

Fragment Analysis Research Group 2004 Study

"The Crime Scene investigators have hired your lab to determine which suspect matches the sample found at the crime scene...."

And so begins the Fragment Analysis Research Group 2004 Study. We believe you will find this study interesting, enjoyable and of value to you and your facility. It is also a great opportunity for self-evaluation.

Welcome to the world of DNA fragment analysis. The ABRF Fragment Analysis Research Group (FARG) would like to invite genotypers worldwide to participate in our current study. Results will be presented at the 2004 ABRF International Symposium in Portland, OR.

The study is based on a "Whodunit" forensic murder mystery using DNAs extracted from botanical samples. Identical sample sets, containing labeled PCR products, will be sent to each participating laboratory with instructions on sample processing. Each participant will submit data using an on-line questionnaire indicating:

1. Instrumentation used in collecting fragment data
2. Allele sizes for the 'victim'
3. Allele sizes for the 'hair sample' found at the crime scene
4. Which 'suspect' sample(s) show evidence of contamination?
5. Which 'suspect' sample is identified as matching the sample found at the crime scene?

Members of the FARG will analyze the data with a special focus on variation attributed to instrumentation used to produce the data. Data and reports generated during this study will be held in the strictest of confidence, with identifying marks and labels removed prior to data compilation and analysis.

If you are interested in participating in this study, send an email to Caprice Rosato [rosatoc@science.oregonstate.edu]. Include your name and complete mailing address for sample distribution.