



# NIST Historical Perspective: Rapid DNA Identification

Erica Romsos

Rapid DNA Technology Forum

Alexandria, VA

August 16, 2017



# Disclaimer

**We will mention commercial STR kit and instrument names, but we are in no way attempting to endorse any specific products.**

**NIST Disclaimer**: Certain commercial equipment, instruments and materials are identified in order to specify experimental procedures as completely as possible. In no case does such identification imply a recommendation or it imply that any of the materials, instruments or equipment identified are necessarily the best available for the purpose.

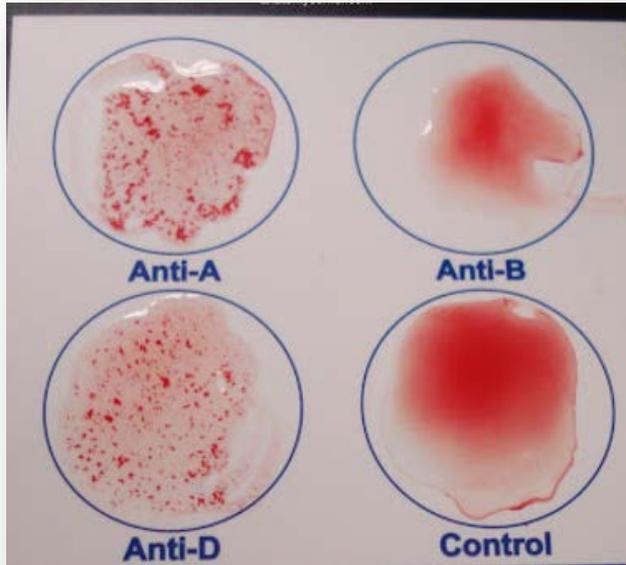
Information presented does not necessarily represent the official position of the National Institute of Standards and Technology or the U.S. Department of Commerce.

# Rapid Overview

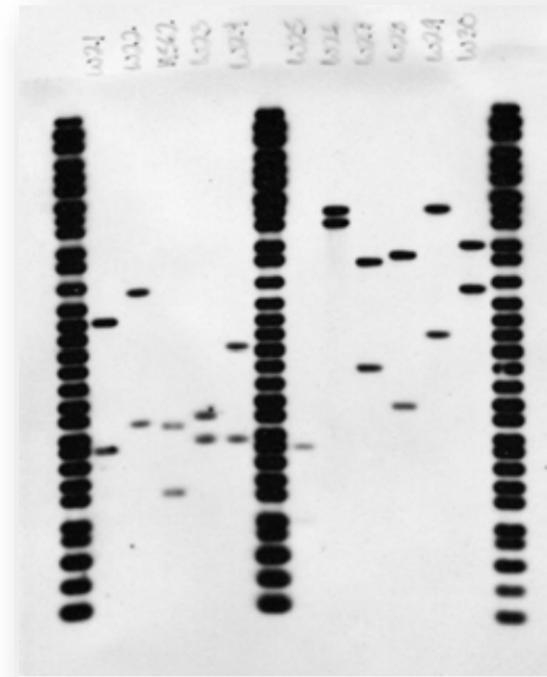
- Before there was Rapid DNA
- Rapid DNA Advancements
- NIST's role in Rapid DNA
- Future of Rapid DNA



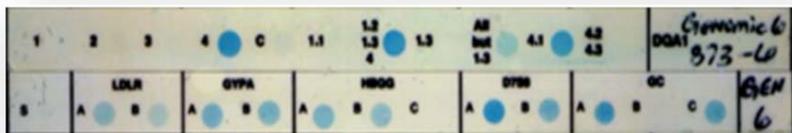
# Before there was Rapid DNA



ABO Blood Typing  
(~1900-1985)



RFLP  
(~1985-mid 1990s)



DQ alpha & Dot Blot Hybridization  
(Early-mid 1990s)

## 42 U.S. Code Part A - DNA Identification

US Code

- § 14131 - Quality assurance and proficiency testing standards
- § 14132 - Index to facilitate law enforcement exchange of DNA identification information

