NEAFS Newsletter

Volume 49, Issue 3 Fall 2024

2024

Board of Directors

President
Stephanie Minero

Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner, Division of Forensic Service
1194 Prospect Avenue
Westbury, NY 11590
president@neafs.org

President-Elect
Alanna Laureano

NEAFS President-Elect
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
presidentelect@neafs.org

Treasurer
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NEAFS Treasurer
500 Sea Girt Ave.
Sea Girt, NJ 08750
treasurer@neafs.org

Secretary
Amanda White

NEAFS Secretary
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
secretary@neafs.org

Director
Danielle Malone

NYC - OCME FBio
421 E 26 Street
New York, NY 10016
director1@neafs.org

Director
Sarah Roseman

Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner, Division of Forensic Service
1194 Prospect Avenue
Westbury, NY 11590
director2@neafs.org

Director
Anisha Paul

NEAFS Director
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
director3@neafs.org

2024

Staff

Past President
Elizabeth Duval

Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
124 Acton Street
Maynard, MA 01754
pastpresident@neafs.org

Publications Chair
Brandi Clark

NEAFS Publications
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
publications@neafs.org

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Adrian Garcia Sega

NEAFS Executive Secretary
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
executivesecretary@neafs.org

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Eric Sorrentino

NEAFS Executive Secretary
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
awards@neafs.org

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Sandra Haddad

Bay Path University
588 Longmeadow St
Longmeadow, MA 01106
education@neafs.org

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Angela Vialotti

NEAFS Ethics
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
ethics@neafs.org

Registration Chair
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Lasell University
1844 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02466
registration@neafs.org

Corporate Liaison
Keri LaBelle

Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab
124 Acton Street
Maynard MA 01754
exhibits@neafs.org

2024

Staff

Membership Chair
Joseph Phillips

NEAFS Membership
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
membership@neafs.org

Dues
Angelina Pollen

NEAFS Dues
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
dues@neafs.org

Social Media Coordinator
Alyssa Berthiaume

NEAFS Social Media Coordinator
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
merchandise@neafs.org

Certification Chair
Peter Diaczuk

John Jay College, Dept of Sciences
524 W 59th street
New York, NY 10019
certification@neafs.org

Site Chair
Janine Kishbaugh

Cedar Crest College
100 College Drive
Allentown, PA 18104
sitechair@neafs.org

Outreach Coordinator
Scott Rubins

NEAFS Outreach Coordinator
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
outreach@neafs.org

Volunteer Coordinator
Saman Saleem

NEAFS Volunteer Coordinator
PO Box 135
Hawthorne, NY 10532
volunteer@neafs.org

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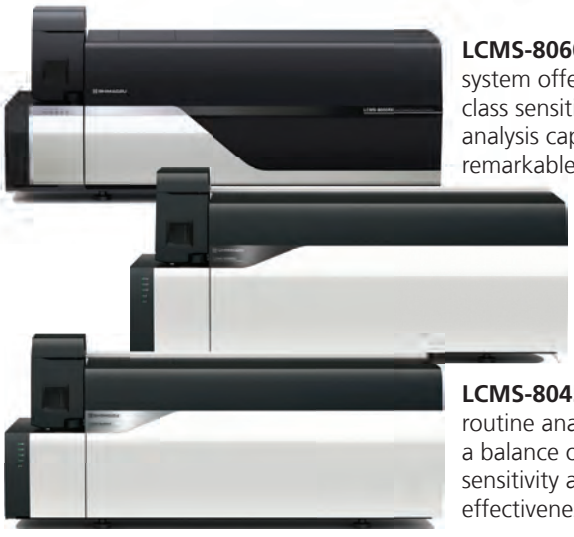

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MEET THE 2024 BOD

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NYPD Police Laboratory, Controlled Substance Analysis 2008-2011
BS in Forensic Science- Long Island University/CW Post
MS in Biology- Long Island University/CW Post

Alanna Laureano– President-elect

Westchester County Department of Labs & Research, Division of Forensic Sciences Since 2007
Senior Forensic Scientist and DNA Technical Leader
BS in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry- University at Albany, SUNY
MS in Forensic Biology- University at Albany, SUNY

Matthew Marino - Treasurer

New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences, East Regional Laboratory Since 11/2011
Forensic Scientist 2 in the Drug Unit, Criminalistics Unit and Quality Assurance Unit
Forensic Technician, Westchester County, NY Forensic Laboratory from 07/2007 to 09/2011
BS in Natural Sciences with a concentration in Chemistry-St. Thomas Aquinas College

Amanda White - Secretary

New York State Police Crime Laboratory, FS III- Controlled Substance Analysis from 2019-Present
Westchester County Department of Labs & Research, Controlled Substance Analysis 2016-2019
NYPD Police Laboratory, Controlled Substance Analysis/Latent Print Development 2011-2016
MS Biomedical Forensic Science, Boston University
BS Biology & Anthropology, SUNY Oneonta

