# DEFENDING AGAINST THE NEW DNA "EVIDENCE"



## SO MANY ISSUES ALONG THE PIPELINE...

- 1. Deposit of DNA at source
  - Type, quality, quantity, contributions
- 2. COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION
- 3. Laboratory conditions
  - CONTAMINATION
  - PROGRAMS UTILIZED
  - CERTIFICATION
- 4. Errors during extraction and replication

- 5. ANALYSIS OF EPG BY INDIVIDUAL ANALYST
  - "Noise"
  - OVERSATURATION
  - Number of contributors

## ...MORE ISSUES ALONG THE PIPELINE

- 6. SPECIFIC PROBABILISTIC SOFTWARE PROGRAM
  - ISSUES WITH PROGRAM
  - SUBSEQUENT UPDATES
  - EXTENT AND SPECIFICITY OF DEVELOPMENTAL VALIDATION
    - NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS, QUANTITIES, RELATIVE CONTRIBUTION
    - SOFTWARE VALIDATION CONCERNS
    - NDEPENDENCE

- EXTENT AND SPECIFICITY OF LABORATORY VALIDATION
  - NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS, QUANTITIES, RELATIVE CONTRIBUTION
- APPLICATION OF PROGRAM
  - SELECTION OF INPUT PARAMETERS
  - SELECTION OF REFERENCE DATABASES
  - SELECTION OF INPUT DATA

7. HOW RESULTS ARE CONVEYED QUALITATIVELY

#### IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE MATERIALS TO REVIEW

- PCAST Report (September 2016) AND ADDENDUM (JANUARY 2017)
- NIST Interlaboratory Studies involving DNA Mixtures, For. Sci. Int. Genet. 37 (April 2018)
- BARRIO, ET AL: GHEP-ISFG COLLABORATIVE EXERCISE ON MIXTURE PROFILES, FOR. SCI. INT.
  GENET. (JULY 2018)
- ALLADIO, ET AL: DNA MIXTURES INTERPRETATION, FOR. SCI. INT. GENET. 37 (AUGUST 2018)
- NOEL, ET AL: STRMIX PUT TO THE TEST, FOR. SCI. INT. GENET. 41 (JULY 2019)
- Likelihood Ratios as Weight of Forensic Evidence, J. Rsch of Nat'l. Inst. Stds. & Tech. (2017)
- STIFFELMAN, NO LONGER THE GOLD STANDARD, BERKELEY J. CRIM. LAW., VOL. 24:1 (2019)

# SOME CASES TO REVIEW, CITE, DISTINGUISH:

• LOW-TEMPLATE, 3+ CONTRIBUTORS:

US v Gissantaner (WD Mich) (PENDING CA 6)

US v McCluskey (D NM)

• SIMPLE(R) MIXTURES:

US V LEWIS (D MINN)

PEOPLE V MUHAMMAD (MICHIGAN SUPREME CT)

Insufficient validation testing:

STATE V HILLARY (NEW YORK)

US V GISSANTANER (WD MICH)

DISCLOSING SOURCE CODE:

STATE V DOMINGUEZ (SUPERIOR COURT OF CA)

#### **EVIDENTIARY CONSIDERATIONS**

- DAUBERT FACTORS
  - TESTING
  - PEER REVIEW AND PUBLICATION
  - ERROR RATE AND STANDARDS CONTROLLING OPERATION
  - GENERAL ACCEPTANCE IN RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

- FRE 402: "GATE-KEEPING" AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE RELEVANCE AND RELIABILITY
- FRE 403: RELEVANCE AND PREJUDICIAL EFFECT

FITNESS FOR THE PURPOSE APPLIED