## The DNA Identification Act of 1994

# Then in 1995...

## SRM 2391 PCR-based DNA Profiling Standard Released



National Institute of Standards and Technology

### Certificate of Analysis

Standard Reference Material® 2391

PCR-based DNA Profiling Standard

# DNA typing presented for the first time in a major case

Questions of evidence handling

Validity of DNA typing process not questioned

## DA claims DNA tests tie O.J. to slay scene

By MICHELLE CARUSO in Los Angeles and JERE HESTER in New York  
Daily News Staff Writers

A single blood drop has yielded a one-in-a-million genetic "fingerprint" linking O.J. Simpson to murder, prosecutors charged yesterday as they released the first bombshell DNA results.

That drop and another sample recovered from the place where Simpson's ex-wife and her pal were slain share the same genetic makeup as the football legend's blood, prosecutors revealed in legal papers. Another drop found at Simpson's mansion also proved a match.

"The DNA tests conducted so far implicate the defendant," wrote lead prosecutor Marcia Clark.

The motion — containing the most definitive and potentially damning physical evidence yet against Simpson — came as both sides again sparred in court over dividing crucial DNA evidence.

It also came as prosecutors ripped the defense team for making public a letter to Judge Lance Ito in which the Simpson camp suggests DNA evidence has been tainted and should be thrown out.

Clark revealed that a blood drop found near the bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman has been linked to O.J. Simpson through RFLP testing — the highest level of DNA examination, commonly known as a genetic "fingerprint."

Experts say that RFLP — or restriction fragment length polymorphism testing — can

**AT-A-GLANCE**  
**SIMPSON CASE**

**Developments yesterday in the O.J. Simpson case:**

- **DNA RESULTS:** DNA tests show O.J. Simpson's blood has the same genetic makeup as blood drops leading from the slay scene.
- **PRETRIAL HEARING:** Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark complained about the defense's release of a letter to the judge Friday evening that criticized DNA testing. Superior Court Judge Lance Ito acknowledged that he, too, was concerned but said he would discuss the issue in private with lawyers from both sides. The hearing resumes today.
- **THE ADVICE:** He suggested both sides were using the nationally televised hearings to make statements to the public rather than to him.
- **BLOOD SAMPLES:** Michelle Hester, a director at the LAPD crime lab, testified that some blood-stained swatches were sent to Cellmark Diagnostics in Maryland for DNA testing in late June before the preliminary hearing. At that hearing she had testified that those

**O.J. SIMPSON** wears a serene expression during DNA expert's testimony yesterday while his lawyer Robert Shapiro (center) has a grim stare and lawyer Gerald Ulfstein (left) seems fidgety.

**HAIR SAMPLE**  
This is in the section of the hair contained in the vials before being dried.

**Cell**  
Nucleus

**DNA IDENTIFICATION**  
Samples of hair or blood from a crime scene can be processed to extract the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). Each human cell contains about 5 feet of coiled DNA strands.

**CHROMOSOMES:** Threadlike structures inside the nucleus of a cell that contain DNA and proteins. Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes.

**DNA:** Deoxyribonucleic acid is the chemical compound encoded in the chromosomes of every human cell that contains an individual's genetic program.

**EXTRACTION:** The process of recovering DNA from tissue such as blood, hair, semen and saliva.

**GENE:** A unit of heredity.

## O.J. DNA results are offense's best defense

By STAN GOLDMAN  
Special to The News

DNA results indicating O.J. Simpson's blood was found at the crime scene provide a big boost for prosecutors in their tough battle to convict the celebrity defendant.

The word around the Los Angeles courthouse was that prosecutor Marcia Clark was growing pessimistic over her chances of convincing 12 jurors that Simpson was capable of murder — especially if the defense could prove that the DNA samples on these samples are flawed or that the samples were contaminated before being sent to laboratories.

- Argue that the blood really did not come from Simpson's home and was either accidentally or intentionally mislabeled.
- Argue that the blood left at the crime scene — in front of Nicole Simpson's condo — was spilled sometime before the killings, perhaps when Simpson was playing there with his children.

The DNA results may have been revealed partly as a prosecutorial attempt to get back at defense attorneys for springing leaks.