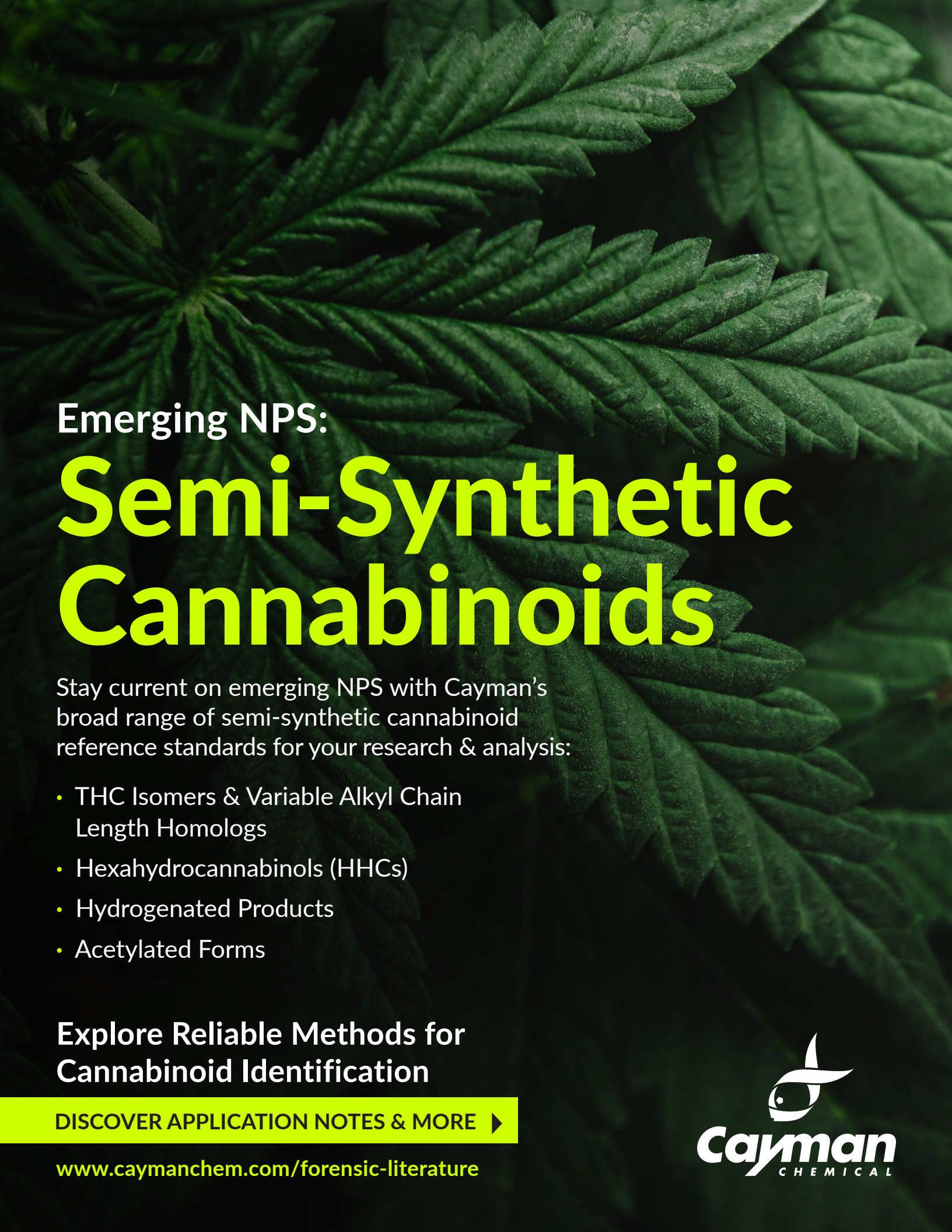
Anisha Paul M.S.F.S, D-ABFT-FT - Director

Vermont Forensic Laboratory, Department of Public Safety - Forensic Chemist Toxicology division since 2017
Adjunct professor at Champlain College since 2017
Masters of Science in Forensic Science from Arcadia University
Certified as a Diplomate by the ABFT in the field of Forensic Toxicology

Danielle Malone - Director

NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Department of Forensic Biology from 2004- Present
BS Forensic Science with a concentration in Criminalistics, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Sarah Roseman - Director



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STEPHANIE MINERO
PRESIDENT

Greetings NEAFS members!

By the time you read this President's address, the 50th Annual NEAFS Meeting will be just about three weeks away. While I will not spoil the surprise and go into detail about all the amazing things our President-Elect and Program Chair Alanna Laureano and her team have planned, I will kindly ask that you read her address and continue to read the newsletter in its entirety to ensure you don't miss out on any of the new and exciting things that are to come. She and her team have been working incredibly hard for the last year to bring such an outstanding lineup to our membership, and I cannot wait to see it all come to fruition.

Thus far, the theme of this year has been collaboration. Between ASTEE, ASCLD, ANAB, and Science Direct – NEAFS is constantly spreading their wings to recruit the best of the best to provide valuable and relevant training, opportunities, and resources to our membership. You will have to wait and see (and read on!) to hear more about the exciting workshops we will provide from our partnerships with ASTEE and ASCLD at the Annual Meeting, but I am happy to update you on the success of our endeavor with ANAB. The virtual Validation and Verification of Analytical Methods training was held on August 14th and had 24 members in attendance. As this training was limited to members and active applicants, my goal was to directly give back to the membership and not only showcase the wonderful benefits of being a member but to demonstrate exactly how your dues are used. I am hopeful that by continuing to provide opportunities such as these, we will in turn both grow and retain our membership to guarantee the longevity of our organization.

To further this goal, NEAFS will begin two new projects aimed at membership growth and retention. The first is a membership drive which will begin on September 2nd and run until April 30th, which is the closing date for membership applications for the first half of the year. Dues for 2026 will be waived for a member who sponsors three (3) applicants. For every five (5) applicants sponsored, the member will receive a raffle ticket to be entered into a drawing for free registration for a future NEAFS meeting. To capitalize on the non-members present at the annual meeting while they are experiencing the happiest place on earth (sorry Disney), we have streamlined several aspects of the application form including automatic forwarding to the requested sponsor and the opportunity to submit a curriculum vitae in lieu of entering repetitive information throughout the application.

STEPHANIE MINERO
PRESIDENT

For the second project, the NEAFS Board of Directors has proposed a change to the By Laws to positively promote our student members. At the end of their tenure, student members who opt to upgrade their membership to associate member will have their first year of dues waived. We understand that transitioning from student to scientist is not always an immediate process, and maintaining membership during this time allows for the critical continuation of networking, training, and education opportunities. This proposed amendment, in addition to several others, will hopefully become official after they are voted on at the Annual Business Meeting. They are included in this newsletter for your critique and will also be posted at the registration desk.

