

- TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF PERUGIA
- TO INDIPENDENT EXPERTS IN THE COURT OF PERUGIA DOTT. VECCHIOTTI AND DOTT. CONTI
- ADVISERS TO THE PARTIES
- TO THE NEWSPAPER "CORRIERE DELL'UMBRIA"

20/09/2011

No Protocols?? Ouch, ouch, ouch ...

In relation to the letter signed by the Director of the Scientific Police and the way of working used by them throughout Italy, it might interest him to know that:

1. The letter addressed to the Court of Perugia was perhaps taken from the proceedings of the conference in which was attended by the same author in Urbino in May 2011? Yes it tells them that "this could lead to obtain a DNA profile in more complex cases where even today the outcome is negative" is, in a way to jam them even more.
2. The numbers of visits on crime scene ("4500") may not be referred to the scientific police in Rome (too many), but not to the entire scientific Italian police (too few) and then you do not understand to what they are referred. This is not surprising because there are no programs for the collection and counting of the data on the whole territory. The collection of data is not uniform in fact, it lacks an operational protocol, and no verification data arriving from all over Italy.
3. There are no uniform procedures and restrictive even for the collection and preservation of easy traces. There are no checklist of any kind. These is not cross-checking on the same samples, so as to verify the reliability of the data provided by a laboratory with respect to another. That's true for any type of analysis, not only for DNA.
4. In the letter, the Director of Scientific Police said as laboratories and offices are equipped with certificates of quality, pointing to the presence of "252 regulatory documents and audits conducted by external specialist firms also European level." The Director may forget (or do not know) that the documents contain prescriptive requirements, thus corrections to be made to have the required certification, because there's something wrong on the procedures.

5. "The scientific - Angeloni wrote in the letter - is equipped with a computerized traceability of the findings, has evolved technical equipment and staff has many years of experience." This statement is meaningless, for two reasons: a) the findings are plotted only when they arrive in Rome and before you know nothing about them, even if they were closed when collected, or shortly before being received (because if opened are not accepted, not to know what happens before and discharge all responsibility). When on the findings must be made more tests (for instance residues of the shot, ballistic, biological, fingerprints, etc.). Practice is that they open the boxes or containers in which the material was packaged and proceed, before the fixed date of start of operations of the "household waste" of the findings comes by, as though they refers on different cases. In this way, the high possibility of losing important information about findings that maybe someone decides to allocate to the ballistics analysis rather than the residues of the shot.
6. Then he says, "Never in the past have been advanced surveys of this nature, which here invests the work of forensic science," but even that is not true. The problems are always there when there is a comparison, when there are consultants with whom we must also confront the scientific domain. In fact, when they invent analysis not internationally standardized (as for example the analysis with carbon-14 on most famous "Pizzini" in Italy), perhaps valid but lacking of any scientific scrutiny, it is clear that you can say what you want!
7. The Scientific Police in the suburbs is not equipped with standard equipment. Just think of the fridge / freezers in use: they are for food purpose! The same protective equipment and safety are not bought for lack of funds. The suits? They are used only when there are cameras around. Masks and headphones? You wear only if there are experts and lawyers! The gloves? We must not waste them and the recommendations are to use them until they break!
8. The chain of custody of evidence (of any kind, think of what happened with the case of Unabomber) is not guaranteed. In addition there are not enough security envelopes and boxes to contain the material that is collected when you make a crime scene investigation visit. Anyone can touch the findings.
9. The refrigeration of the findings is not assured, nor traced. Often, bad organization and bad information that specialists (who?) dispense in dribs and drabs to those who work on the road, do not make the proper

collection of the finding itself that ends up mouldy. Most of the findings, when picked up by the police, are taken away always open and then dried in unsuitable rooms. There isn't in fact supplied to the various offices certified equipment for drying findings, which are allowed to dry near each other on the drying racks household in work rooms.

10. La cleaning tools and surfaces for DNA is normally carried out only with alcohol and never checked with the white control. White controls lack even whenever you fetch a DNA sample ... and not only.
11. When the biological result is not as hoped, the amplification of the track (?) Is pushed beyond any scientific reasonable indication and proceed until you find something (??). It will be also the reason why the result is always the presence of mixed unknown?
12. The prosecution advisor, during the operations of the experts noted that the cycler is not under the hood, as opposed to how it is in the police lab. This is not the right place, because the probability of contamination is very high when placed under any hood.
13. The instrumentation as defined "highly specialized" by the director Angeloni is in many cases without any service contract and, if broken, left idle for months and months.
14. The biological sampling is always completely destroyed, without ensuring the repeatability of the investigation; most of the times is possible, as it is the case in all civilized countries of the world.
15. Nowadays is very fashionable solving cold cases. It's easy assigning profiles to deceased people or doing become useful fingerprint of the fact that at the time were found to be not useful.
16. The police, they say, "scientific" is not equipped with adequate library and does not provide for those who work in different sectors, the possibility to obtain information on international scientific journals. Just look at which the Director Angeloni's education. Is him perhaps a scientist? And maybe a researcher? And perhaps a specialist in the field?
17. In short, there are no clear guidelines inside the scientific police laboratories on any topic that reference work methods recognised by all scientific investigators worldwide.

The icing on the cake ... What does the police? Awards investigators and scientists (who have "solved" in their own way the Kercher case with accolades and praise! Congratulations!!)