The results were not relevant to yesterday's hearing, which dealt with the defense request to split all genetic evidence 50-50.

Goldman, a professor at Loyola Law School, will continue his expert analysis for the Daily News throughout the Simpson case.

Other samples are now being tested.

Prosecutors have argued that Simpson's finger was out during a struggle with the victims the night of the June 12 slayings, and that he shed a trail of blood as he fled.

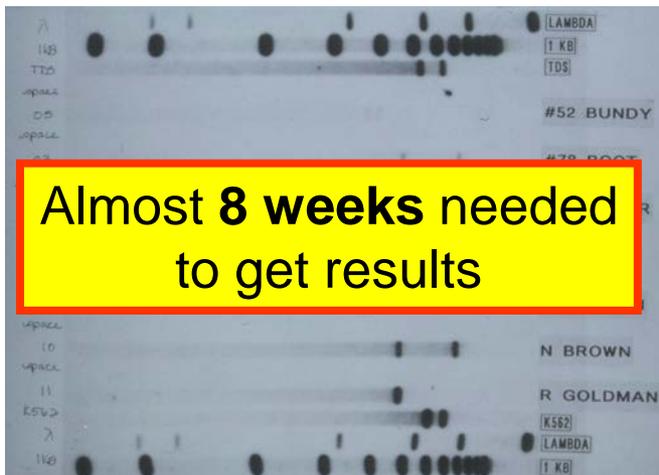
Simpson told police the day after the slayings that he couldn't remember how he injured the finger. His lawyer

body's genetic blueprint, chosen because they vary widely among individuals. The test compares segments from crime-scene evidence with segments from a suspect. The results generate patterns that appear as bands on X-ray film. Segments are tested sequentially; each can take up to a week and sometimes two to produce an image. The testing process can last from five weeks to three months.

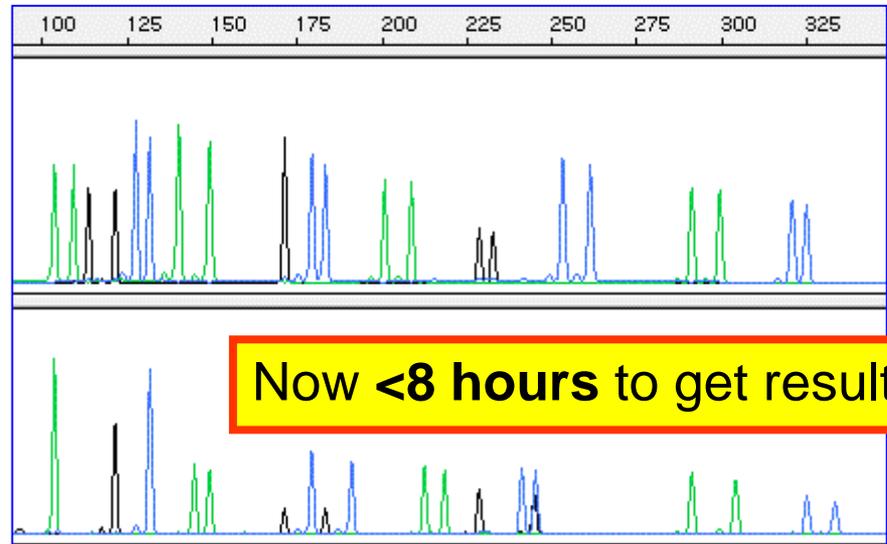
Sample from suspect

# Since 1995...

Forensic DNA typing moved from RFLP to commercial multiplex STR kits



RFLP discontinued US-wide  
2000



- 1996 first multiplex STR Kits available
- 2000-2001 single coamplification kit of CODIS STRs



