



## October Newsletter

*Better Justice Through Better Science™*

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### ***Domestic Violence Awareness Month***



To honor **Domestic Violence Awareness** month, Cybergenetics highlights the murder case of [\*Commonwealth of Virginia v. David Black\*](#).

In April of 2015, Bonnie Black was stabbed to death in her bedroom while her two young children slept nearby. Estranged husband David Black said he hadn't been at the house. DNA evidence was collected from the master bedroom and bathroom light switches. The *Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS)* developed DNA data, finding mixtures of Bonnie with other people.

The prosecution's theory was that David's DNA was on the bedroom light switch because he was the killer. The defense claimed it was their children on the light

switch instead. And that DNA science can't distinguish David from his children.

DFS sent the DNA data files to Cybergenetics. Advanced TrueAllele<sup>®</sup> data analysis separated the mixtures. TrueAllele found David on the bedroom crime scene light switch, and his daughter on the bathroom switch. David had entered the bedroom, but not the bathroom. The DNA evidence contradicted his story.

On October 31, 2016, Cybergenetics Chief Scientist Dr. Mark Perlin testified about the TrueAllele results before an Arlington jury. David Black was convicted of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to two life sentences in prison.

Bonnie Black is one of many domestic violence victims. If you know domestic violence is happening, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233.

[Article Link](#)

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***Illinois Conference***



Cybergenetics attended the *Illinois Homicide Investigators Association* conference in Itasca, Illinois this month for the second year. We spoke with hundreds of crime investigators about how TrueAllele technology and services help solve the toughest cases.

## ***Students visit Cybergenetics***

On October 5th, 35 high school students from *Pittsburgh SciTech* attended a workshop at the Cybergenetics office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The students learned about the history of Cybergenetics, had a brief demonstration of TrueAllele,

and discussed adjudicated DNA cases. The students spoke with Cybergenetics' analysts and interns about their education and experience in the Forensics field.

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## Upcoming Conference

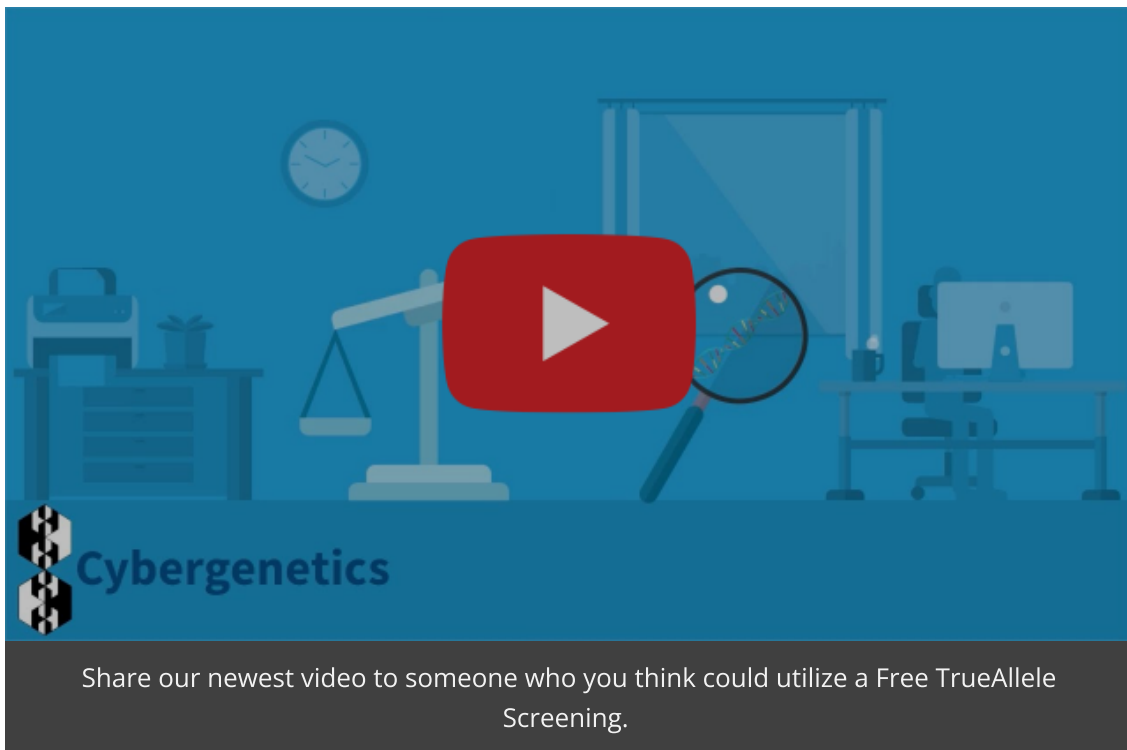
Cybergenetics will be attending the following conference in November, with many others coming in 2024.

*November*

- 11/06 - 11/10 SEHIA (*Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association*) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Stop by our trade booth to learn how TrueAllele technology can help solve your most complex DNA cases. Check future newsletters to see upcoming conferences for 2024.

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