At the end of the year, we will need to decide on whether to retain, amend, or discontinue our Science Direct membership. Currently, we have had 65 members register for credentials. I am in the process of reviewing our subscription activity, which enables me to tabulate which journals our members are accessing and which journals they were denied access to due to our subscription limitations. There are several options on the table, including a token system to provide requested articles “a la carte” in addition to our current title list. A renewal plan will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting and will be voted on concurrently with the 2025 Proposed Budget.

Finally, if you have any energy left after the week of festivities at the Annual Meeting, I encourage you to stick around for the Outreach and College Fair to be held on Friday, October 25th . With each passing day the event continues to grow, and the ability for the attending students to interact with passionate forensic scientists is invaluable.

As always, I am grateful to continue to lead this wonderful organization. See you soon!

Stephanie Minero
2024 NEAFS President


Northeastern Association Of Forensic Scientists
1976
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50TH
ANNUAL
MEETING
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AND CASINO
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ
OCTOBER 20TH-25TH, 2024

ALANNA LAUREANO
PRESIDENT- ELECT & 2024 PROGRAM CHAIR

Greetings, everyone!

It is a true privilege to welcome you to the 50th Annual NEAFS Meeting and welcome you back to **Harrah's, Atlantic City**. This milestone celebration is especially significant as we reflect on the **past, present, and future of forensic science**. Our 2024 planning team has been hard at work, curating a program that honors the history of our profession while pushing forward innovative techniques and topics. We have a lot in store, so be sure to review the schedule!

Didn't get a chance to register before online registration closed? You can still register on-site at Harrah's, starting **Tuesday October 22nd**.

Tuesday, October 22nd also marks the start of our **workshops, beginning at 9 a.m**. We are excited to offer a diverse range of full-day and half-day sessions, covering topics from leadership development to trace evidence on bullets.

This year, we are honored to have the opportunity to host *ASCLD* for their workshop, *Leadership Unlimited – ASCLD Leadership Academy Mini-Course*. This full-day workshop will provide an overview of ASCLD's Leadership Academy, featuring presentations, skill-building exercises, and self-assessments tailored to forensic science leadership. A perfect introduction for new lab supervisors and aspiring leaders!

As we move from leadership to bullets, we are offering a full day workshop where Dr. Peter Diaczuk will delve into the interactions between different types of ammunition and various substrates at shooting scenes. Participants will learn how to integrate firearm and trace evidence to enhance shooting scene reconstruction, including understanding bullet impacts, ricochets, and energy transfers.

This year, we are also proud to collaborate with *ASTEE (American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners)* to further expand our offerings. One of the highlights will be a workshop on identifying environmental particles using SEM/EDS, featuring practical exercises to differentiate these particles from gunshot residue. Another key workshop will focus on using Hematoxylin staining to enhance DNA analysis of hair roots, providing hands-on activities designed to improve casework efficiency. Additionally, a workshop dedicated to the elemental analysis of glass will explore interpretation techniques using chemical properties and likelihood ratios. These ASTEE workshops will be invaluable for labs working with or looking to expand their trace evidence analysis.

ALANNA LAUREANO
PRESIDENT- ELECT & 2024 PROGRAM CHAIR

In a hands-on workshop from *Agilent Technologies*, participants will be introduced to the MassHunter software workflows for forensic data analysis. This full-day session covers the basics and provides practical tools for using MassHunter Unknowns Analysis. Interested in the basics of Agilent ChemStation Macros? We are offering a half day workshop that will introduce you to the fundamentals of ChemStation macros, crucial for customizing reports, automating tasks, and improving efficiency with Agilent GC/MS instruments.

If you're seeking a different take on a specialized topic, we have provided a full-day and a half-day workshop on Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG). The IGG Full-Day Workshop by *Ramapo College's IGG Center* will cover the entire IGG process, from case selection to lead confirmation. Hands-on activities will prepare participants to apply IGG in their own casework. The *QIAGEN* half-day workshop, *Understanding FIGG*, will focus on Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG) using databases like GEDmatch and GEDmatch Pro. This workshop will explore how FIGG profiles are generated, advanced kinship analysis, and how to integrate FIGG into lab workflows. But those are not the only DNA workshops!

Tuesday afternoon, we are offering a half-day workshop titled, The Fundamentals of Counting and Detecting DNA. This workshop will explore key techniques in DNA analysis, including counting methods, fluorescence detection, and data interpretation. Participants will examine how laboratory practices impact the quantity and quality of genetic information and discuss strategies for optimizing data across different platforms and assays.

We've also scheduled the **Student Forum** and **Educators Forum** for **Tuesday, October 22nd**. These forums speak directly to the needs of our future scientists as they chart their path in forensics. Students will hear firsthand from industry professionals about career pathways, with opportunities to network. The Educators Forum will focus on innovative education strategies for forensic science programs. Both forums are free but require registration.

On **Wednesday, October 23rd**, the **Scientific Sessions, Annual Business Meeting, Exhibits, Poster Session, and Welcome Reception** will be held. Our session chairs have assembled an impressive roster of research presentations, case studies, and expert panels. Be sure to visit the exhibits booths where we have a great line up of exhibitors and vendors this year. Don't forget to check out the digital program on our Meeting Mobile App and plan your sessions accordingly.

ALANNA LAUREANO
PRESIDENT- ELECT & 2024 PROGRAM CHAIR

We are excited to welcome back Jerry Buting as our speaker for the **Evening Session** on **Wednesday**. A partner at Buting, Williams & Stilling, S.C., he has defended high-profile cases such as Steven Avery's, featured in Netflix's *Making a Murderer*. Kicking off this year's theme of *The Past, Present, and Future of Forensic Science*, Mr. Buting will delve into the past and share his insights on the evolution of forensic evidence and its impact on the criminal justice system.

The **Plenary Sessions** will begin on **Thursday October 24th**, and will continue the theme of *Past, Present, Future* for this milestone 50th Annual Meeting. Join us for an engaging legal panel, *Forensic Science in the Courtroom: Legal Challenges and Collaborative Solutions*. Featuring a distinguished panel representing the prosecution, the defense and the court. ADA Raymond Valerio, Defense attorney Jerry Buting, and the Honorable Judge Richard Geiger will explore the current challenges forensic scientists face when presenting evidence in testimony. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from the perspective of these legal experts and participate in the Q&A!