1997-13 Core Loci defined  
Launched October 1998



## DNA Core Loci Expanding

Thu, Dec 15 2016 by Seth Augenstein

Expanded January 2017

# From 2000s to Present Day

**The forensic science world is on the brink of a revolution**

Human Genome Sequenced

Commercial Multiplex STR Kits >20 Loci

ABI 3100 Genetic Analyzer introduced

ABI 3500 Genetic Analyzer introduced

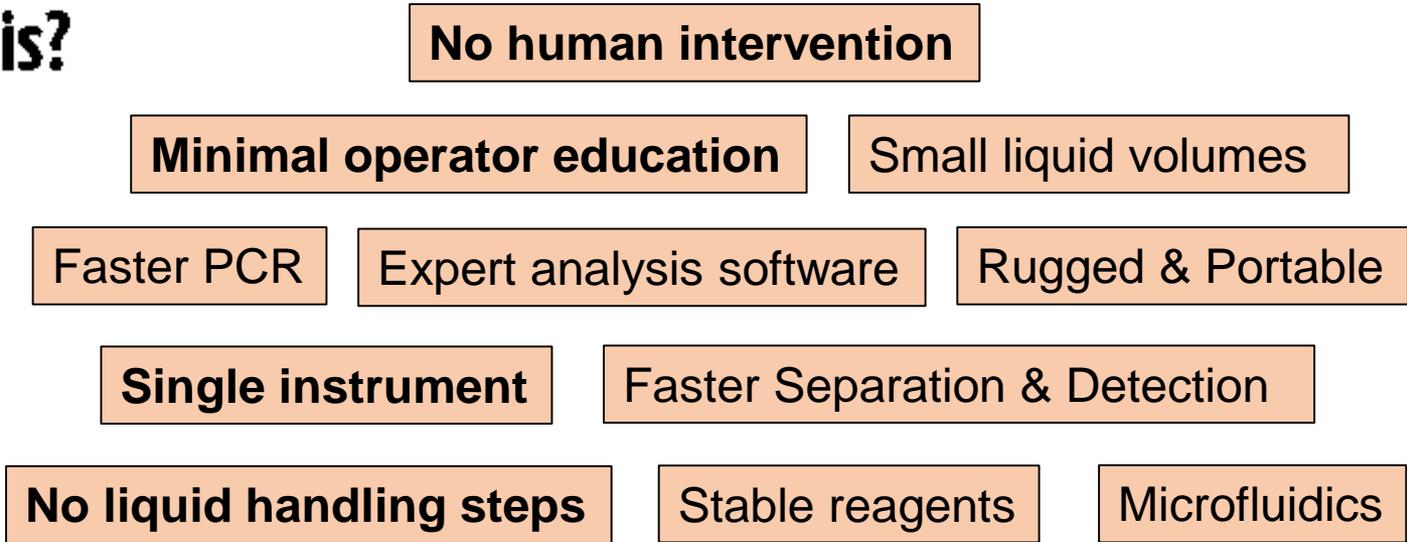
NDIS exceeds 12 million offender profiles



# What If All Law Enforcement Agencies Could Do Instant DNA Analysis?

Forensic News  
Thu, Oct 4 2012

- DNA Typing Process**
- Extraction**
- Quantitation**
- Multiplex PCR**
- Separation & Detection**
- Interpretation of Results**



**Entire DNA typing process in less than 2 hours**

# Rapid Advancements



- Many efforts made to reduce time within the DNA typing process
- Predominant focus area in reduction: **PCR**

Forensic Science International: Genetics 18 (2015) 90–99

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

 Forensic Science International: Genetics 

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fsig)

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Review

Rapid PCR of STR markers: Applications to human identification

Erica L. Romsos<sup>\*</sup>, Peter M. Vallone

*National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 8314, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8314, USA*

 CrossMark

# Alternative DNA Polymerases

- Allow for a higher processivity than AmpliTaq Gold
- Higher resistance to inhibitors
- 16-32 fold increase in efficacy with shorter extension times
  - Allows for reduction in PCR thermal cycling time

*Nucleic Acids Research*, 2004, Vol. 32, No. 3 1197–1207  
DOI: 10.1093/nar/gkh271

**A novel strategy to engineer DNA polymerases for enhanced processivity and improved performance *in vitro***

Yan Wang, Dennis E. Prosen, Li Mei, John C. Sullivan, Michael Finney and Peter B. Vander Horn\*

Anatomy of a Polymerase - How Structure Effects Function

frontiers in  
**MICROBIOLOGY**

EDITORIAL  
published: 01 December 2014  
doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2014.00659



DNA polymerases in biotechnology

Andrew F. Gardner<sup>1\*</sup> and Zvi Kelman<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> New England Biolabs Inc., Ipswich, MA, USA

<sup>2</sup> National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, USA

<sup>3</sup> Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research, Rockville, MD, USA

\*Correspondence: gardner@neb.com

# Rapid PCR Protocols

Standard PCR Cycling  
Time: ~3 Hours

Forensic Science International: Genetics 3 (2008) 42–45

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Forensic Science International: Genetics

journal homepage



Short communication

Demonstration of rapid multiple

Peter M. Vallone<sup>\*</sup>, Carolyn R. Hill, John M.

