

May 2023 Newsletter

Better Justice Through Better Science [™]

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TrueAllele helps Michael Robinson clear his name after thirty years

In 1993, Michael Robinson of Queens, New York was charged with killing his estranged wife, and convicted of second-degree murder. Twenty years later, to clear his name, he had the victim's fingernail scrapings tested for DNA. In July 2018, the NYC crime lab's probabilistic genotyping software could only give an "inconclusive" DNA statistic of 1 over 666. In August 2019, Cybergenetics' TrueAllele reanalysis of the same data found an exclusionary result of 1 over a trillion. Chief Scientist Dr. Mark Perlin testified twice at the Queens court hearing. In March 2023, TrueAllele's new exculpatory DNA evidence led a New York appellate court to vacate Robinson's conviction.

TrueAllele Exoneration

TrueAllele helps deliver justice in Pittsburgh cop killing

Off-duty Pittsburgh police officer Calvin Hall was shot and killed at a street party in Homewood four years ago. Hall was shot in the back three times and died three weeks later. A Cybergenetics expert witness testified about TrueAllele results connecting defendant Christian Bey to the murder weapon firearm. The nonillion-sized match statistic had thirty zeros after the one.

Allegheny County Deputy District Attorney Stephie-Anna Ramaley said physical evidence doesn't lie, citing the TrueAllele DNA connection and video footage. After a three-week trial last month, the jury found Bey guilty of first-degree criminal homicide. "Justice has prevailed and we're thankful that the evidence showed the truth in this matter, so we all miss Calvin dearly and this is justice for him," his father Curtis Hall said.

TrueAllele Justice

Response to Thompson article in the Journal of Forensic Sciences

Last year Cybergenetics prepared a TrueAllele match report for a California defendant. Using all the DNA data, TrueAllele technology found a strong exclusionary likelihood ratio (LR) of 1 over a million. Using just 10% of our input data, a New Zealand genotyping program (STRmix) found a weaker LR around 1 in ten. As expected, using more input data gave more output information.

To block the exculpatory software results, the prosecutor retained Bill Thompson. Thompson, an academic and a lawyer, prepared a partisan report opposing the DNA. His faulty premise was that both programs should have given the same LR values. From that flaw, his report made many inaccurate statements about TrueAllele, how it works, and what it finds. His report wasn't used, and (thanks to TrueAllele) the DNA-related charges were dropped.

Cybergenetics has responded to Thompson. Our <u>manuscript</u> accurately explains the science behind the software methods. Examining the case data input, we show why the two programs should output different LR values. We address 20 misleading concepts and respond to 120 of his statements. Anyone puzzled by Thompson's polemic will find helpful answers in our corrective response.

TrueAllele Response

Cybergenetics TrueAllele helps convict a New York home theft murderer

In March 2020, New York man Lee Pedersen (69) was shot in the back of the head at his Long Island home. Pedersen was a wizard with antique engines. TrueAllele mixture analysis connected DNA in the case to his friend Donatila O'Mahony (43) and her accomplice George Woodworth (76). Match statistics were in the millions and billions. A Cybergenetics analyst testified at the Suffolk County trial.

The jury found defendant O'Mahony <u>guilty</u> of killing her friend and forging his will to inherit his home. "This was a cold-blooded killing fueled by greed, treachery, and the complete disregard for Lee Pedersen's life, all in order to steal the victim's home," said the District Attorney. "The only new home this defendant will be living in as a result of her actions, is prison."

TrueAllele Connection

Cybergenetics presents at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting

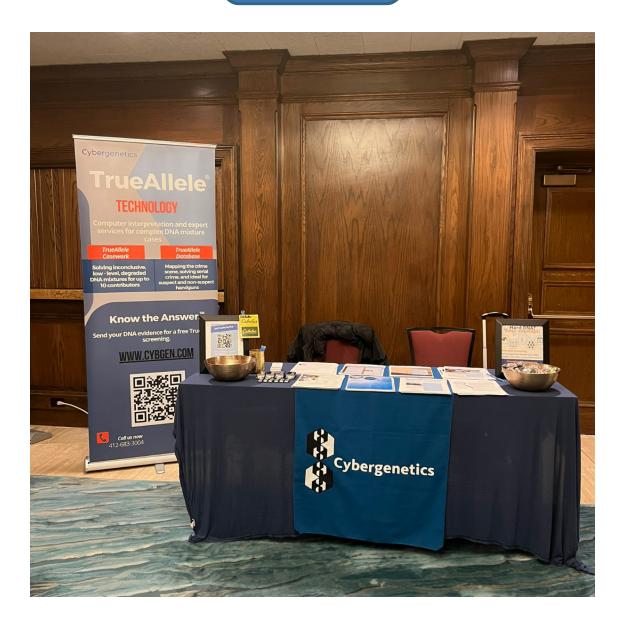
Cybergenetics scientists delivered two talks and a poster at the annual AAFS meeting in Orlando, Florida this year. Bill Allan spoke about TrueAllele identification of victim remains in a South African <u>bus crash</u> using DNA from relatives, solving a mass disaster that had eluded other DNA analysis. Matt Legler told how an automated TrueAllele genotype database easily solved <u>counterfeit drug</u> crime, making hundreds of connections where previous methods had found none. Talk abstracts and videos are provided on the linked webpages.

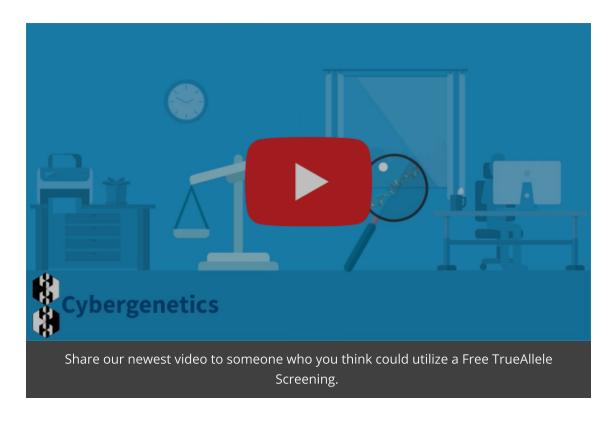
TrueAllele Presentations

Cybergenetics attends Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators conference

In April, Cybergenetics attended the WAHI conference in Kohler, Wisconsin. Cybergenetics spoke with hundreds of crime investigators about how TrueAllele technology and services helps solve the toughest cases. Cybergenetics will be at the International Homicide Investigators Association (IHIA) conference in Oklahoma City on August 6-8. Stop by our booth to learn more about TrueAllele, and the cold cases we work to aid investigations.

TrueAllele Booth











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