During the **Awards Luncheon, Thursday October 24th**, you will hear from our keynote speaker Dr. JoAnn Buscaglia, NEAFS's first student award winner! What a great way to bridge the past and future of NEAFS by inviting Dr. Buscaglia to share her inspiring journey from award winning student to award winning research chemist at the FBI laboratory.

For the **afternoon Plenary Session, Thursday October 24th**, Dr. Pamela Marshall and Dr. Robin W. Cotton will lead us into the future with a thought-provoking discussion on advancing forensic education to shape the next generation of forensic scientists. Following the afternoon plenary session, we'll hold the **Chin Cup**, a fun and competitive quiz bowl where attendees can show off their forensic knowledge—don't forget your school colors and swag for this spirited event!

Now, the highlight of the evening! This year's **President's Reception** will transport us back to the 1970s, the decade when NEAFS was founded. Get ready to boogie under the disco ball and celebrate in true '70s style! We have the privilege of hosting this year's President's Reception at **Harrah's famous indoor pool**. No need to wear a bathing suit, but we encourage everyone to embrace the theme, dust off those bell-bottoms, and hit the dance floor as we bring the '70s back to life. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just here for the music, it's going to be an unforgettable night of fun.

ALANNA LAUREANO

PRESIDENT- ELECT & 2024 PROGRAM CHAIR

On **Friday, October 25th**, we'll close out the meeting with our **Outreach and College Fair Event**, where high school students from the surrounding areas will have a chance to hear from our members and connect with colleges offering forensic science programs. Also on Friday, the **ABC exams** will take place between 9am and 12pm.

I can't wait to see everyone. Let's make this 50th Annual Meeting one for the history books!

Alanna Laureano, President- Elect & 2024 Program Chair

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- Stimulate research and the development of new and/or improved scientific techniques.
- Promote high standards of performance and professional ethics.
- Acknowledge persons working in trace evidence.

A network of professionals with a common interest in Trace Evidence

Benefits of Membership

- Access to a peer-reviewed journal (*Journal of the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners*), as well as newsletters.
- Eligibility to apply for a number of awards including recognition of significant impacts, student scholarships, and financial support for research, travel, and professional development courses.
- Free training workshops for members.
- Hosted networking receptions at multiple professional meetings.

Learn more and apply to join at ASTEETRACE.ORG

2024 ANNUAL MEETING PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

2:30pm - 4:30pm
Board of Directors and Staff Outing
6:30pm - 9:30pm
Board of Directors and Staff Dinner

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

7:30am - 9:15am
Registration
7:30am - 9:00am
Breakfast
9:00am - 5:00pm
Full Day Workshops
9:00am - 12:30pm
Half Day AM Workshops
10:30am - 10:45am
Morning Break
12:30pm - 1:45pm
Registration
12:30pm - 1:30pm
Lunch on your own
1:30pm - 5:00pm
Half Day PM Workshops
3:00pm - 3:15pm
Afternoon Break
5:00pm - 8:00pm
Exhibits Set-Up
5:00pm - 6:00pm
Registration
5:30pm - 8:30pm
Student Forum
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Educators' Forum

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

7:30am - 9:30am
Registration
7:30am - 9:00am
Breakfast
8:00am - 8:00pm
Exhibits
9:00am - 5:15pm
Scientific Sessions
10:30am - 10:45am
Morning Break
12:00pm - 2:00pm
Annual Business Lunch
3:15pm - 3:30pm
Afternoon Break
5:30pm - 7:00pm
Welcome Reception and Poster Session
6:30pm - 7:30pm
Registration
7:00pm - 9:30pm
Evening Plenary Session

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

7:30am - 9:15am
Registration
7:30am - 9:00am
Breakfast
8:00am - 11:30am
Exhibits
9:00am - 11:30am
Morning Plenary Session
10:15am - 10:30am
Morning Break
11:30am - 1:30pm
Exhibits Break-Down
11:30pm - 2:00pm
Annual President's Award Luncheon
2:30pm - 5:00pm
Afternoon Plenary Session
3:30pm - 3:45pm
Afternoon Break
5:30pm - 6:30pm
George W. Chin Cup Competition
7:00pm - 11:30pm
President's Reception

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

8:00am - 9:30am
Breakfast
9:00am - 12:00pm
ABC Exams
9:00am - 12:00pm
Outreach Event
10:30am - 10:45am
Morning Break

www.neafs.org/preliminary-schedule

subject to change

2024 NEAFS ANNUAL MEETING

REGULAR REGISTRATION IS OVER

BUT YOU CAN REGISTER ONSITE

Member: $285
Non-Member: $400
Student Members: $210
Student Non-Members: $260
Guest*: $230
Daily Member: $135
Daily Non-Member: $185
Student Daily Member: $105
Student Daily Non-Member: $135
Guest* Daily: $ 105.00

*SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS ON GUEST REGISTRATION

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU REGISTER ON-SITE, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A MEETING BOOKLET, MEAL OR DRINK TICKETS AND REGISTRATION IS ONLY PAYABLE WITH CREDIT CARD, CASH OR MONEY ORDER. NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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OCTOBER 20TH-25TH