National Institute of Standards and Technology, Biochemical Science Division



ELSEVIER

Forensic Science International: Genetics Supplement  
Series

Volume 2, Issue 1, December 2009, Pages 111-112



Research article

2009: Identifiler Optimized - 36 minutes

Foster and Laurin *Investigative Genetics* 2012, 3:6  
<http://www.investigativegenetics.com/content/3/1/6>



Investigative  
Genetics

cial STR typing kits

dini<sup>b</sup>, John M. Butler<sup>a</sup>

METHODOLOGY

Development of a rapid generation of AmpF $\ell$ STR<sup>®</sup> Identifiler<sup>®</sup> profiles for genotyping of human DNA

Amanda Foster<sup>1</sup> and Nancy Laurin<sup>2\*</sup>

2012: Identifiler 2-step PCR – 26 minutes

*Electrophoresis* 2013, 34, 1539–1547

Maurice Aboud<sup>1</sup>  
Hye Hyun Oh<sup>2</sup>  
Bruce McCord<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry and  
Biochemistry and International

2013: MP7 direct PCR – 16 minutes

Rapid direct PCR for forensic genotyping  
in under 25 min

*Electrophoresis* 2014, 00, 1–9

Erica L. R. Butts  
Peter M. Vallone

National Institute of Standards  
and Technology, Biomolecular  
Measurement Division,  
Gaithersburg, MD, USA

2014: Identifiler of 3-step and 2-step PCR across  
six thermal cyclers - 14 minutes with Streck Philisa

Rapid PCR protocols for forensic DNA  
typing on six thermal cycling platforms

# Rapid PCR on a Chip

- Reduction of PCR volume
- Miniaturization and integration with microfluidic

**Table 3**  
Summary of studies performing PCR of STR markers on a chip.

E.L. Romsos, P.M. Vallone / Forensic Science International: Genetics 18 (2015) 90–99

Assay/Primers	Polymerase	Thermal cycling	Time (min)	Reference number
AmpFISTR Blue Profiler Plus	AmpliTag Gold SpeedSTAR	Miniature analytical thermal cycler instrument	60	[68]
PowerPlex ES1 17	Not Reported	Custom hydrogel $\mu$ SPEAM beads	110	[71]
MiniFiler	Taq Gold	Non-contact infrared	90	[76]
IdentiFiler	SpeedSTAR	Non-contact infrared	45	[76]
IdentiFiler	AmpliTag Gold and SpeedSTAR HS	Non-contact infrared	42	[77]
IdentiFiler				[79]



*J Forensic Sci*, November 2009, Vol. 54, No. 6  
doi: 10.1111/j.1556-4029.2009.01200.x  
Available online at: interscience.wiley.com

## TECHNICAL NOTE

Heidi Giese,<sup>1</sup> Ph.D.; Roger Lam,<sup>1</sup> M.Sc.; Richard Selden,<sup>1</sup> M.D., Ph.D.; and Eugene Tan,<sup>1</sup> Ph.D.

Katie M. Horsley,  
Ph.D.

