



### **B56 Decision Branches for Testing of No Suspect Casework**

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The attendee will gain an understanding of the many decisions that are involved in processing samples in no-suspect cases, some of which will also apply to routine casework. This information should assist crime laboratories in addressing the alternative options available and the decision processes involved in testing no-suspect cases in house or in planning for outsourcing of testing as funding becomes available.

In the past few years, there has been increased emphasis in the U.S. on testing samples from unsolved, "cold" or "no-suspect" cases. Funding has recently become available from the federal, state, and local governments to support the testing in these cases. Once funding is available, laboratories have many decisions to make regarding which cases to test and how to prioritize the testing, how the samples from the cases will be selected, screened, and processed, and how the data will be reviewed and entered into databases at the local, state and/or federal level (e.g., CODIS<sup>mt</sup>, NDIS).

At each step in the testing process, there are decisions that must be made which affect the next step of the testing for that case, as well as the overall goals and successful outcome of the entire project. Over the years, Orchid Cellmark has been contracted to provide testing services in suspect and no-suspect casework for many jurisdictions. Because of these many relationships with varied testing strategies and requirements, Orchid Cellmark has gained extensive experience in different strategies used in organizing and performing the testing processes. As a result, Orchid's laboratory is familiar with the various decision branches that arise prior to, during, and after testing of casework samples. This presentation will focus on many of these decision branches a laboratory may want to consider. The merits of various testing strategies and alternative solutions will be presented. These decisions are applicable to crime laboratories which plan to do all testing in house as well as crime laboratories planning to contract out all or portions of their casework.

Some of the areas that will be discussed are: goals of no-suspect casework testing and the resulting selection of cases and samples for testing; screening for stains and presumptive testing in house vs. outsourcing; number of samples per case to test; strategies when samples need to be consumed; strategies when little or no DNA is recovered from a sample; what information could be returned at the end of testing, including reports and report wording, profile printouts and/or electronic files on compact diskettes, tables of results with or without deduced profiles for CODIS<sup>mt</sup> and/or complete case files.

#### **DNA Testing, No-Suspect Casework, CODIS<sup>mt</sup>**