, 2012

Ms. Minh Nguyen  
Program Manager  
Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences  
National Institute of Justice  
810 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Ms. Nguyen:

I am writing as Chair of the FBI's Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM), a group of federal, local and state forensic scientists that have conducted research on DNA-related issues and recommended guidelines for forensic DNA analysis.

As you may know, the current SWGDAM Y-STR Interpretation Guidelines prescribes the use of the United States Y-STR database (<http://usystrdatabase.org>; US Y-STR) for population frequency estimation. Since its inception four years ago, the US Y-STR database now comprises more than 18,000 profiles and receives approximately 800 queries each month. This database has successfully passed *Frye* challenges in the United States and is the only database that currently employs the SWGDAM-recommended count method with appropriate sampling corrections in its report. SWGDAM, after reviewing the current status and utility of the US Y-STR database, reaffirms its support for the database and recommends that the funding of this useful database be continued. SWGDAM understands the need for the database to grow and will encourage the continued submission of data to the US Y-STR database by the forensic science community in the United States.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (703) 632-7489 or by e-mail at [Anthony.Onorato@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:Anthony.Onorato@ic.fbi.gov).

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Onorato  
Chair, SWGDAM