

#### **July Newsletter**

Better Justice Through Better Science<sup>™</sup>

### Tennessee Cobra Bar Double Murderer Gets Life in Prison



Before dawn on August 17, 2018, four friends were robbed in Nashville's *Cobra Bar* parking lot. Victims Jaime Sarrantonio and Bartley Teal were murdered. The crime lab couldn't interpret door handle DNA evidence from a stolen car. But TrueAllele computer analysis <u>connected the car to suspect</u> Horace Williamson. On June 23, 2023, a Cybergenetics analyst testified at the Davidson County trial. The jury found Williamson guilty on all 13 charges four days later. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

# TrueAllele Helps Acquit New York Man of Cold Case Murder

On June 10, 1995, a New York City gas station attendant was found strangled with a cord around his neck. DNA was recovered from the ends of the cord. The DNA was too complex for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner crime lab to interpret. But TrueAllele computer analysis showed defendant L.M.'s DNA wasn't on the cord, with an exclusionary statistic of <u>one in 114 billion</u>. On June 22, 2023, a Cybergenetics analyst testified at the trial about the TrueAllele results. The jury acquitted L.M.



Cybergenetics Cold Case – Wisconsin College Student



Photo: Brittany Zimmermann. Credit: MPD.

In 2019, Cybergenetics was asked to test DNA from a tragic 2008 homicide. University of Wisconsin student Brittany Zimmermann (21) was murdered at home in the middle of the day. In February 2020, Cybergenetics <u>developed a DNA match to suspect</u> David Kahl. Crime lab DNA analysis had been "inconclusive" until TrueAllele finally connected Kahl to the victim's jeans. After pleading guilty to killing Zimmermann, Kahl was sentenced to life in prison.

This is just one example of Cybergenetics powerful TrueAllele technology bringing closure to a seemingly hopeless cold case. Cybergenetics wants to help you solve your cold case. When DNA evidence is ignored (incorrectly called "inconclusive", "too many contributors", or "too complex"), please contact Cybergenetics for a free screening to Know the Answer<sup>®</sup>.

Wisconsin Cold Case

## University of California Professor Gets the DNA Wrong

Cybergenetics <u>response</u> to Bill Thompson's (University of California, Irvine) highly flawed Case Report has had over 200 downloads from Elsevier's Social Science Research Network (SSRN) repository. Our paper is of general interest, using Thompson's many mistakes to teach effective "reporting of exclusionary results on complex DNA evidence." We cover 20 concepts and respond to 120 statements.

Our conclusion notes that TrueAllele has been used in 205 defense cases, and 75 innocence cases. In addition to aiding convictions, the system has helped secure acquittals, dropped charges, favorable settlements, and ten exonerations. Cybergenetics has re-analyzed STRmix "inconclusive" or weak LR results on 85 evidence items, finding stronger exclusionary results for 55 of them (65%).

Thompson Response

#### **Upcoming Conferences**

Cybergenetics will be attending conferences in August and September. Below is a list of conference dates and locations. Stop by our trade booth to learn how TrueAllele technology can help solve your most complex DNA cases.

August

8/6 - 8/8 IHIA (International Homicide Investigators Association) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 8/15 - 8/17 CHIA (California Homicide Investigators Association) in Las Vegas, Nevada

September

9/10 - 9/13 ROCIC (Regional Organized Crime Information Center) in Chattanooga, Tennessee

9/11 - 9/14 AHIA (Arizona Homicide Investigators Association) in Chandler, Arizona

9/18 - 9/21 ISHI (International Symposium on Human Identification) in Denver, Colorado



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