Fast Multiplexed Polymerase Chain Reaction  
for Conventional and Microfluidic Short  
Tandem Repeat Analysis

Forensic  
Devices: A Review

ic devices

# Forensic Integration - Microfluidics

## Integrated Microfluidic Systems for DNA Analysis

Samuel K. Njoroge, Hui-Wen Chen, Małgorzata A. Witek, and Steven A. Soper

Review of microfluidic systems which were composed of 2+ microdevices

Integration of liquid extraction with a pre-existing microfluidic PCR platform and  $\mu$ CE

## An integrated sample-in-answer-out microfluidic chip for rapid human identification by STR analysis<sup>†</sup>

Delphine Le Roux,<sup>‡a</sup> Brian E. Root,<sup>‡b</sup> Jeffrey A. Hickey,<sup>b</sup> Orion N. Scott,<sup>b</sup> Anchi Tsuei,<sup>b</sup> Jingyi Li,<sup>b</sup> David J. Saul,<sup>c</sup> Luc Chassagne,<sup>a</sup> James P. Landers<sup>§d</sup> and Philippe de Mazancourt<sup>§\*a</sup>

*Anal. Chem.* 2010, 82, 6991–6999

## Integrated Microfluidic System for Rapid Forensic DNA Analysis: Sample Collection to DNA Profile

Andrew J. Hopwood,<sup>\*†</sup> Cedric Hurth,<sup>‡</sup> Jianing Yang,<sup>‡</sup> Zhi Cai,<sup>‡</sup> Nina Moran,<sup>†</sup> John G. Lee-Edghill,<sup>†</sup> Alan Nordquist,<sup>‡</sup> Ralf Lenigk,<sup>‡</sup> Matthew D. Estes,<sup>‡</sup> John P. Haley,<sup>†</sup> Colin R. McAlister,<sup>†</sup> Xiaojia Chen,<sup>‡</sup> Carla Brooks,<sup>‡</sup> Stan Smith,<sup>‡</sup> Keith Elliott,<sup>†</sup> Pieris Koumi,<sup>†</sup> Frederic Zenhausern,<sup>\*†</sup> and Gillian Tully<sup>†</sup>

Research and Development, Forensic Science Service, Trident Court 2960 Solihull Parkway, Birmingham Business Park, Birmingham UK B37 7YN, and Center for Applied NanoBioscience and Medicine, The University of Arizona College of Medicine, 425 N. Fifth Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85004

First demonstrated fully integrated device without any manual intervention

Run time: 4 hours

# Commercial RDNA Instruments

IntegenX

- RapidHIT 200
  - PowerPlex 16HS
  - Globalfiler
- RapidHIT ID
  - Globalfiler



NetBio/ANDE

- ANDE/DNAScan
  - PowerPlex 16
- ANDE
  - FlexPlex (27)





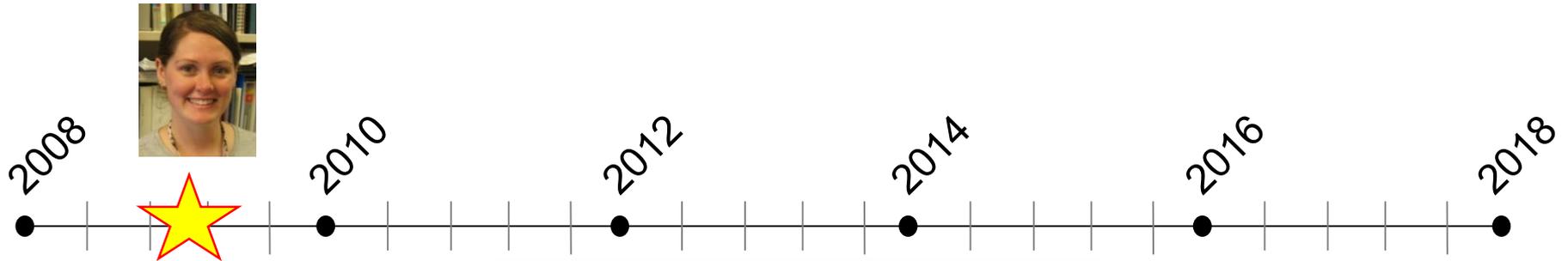
# Rapid Advancements: NIST Edition

How does NIST fit into Rapid DNA Identification?