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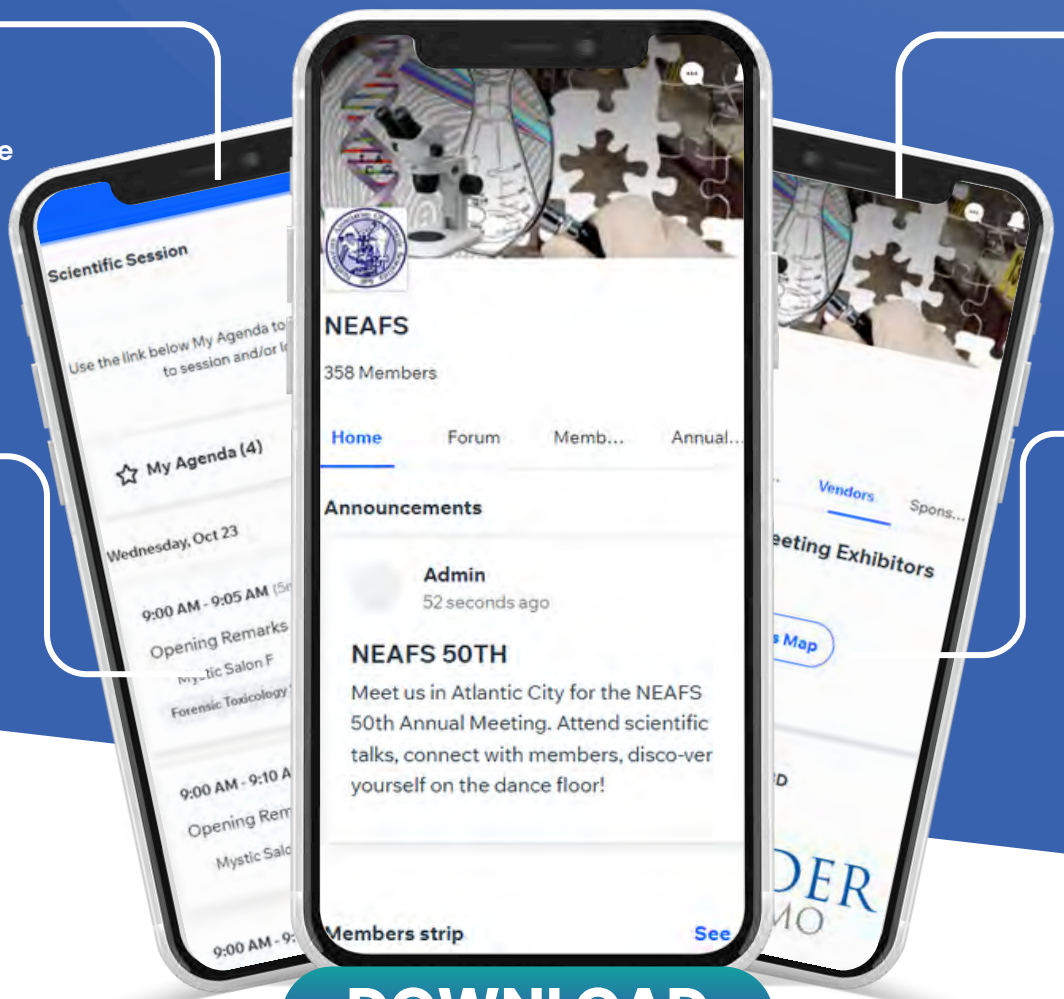

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 2024

WORKSHOPS at the NEAFS 50TH ANNUAL MEETING

NEAFS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN AT WWW.NEAFS.ORG/REGISTRATION

ASTEE

Workshop attendees must register for Full meeting registration or Tuesday daily registration (at least).

Cost for Full-Day Workshops:

Member/Member of Another Regional Organization: $65
Non-Member: $110
Student Member: $43
Student Non-Member: $65

Cost for Half-Day Workshops:

Member/Member of Another Regional Organization: $33
Non-Member: $55
Student Member: $23
Student Non-Member: $33

e-mail inquiries:
workshops@neafs.org * registration@neafs.org * presidentelect@neafs.org

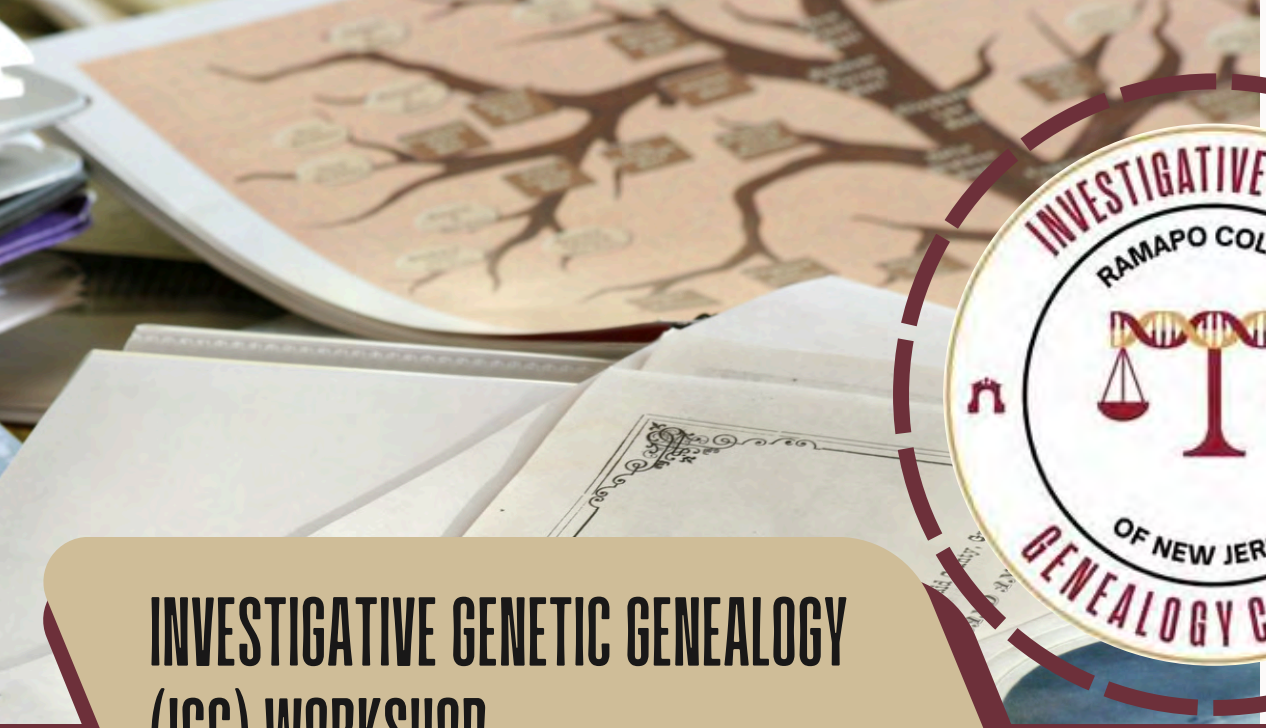
TRACE EVIDENCE WORKSHOP:

PRACTICAL ID OF ENVIRONMENTAL PARTICLES SIMILAR TO GUNSHOT RESIDUE & UNUSUAL ELEMENTAL PROFILES

The recognition and identification of environmental particles similar to gunshot residue (GSR) has long been the goal of every GSR examiner. In this workshop we will give a brief overview of GSR analysis and identification by SEM/EDS, an overview of environmental sources of particles similar to GSR and provide tools and practical exercises to assist GSR examiners in distinguishing environmental particles from gunshot residue. We will also go over various types of ammunition and the elemental profiles they produce, including some nontoxic or "green" ammunition, as well as, ammunition produced in Europe and Eastern bloc countries. The workshop will consist of short lecture portions followed by practical exercises involving data interpretation. The goal of the workshop is to provide both new and seasoned GSR examiners with practical tools to assist them in casework.

Instructors:
Mary Keehan and Nicole Palmer

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
FULL-DAY WORKSHOP 9 AM - 5 PM



INVESTIGATIVE GENETIC GENEALOGY (IGG) WORKSHOP

Investigative genetic genealogy (IGG) has recently emerged as a leading method for human identification in unidentified human remains cases as well as violent crimes. In this all-day workshop, students will be introduced to the investigative genetic genealogy from case selection through lead confirmation.

After attending this workshop, students will be able to:

- Identify elements influencing the likelihood of success of investigative genetic genealogy including demographic factors, DNA quality/quantity, and other characteristics.
- Understand the IGG laboratory process and compare and contrast public and private lab options for IGG.
- Review mitochondrial, X-, and Y-DNA inheritance patterns.
- Understand the IGG research process including identification and analysis of genetic matches, ascendancy research, identification of common ancestors, and descendancy research.
- Perform documentation in IGG research including communication with partner agencies, progress reports, and final reports.
- Articulate ethical and legal issues in IGG.

Case studies and active learning activities will be utilized to help attendees understand the IGG process and prepare to work their own IGG cases.

Instructors:
Professor David Gurney, JD/PhD
Cairenn Binder, MS

Ramapo College of New Jersey
Investigative Genetic Genealogy Center

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
FULL-DAY WORKSHOP 9 AM - 5 PM

TRACE EVIDENCE ON BULLETS

Instructor:
Peter Diaczuk, Ph.D.
John Jay College

This workshop will cover some of the phenomena that must be taken into consideration when assessing a shooting scene. Several different types of ammunition will be discussed, along with their interactions with several different substrates commonly encountered.

Attendees will also become familiar with evidence recognition, documentation, and recovery for laboratory analysis.

The complex nature of a shooting incident may generate a variety of firearm-related evidence, such as the firearm itself, cycled or discharged ammunition components, gunshot residue, trace evidence on a bullet, or impact sites with traces of the bullet's prior presence. Whether considered firearm evidence or trace evidence, this information may have to be integrated by the scientist to be most beneficial.

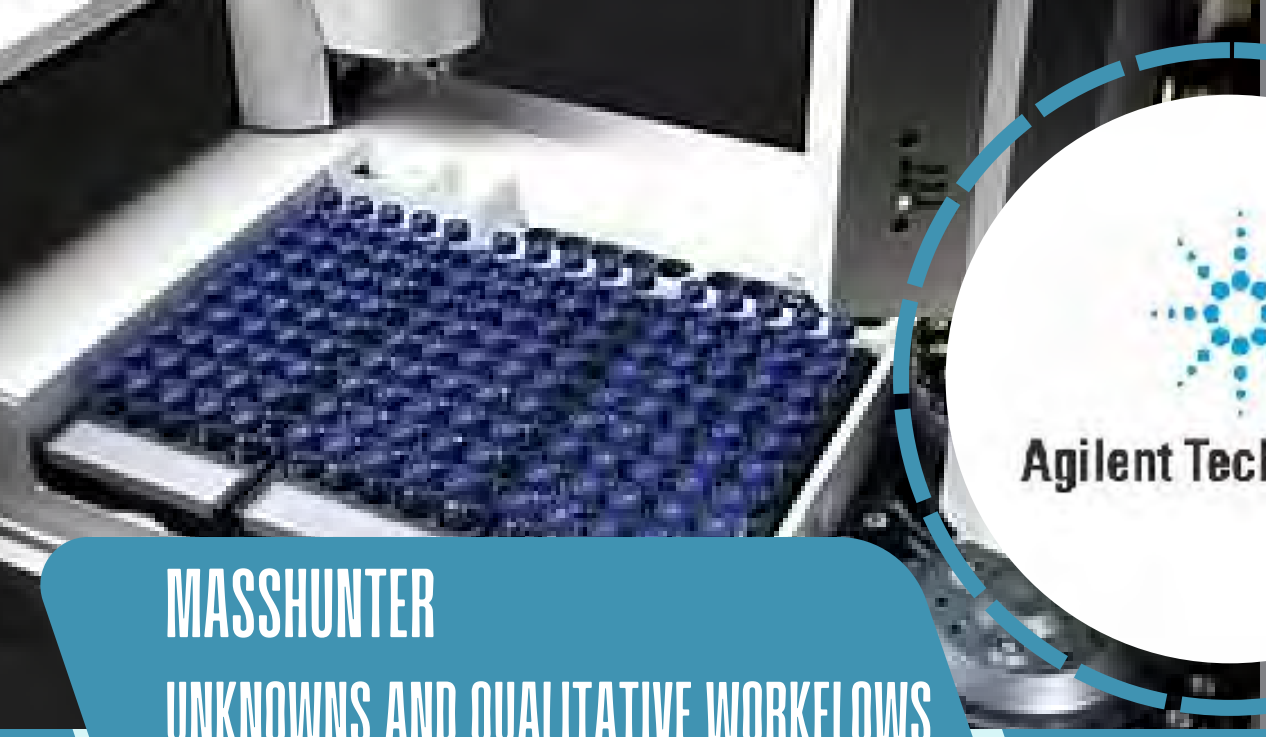
Pulling the trigger of a firearm initiates a series of events that culminates with the discharge of a bullet with considerable energy, along with primer and propellant resides as secondary ejecta. The bullet may not only impact its intended target; it may perforate an intermediate object or objects on its way to the target or it may pass completely through the target and retain sufficient energy to continue downrange and impact an unintended object.

