COURSE: Advanced STR Mixture Interpretation: Probabilistic Genotyping Using MaSTR™ Software

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Main topics:
- challenges of complex STR mixture interpretation
- properly selecting and applying methods of calculating weight estimates for matching STR profiles
- integrating the science behind probabilistic genotyping
- using MaSTR (SoftGenetics, LLC), a probabilistic genotyping software package
- implementation & presenting the findings of MaSTR analysis in court

Programme structure:
- 5-day course
- Sample data will be provided for practice and for final presentation
- Every student receives lecture notes

Important dates:
Course dates: 15/06/2020 – 19/06/2020
Deadline for application: 15/04/2020
Payment due by: 01/05/2020
Confirmation of the course: 05/05/2020

Price of the course: 300 € (tax included)

Programme plan:

Day 1
Review manual STR profile interpretation, including mixture profiles
Interpret simple and complex STR mixture profiles (GMHID software exercise)
Determine reportable alleles
Estimate number of contributors

Day 2
Interpret simple and complex STR mixture profiles for a collection of samples
Determine reportable alleles
Estimate number of contributors
Generate text files for MaSTR analysis

Day 3
Training on the MaSTR software
Run profile interpretation files through the software
Training on the interpretation of MaSTR results

Day 4
Mine data and interpret results
Conduct statistical analyses
Write reports of findings

Day 5
Assess the overall findings of the students in the class
Compare outcomes between student groups
Discuss PG implementation strategies and presentation of MaSTR findings in court

Programme lecturers:
Mitchell Holland, PhD, Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Forensic Science Program, Penn State University

Teresa Snyder-Leiby, PhD, Director, Marketing, Production Forensics & Fragment Analysis, SoftGenetics