

**DNA Forensic Science: An Update**  
**Agenda for Planning Meeting**  
**Board Room**  
**National Academy of Sciences**

**14 June 1993**

8:00 Breakfast (Members Room)

*Introduction and Overview*

9:00	Welcome and opening remarks	Philip M. Smith Executive Officer National Research Council
		Paul Gilman Executive Director Commission on Life Sciences
9:15	Background and panel introductions	James F. Crow Meeting Chair
9:30	Meeting goals and objectives	James F. Crow Eric Fischer Project Director
10:00	Protocols on forensic DNA evidence for the federal courts	Joe Cecil Federal Judicial Center
10:30	Break	
10:45	Science and technology in judicial decision-making	Helene Kaplan Carnegie Commission

*Presentation and Discussion of Agency Perspectives*

This session will present the views of interested agencies on the key issues that need to be addressed and allow time for discussion of these views.

11:00	Federal Bureau of Investigation	John Hicks
11:30	National Institute of Justice	Richard Rau
12:00	Lunch (Executive Dining Room)	
1:15	Department of Energy	Daniel Drell
1:30	National Science Foundation	Alan Izenman
2:00	National Institutes of Health (tentative)	TBA
2:30	Break	

## *Delineation of Major Issues*

The central purpose of this discussion is to identify the key major issues that must be addressed to resolve quickly the current debate over statistical evaluation of DNA evidence. The results of this session will provide a framework for the detailed discussion to be held by the planning group on Tuesday.

- 2:45      What methods should the study examine that are currently or potentially used in assessing and evaluating DNA profile matches statistically?
- 3:15      What aspects of these methods must the study examine (e.g., their scientific bases, assumptions, potential sources of error, and the effects of possible changes or improvements in procedures or methodology for obtaining and processing DNA evidence, such as increases in the number of loci examined, use of PCR, etc.)?
- 4:00      What aspects of referent populations are critical for the study to examine? For example, is it necessary for the study to examine what is the correct referent population for a given case? What are the key issues with respect to population substructure? What are the critical questions for the study to address with respect to current knowledge and proposed studies of referent populations?
- 4:30      What other key issues need to be examined? For example, what, if any, potential pitfalls and common misconceptions in the interpretation of probability estimates by the courts must the study address? Does the study need to consider sources of error such as differences among laboratories or techniques? Must it take into account alternative perspectives about the assumptions and assessments of uncertainty and their implications in court cases?
- 5:00      Summary of key issues and questions that need to be addressed.
- 5:30      Reception (Rotunda)
- 6:00      Dinner -- Executive Session (Members' Room)

## 15 June 1993

*All proceedings on June 15 will be attended by the planning group and relevant staff only*

8:00 Breakfast (Executive Dining Room)

### *Specific Issues in key areas of expertise*

The purpose of these sections of the meeting is to focus the general questions and issues discussed at the previous day's meeting and cast them in a form that will be most helpful to the study committee when it is formed. Key points to keep in mind during this discussion are:

- the importance of providing appropriate advice to the federal government, in keeping with the NRC's mandate,
- the fast-track nature of the study that is being contemplated, and
- the importance of ensuring, to the extent possible, that the issues are addressed in a way that can most likely be seen as a consensus view of the scientific community.

9:00 Statistical issues Discussion Leader: Herman Chernoff

10:30 Break

10:45 Issues in population genetics and molecular biology Discussion Leader: Wyatt Anderson

12:00 Lunch (Executive Dining Room)

1:15 Legal issues Discussion Leader: David Kaye

2:15 Break

### *Summary and Synthesis*

During this session, the panel will summarize the issues and study plan, with the goal of reaching general agreement on the issues and the essential steps needed to address them.

3:00 Review of issues.

4:00 Review of essential steps.

5:00 Adjourn