These types of interactions and impacts invariably impart information about the event onto the bullet and onto the impacted substrates. If information from the inadvertent or intended impact is recognized, examined, and deciphered, it can be helpful in developing a more accurate shooting scene reconstruction. This workshop will consider the transfer of material from the substrate to the bullet, per the Locard Exchange Principle, the overall change to both the bullet and substrate from the energy exchange, the potential path the bullet followed, and the possibility of ricochet.

Determining the angle at which a bullet will successfully ricochet is essential information when a shooting investigation involves indirect fire. This information provides the forensic scientist with fundamental data required for the scientific reconstruction and assessment of a shooting scene.

Click here to find out more.

Tuesday, October 22nd
Full-Day Workshop 9 am - 5 pm



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MASSHUNTER

UNKNOWNS AND QUALITATIVE WORKFLOWS FOR FORENSIC DATA ANALYSIS

The full day workshop is designed to introduce the audience to the workflows involved when using Unknowns Analysis in the MassHunter software. The workshop begins with an ~20-minute explanation of the deconvolution process, differences between deconvolution and peak integration, and some of the variables involved when using this powerful data analysis tool. Running through workflows, utilizing forensic data, the session will illustrate how to translate established workflows within MSD ChemStation Data Analysis to MassHunter Unknowns Analysis. The workshop will include how to generate an in-house library in Unknowns Analysis, how to link retention time and or retention indices to each library entry and apply these entries to increase your Library Match Score (LMS) confidence level. Examples of Unknowns Analysis reporting templates will be demonstrated from the workshop exercises. Qualitative Analysis software will also be introduced. Laptops with MassHunter software and forensic data will be provided through this full day of hands-on learning.

The course is limited to the first 16 registrants due to the number of laptops available. However, additional students (~10) may join the course if they can provide their own laptop with MassHunter Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis software pre-loaded (rev 12.0 is preferred but not required) on the laptop. The forensic data files can be loaded in the morning prior to the start of the course. Please contact the course instructor at Kirk.Lokits@Agilent.com if you have additional questions.

Instructor:
Kirk E. Lokits, Ph.D.
Agilent Technologies

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
FULL-DAY WORKSHOP 9 AM - 5 PM

LEADERSHIP UNLIMITED – ASCLD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY MINI-COURSE

Instructor:
Henry Maynard

At the 2024 NEAFS Conference, ASCLD will be providing a Leadership Academy Mini-Course which will provide an overview of the Leadership Academy Program, while also providing instruction on important key topics related to forensic science leadership. Participants can expect informative presentations, skill-building exercises, impactful self-assessments, and more. Additionally, this Mini-Course will help NEAFS determine if there is sufficient interest to host the Full ASCLD Leadership Academy during the 2025 NEAFS Conference.

Please join us and experience the great instruction and exercises which has been provided to over 1,000 participants across 47 states and a dozen countries!

Background information on ASCLD Leadership Academy
The ASCLD Leadership Academy is a training program offered by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors for managerial personnel in forensic science laboratories. It is designed to deliver training of the highest quality at a cost that recognizes the current strained budgets of labs across the US. The mission of the ASCLD Leadership Academy is to train managers to become LEADERS.

Started in 2014, the ASCLD Leadership Academy has more than a decade of experience training all levels of leaders within forensic laboratories with more than 1,000 students have attended from 47 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, The Bahamas, Canada, Costa Rica, Guyana, India, Mexico, Panama, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and Uganda.

The Leadership Academy is a blended training model, combining weekly lecture-style webinars with a “Management Lab” at the annual ASCLD symposium where students will participate in hands-on, practical exercises to develop their skills.

Three different Academy levels are offered, with leadership perspectives focusing on varying levels within an organization (supervisor, manager, executive).

Cohorts are offered every Spring beginning in January with registration typically opening the previous November. Registration often fills up within a few days of opening.

Click here for more information on the three different levels offered.

Tuesday, October 22nd
Full-Day Workshop 9 AM - 5 PM

UNDERSTANDING FIGG:

A DEEP DIVE INTO HOW FIGG WORKS AND HOW YOU CAN IMPLEMENT FIGG INTO YOUR WORKFLOW

Over the past few years, advancements in Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG) have made headlines with successes associated with cases where traditional STR workflows have provided little insight. Examples are instances where perpetrators are not entered into the CODIS database system and missing persons cases. In the majority of those cases, GEDmatch and its law enforcement-only side GEDmatch Pro are often used as the database for FIGG kinship analysis. The parent company of GEDmatch and GEDmatch Pro, QIAGEN, would like to invite you to a workshop in order to answer your questions and leave you with a better understanding of the mechanisms by which long-range FIGG kinship analysis is done in our databases. This workshop will include everything from the basics of how FIGG profiles are generated, to more advanced topics such as how kinship analysis is calculated. At the end of this workshop you should not only have a better understanding of how current FIGG workflows operate, but also the ease in which it could be implemented in your laboratory.