# Who are we?

- NIST falls within the Department of Commerce
  - Mission: to promote innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology
- Our focus is on making measurements
  - Robust examinations of technology
  - Collaboration with other federal/state/local users
  - Collaboration with industry
- Interagency collaboration with the FBI and DHS

# Rapid Advancements: NIST Edition

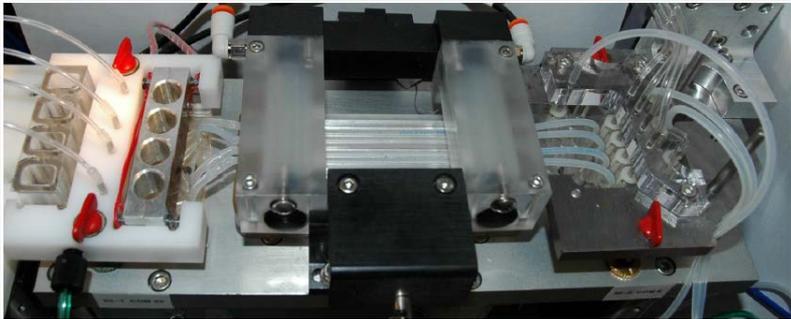


**2008:** Demonstration of RPCR – 36 min



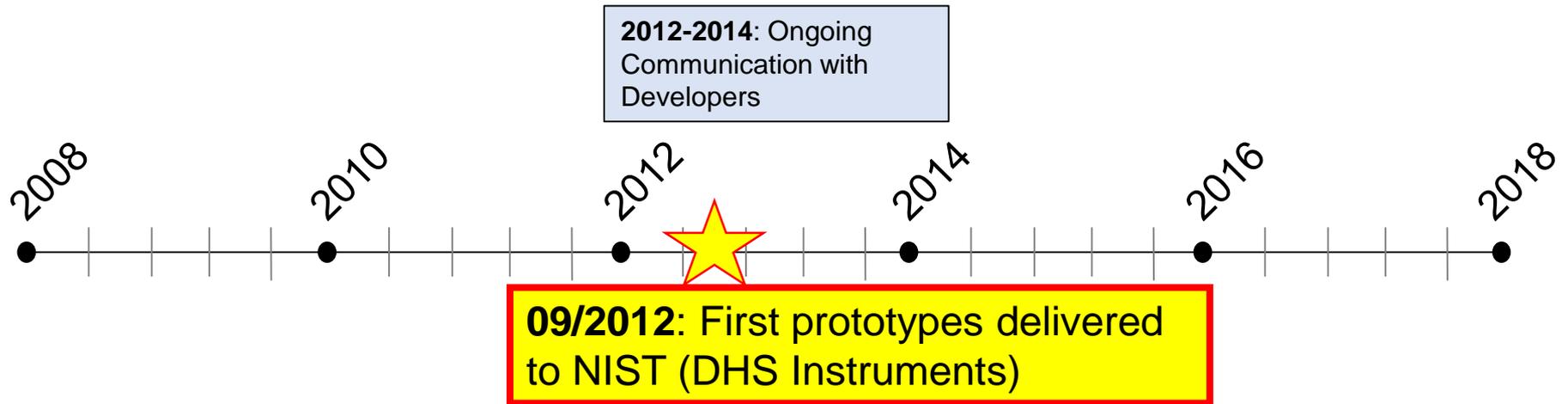
**2009:** Optimization of RPCR – 36 min

**2010:** Apollo 200 Testing (136 samples)



ARTICLE  
**Inside the Black Box: Testing and Validation of a Rapid DNA Instrument**  
Wed, Sep 28 2011 by Peter M. Vallone, Ph.D.

# Rapid Advancements: NIST Edition



**2013: NIST Interlab Study (350 samples)**

**2014: NIST Maturity Assessment (280 samples)**

Forensic Science International: Genetics Supplement Series 5 (2015) e1-e2

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect



Forensic Science International: Genetics Supplement Series

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/FSIGSS](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/FSIGSS)



Rapid DNA maturity assessment

Erica L. Romsos<sup>a,\*</sup>, Sanae Lembirick<sup>b</sup>, Peter M. Vallone<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup>U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8314, USA  
<sup>b</sup>Montgomery College, Rockville, MD 20850, USA

# NIST: 2012 to 2014

- Many developmental changes and upgrades during 2012-2013 timeframe
  - Software, hardware, reagents, consumables, etc
- Over 700 samples run between both platforms
- NIST participation in the Rapid-DNA committee within the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM)

