CASE STUDY: ANALYSIS OF AN ANORECTAL SWAB ALLEGED TO CONTAIN CANINE SPERM USING A FLUORESCENTLY LABELED HUMAN SPERM HEAD SPECIFIC ANTIBODY

Marisa Fahrner M.S.F.S., Brett A. Schweers Ph.D., & Karl A. Reich Ph.D.
Independent Forensics, Hillside, IL

Here we present the analysis of an evidentiary anorectal swab that was suspected to contain canine semen. Most methods for identifying sperm from sexual assault evidence utilize a nucleic acid and protein stain (e.g. KPIC or H+E). Due to the non-specificity of these cell stains, another staining technique (SPERM HY-LITER™) was employed to determine whether any sperm cells present in the sample were of human origin. SPERM HY-LITER™ is an antibody based staining technique that employs a general fluorescent stain for nucleic acids, and a fluorescently labeled human sperm head specific antibody. A series of experiments were performed to verify the efficacy and specificity of SPERM HY-LITER™ with the evidential anorectal swab. We present experimental data demonstrating the specificity and sensitivity of SPERM HY-LITER™ as a confirmatory method for human sperm identification on sexual assault evidence.