



Forensic Nursing training opportunity – Forensic Photography and Alternate Light Source Workshops.

Date: October 18, 2025 (Day 2 of the John Jay Forensic Science Symposium)

Location: John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 524 W. 59th St. NY, NY, 10019

Organizers: Kat Scafide, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAAFS, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, George Mason University, and Jack Hietpas, PhD, Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Instructors: Kat Scafide, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAAFS, Associate Professor, School of Nursing, George Mason University, and Rachell Ekroos, PhD, FNP, AFN, FAAN, Center for Forensic Nursing Excellence International and Nevada HealthRight

Registration: only in combination with the John Jay 2025 Forensic Science Symposium on October 17, 2025 - \$125 (includes lunch). Click here for symposium agenda and registration: [2025 John Jay Forensic Science Event Registration](#)

2025 Symposium Theme: Forensic Evidence in Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence Cases

Morning Workshop

Time: 9am – 12pm

Presentation Title: From Principles to Practice: A Workshop on Medical Forensic Photo Documentation

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. **Explain** the role of medical forensic photodocumentation in clinical, patient-centered, and legal contexts.
2. **Identify** evidence-based guidelines, research findings, and professional knowledge gaps relevant to forensic photodocumentation.
3. **Demonstrate** knowledge of technologies, equipment, and accessories used in capturing high-quality digital forensic images.
4. **Apply** core principles of medical forensic photodocumentation, including image composition, file management, and quality assurance.
5. **Perform** systematic and standardized approaches to photodocumenting overall patient presentation and specific anatomical regions.
6. **Evaluate** images for accuracy, consistency, and evidentiary value while maintaining security, confidentiality, and chain of custody.
7. **Troubleshoot** common challenges in capturing, storing, and presenting forensic images.

Morning Workshop Outline:

9:00 – 9:15 | Welcome and Orientation (15 min)

- Introductions and workshop dynamics
- Review of learning objectives & agenda
- Pre-workshop knowledge/practice self-assessment

9:15 – 9:35 | Foundations of Photodocumentation (20 min)

- Definition: what photodocumentation is and is not
- Why we use it: medical, patient, legal, and other purposes
- Evidence-based or research-informed guidelines
- Knowledge gaps and professional practice considerations

9:35 – 10:00 | Tools and Technologies (25 min)

- Cameras, lighting, positioning aids, and accessories
- Myths vs. objective considerations (megapixels, backgrounds, etc.)
- Scales: types, placement, and purpose
- Anatomy of a digital image, file formats, and quality factors

Activity: Equipment/scales demonstration and participant hands-on exploration

10:00 – 10:30 | Principles of Quality Photodocumentation (30 min)

- Technical aspects: exposure, focus, composition
- “Rule of 3s, 4s, and 5s” in image capture
- Troubleshooting common challenges (shadows, glare, poor contrast)
- Systematic processes: workflow, storage, security, and transfer

Activity: Small-group image capture and troubleshooting exercise

10:30 – 10:40 | Break (10 min)

10:40 – 11:40 | Region-Specific Photodocumentation (60 min)

- Overall patient presentation: identification vs. presentation; overlapping images
- Anatomical regions (each with lecture, demonstration, guided practice):
 - Head and face
 - Neck
 - Eyes (gaze positions, pitfalls)
 - Ears
 - Mouth/oral cavity
 - Torso (anterior & posterior)
 - Arms and hands
 - Legs and feet

Activity: Rotating practice stations or guided demonstrations with participant practice

11:40 – 11:55 | Review and Integration (15 min)

- Group review of selected participant images (peer and instructor feedback)
- Troubleshooting: what worked, what didn't
- Reinforcement of consistency and legal admissibility considerations

11:55 – 12:00 | Wrap-Up (5 min)

- Key takeaways and resources for continued learning
- Post-workshop assessment
- Q&A
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Break for Lunch (12 – 1pm)

Afternoon - Workshop

Time: 1pm – 4pm

Presentation Title: ALS in Action: Clinical Integration and Documentation Workshop

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. **Describe** the principles of fluorescence and absorption that underlie ALS technology.
2. **Integrate** ALS findings into written and photographic forensic documentation.
3. **Summarize** current clinical recommendations for ALS use in medical forensic examinations.
4. **Observe** best practices for ALS photo documentation through demonstration.
5. **Apply** ALS techniques in a hands-on setting using equipment, controlled environments,

Afternoon Workshop Outline

1:00 – 1:15 | Welcome & Orientation (15 min)

- Overview of session objectives and agenda
- Safety briefing for ALS use (eye protection, environment, etc.)

1:15 – 2:00 | Didactic Session (45 min)

- **Integrating ALS into Documentation**
 - Written notes: terminology, descriptors, and qualifiers
 - Photography: principles, limitations, demonstration (no participant photos taken)
- **Fluorescence and Absorption**
 - How ALS interacts with skin and tissue
 - Variability across skin tones and injury stages
- **Clinical Recommendations**
 - Evidence-informed protocols for incorporating ALS into exams

- When and how to use ALS as a screening versus documentation tool

2:00 – 2:10 | Break & Room Transition (10 min)

2:10 – 3:40 | Hands-On Practice (90 min)

- **Setup:** multiple practice stations (ideally in separate rooms or using pop-up changing tents for privacy)
- **Participant Activities:**
 - Practice operating ALS devices (different wavelengths/filters)
 - Observe fluorescence vs. absorption responses on simulated models or practice surfaces
 - Apply recommended clinical techniques for scanning and documenting findings
 - Rotate between stations with faculty guidance and feedback

3:40 – 3:55 | Group Debrief & Troubleshooting (15 min)

- Discussion of challenges encountered during practice
- Tips for standardization and workflow integration
- Legal considerations: admissibility, limitations, and language in reports

3:55 – 4:00 | Wrap-Up (5 min)

- Key takeaways
- Q&A
- Resources for further study and practice