NEWS

## **FBI DNA Quality Assurance Standards Now Include Rapid DNA Analysis**

Mon, Dec 8 2014 by rwaters

# NIST: Interlabs and Maturity Assessments

- Collection and distribution of samples to all participating laboratories
  - IL: 3 laboratories, 350 samples total
  - MA: 7 laboratories, 280 samples total
- Coordination of all testing sites to include return of all data to NIST for analysis and review
- Analysis and compilation of all data
- Summary of results presented across multiple meetings within the forensic and biometric communities



**NIST**  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce  
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Erica.Romsos@nist.gov

## Rapid DNA Maturity Assessment

Erica L. Romsos<sup>1</sup>, Sanae Lembirick<sup>2</sup>, and Peter M. Vallone<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Montgomery College, Rockville, MD 20850, USA



P-148

# Rapid Advancements: NIST Edition



**2015: Rapid DNA Review Article**



**2015: NIST Participates in IXI PP16 DV (100 samples)**

Developmental validation of the DNAscan™ Rapid DNA Analysis™ instrument and expert system for reference sample processing

Stevan Jovanovich<sup>a</sup>, Dean Burgi<sup>a</sup>, Erica Omar El-Sissi<sup>a</sup>, He Lori Hennessy<sup>a</sup>, Al Neelima Mehendal<sup>a</sup>, Francesca Pearson<sup>a</sup>, Peter M. Vallone<sup>b</sup>, Stephen Williams<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>IntegenX Inc, 5720 Stoneridge Blvd, National Institute of Standards and Technology

<sup>b</sup>Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, 2026 Valleydale Road, Hoover, AL 35244, USA  
<sup>c</sup>Michigan State Police, 7320 North Canal Road, Lansing, MI 48913, USA  
<sup>d</sup>Florida Department of Law Enforcement DNA Investigative Support Database, 2331 Phillips Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA  
<sup>e</sup>Defense Forensic Science Center, Office of Chief Scientist, 4930 North 31st Street, Forest Park, GA 30297, USA  
<sup>f</sup>Dubai Police GHQ, Gen. Dept. Forensic Sciences & Criminology, P.O. Box 1493, Dubai, UAE  
<sup>g</sup>National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8314, USA  
<sup>h</sup>Pennsylvania State Police, Forensic DNA Division, 83N. Westmoreland Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601, USA  
<sup>i</sup>NetBio, 830 Winter Street, Waltham, MA, USA  
<sup>j</sup>GE Healthcare Life Sciences, 100 Results Way, Marlborough, MA 01752, USA

**2016: NIST Participates in ANDE PP16 DV (150 samples)**

**2016: NIST Collaboration with LGC ParaDNA**

**2017: NIST Participates in ANDE FlexPlex DV (250 samples)**

# NIST: 2017 and Beyond

- Continuing to provide data in support of discussion within the SWGDAM R-DNA committee
- Subject matter experts for R-DNA for DHS
- Continued support to the R-DNA community and developers

# Future of Rapid DNA

NEWS

## Legal Hurdles Threaten to Slow FBI's 'Rapid DNA'

### Revolution

Forensic News  
Thu, Sep

## Op-ed: Update law so labs can use Rapid

# Sen. Orrin Hatch's bill allowing rapid DNA headed to president's desk

By [Dennis Rombo](#)  [@dennisrombo](#)

Published: Aug. 2, 2017 5:50 p.m.



Leave a comment

Section 1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the "Rapid DNA Act of 2017".

## Hatch's Rapid DNA Act will make communities safer

FRIDAY, JULY 07, 2017 - 4:30 AM

# Future of Rapid DNA

- FBI integration of commercial Rapid DNA profiles into CODIS with search against NDIS
  - Rapid DNA Instrumentation within Police Booking Stations
- DHS continual efforts to employ Rapid DNA typing for immigration, refugee status, and mass fatality response operations for kinship testing



# Acknowledgements



## NIST – Applied Genetics Group

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Sanae Lembirik

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FBI BCOE (Tom Callaghan)

DHS S&T (Chris Miles)

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