Instructors:
Jade Gibbons, PhD
Amber McManus, MS
QIAGEN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
HALF-**DAY WORKSHOP 9 AM - 12:30 PM**

Trace Evidence Workshop:

HAIR ROOT STAINING: HOW TRACE EVIDENCE AND DNA CAN COLLABORATE FOR EFFICIENT CASEWORK

Instructors:
Lindsey Admire and Evie Nguyen
NC State Crime Laboratory

Hair evidence collected as part of a forensic investigation has the potential to provide valuable sourcing information through DNA analysis of its root. However, what can be done when traditional hair root suitability determinations for DNA analysis aren't yielding results as expected? At the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory, hair examiners noticed in years prior to 2019 that hair roots being sent for DNA analysis were not yielding DNA profiles as expected. To combat this problem, it was decided through research and community outreach that hair roots should be stained prior to sending them for in house DNA analysis for most efficient evidence processing. At the NCSCL, hematoxylin was chosen as the preferred staining method.

This workshop will discuss the process of utilizing Hematoxylin staining in forensic casework as an indicator of hair root DNA suitability. The instructors will walk participants through the entirety of the NCSCL's journey with Hematoxylin staining – from the process of background research, to data-gathering, our in-house validation process, results since implementation into casework, to training new analysts in the staining procedure. The process of staining hair roots with Hematoxylin will be demonstrated, and visual examples of stained hair roots will be provided. Participants will also get the opportunity for hands-on root staining experience as well as live "nuclei counting" practice with the instructors as we discuss the different staining categories we set for our laboratory's validation purposes. We also plan to discuss any root staining anomalies that may arise through true casework samples. This workshop will highlight the benefits of implementation of hair root staining into casework in terms of increased DNA yields, improved casework efficiency, and preservation of non-viable hair root evidence.

Our aim is to be as transparent about our experience as possible to allow you to decide how hair root staining may best fit your laboratory's goals – whether your laboratory is DNA only or functions as the NCSCL with collaborative Trace and DNA sections. Please come prepared to discuss your laboratory's current approach to DNA analysis of hair roots, as well as any hair root staining procedures you may already be utilizing. We hope to run this workshop more as a breakout session, with informal discussion encouraged so that we may all learn together.

Tuesday, October 22nd
Half-Day Workshop 9 am - 12:30 pm

THE BASICS OF AGILENT CHEMSTATION MACROS

Instructor:
Eugene Zegocki
Monroe County Crime Lab

Agilent GC/MS instruments are the core instrumentation for the majority of laboratories performing fire debris and controlled substances analyses.

Many analysts use the simple and reliable Agilent ChemStation software for data analysis. Agilent's newer software, MassHunter instrument control, uses ChemStation macros as well.

Macros are blocks of code that make ChemStation software work. Therefore, even basic knowledge about ChemStation macros is beneficial. It allows one to customize existing macros, design and modify reports, automate tasks, and search for data, ultimately saving time and reducing manual repetitive routine tasks.

The workshop covers the following topics:

- General ChemStation software info
- ChemStation variables
- ChemStation commands and functions
- Control statements
- Working with files
- Working with windows
- Printing
- Integration and library searches
- Some other often used commands
- Explanation of two commonly used macros
-

It is expected that as a result of the workshop attendees will understand the basics of Agilent ChemStation software programming.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own laptop with installed Agilent ChemStation, however,
this is not required.

Tuesday, October 22nd
Half-Day Workshop 9 am - 12:30 pm

TRACE EVIDENCE WORKSHOP:

ELEMENTAL ANALYSIS OF GLASS: COMPARING INTERPRETATION PARADIGMS AND PRACTICING WITH LIKELIHOOD RATIOS

The use of glass microtraces as forensic evidence is a recognized practice in forensic casework. During this workshop, we will briefly review the chemical and optical properties traditionally used for sourcing glass, the methods available for their analysis, and the paradigms used in interpreting those features. We will also review the use of likelihood ratios for interpretations at activity level and exemplify the value of microtraces for this level of interpretation during forensic investigations. There will be space to share and discuss your extraordinary encounters with glass evidence.

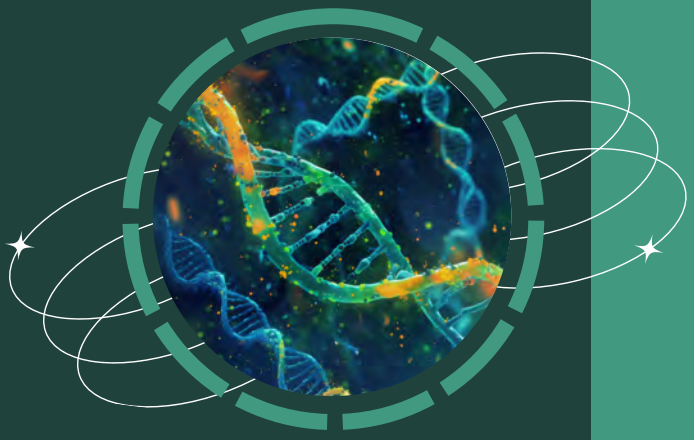
The goal of this workshop is to provide you with hands on experience on the interpretation of glass evidence, particularly the use of likelihood ratios for the interpretation of elemental profiles of glass. Bringing a laptop for the complete experience is strongly recommended but you are encouraged to participate even without one.

Instructor:
Shirly Montero
Arizona State University

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND
HALF-DAY WORKSHOP 1:30 PM - 5 PM

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF COUNTING AND DETECTING DNA

Instructor:
Catherine Grgicak, Ph.D.
Rutgers University Camden



A forensic genetics laboratory can be described as carrying two broad scientific responsibilities [1]: To produce genetic data able to maximally discriminate forensically relevant hypotheses; and to report the value of them. The branch of forensic science dedicated to improving the quantity of genetic information has supported advances in mega-plex panels that simultaneously target more than 20 forensically relevant markers, the emergence of NGS in forensics, and the development of novel collection devices that recover more biological material from a substrate. With these practical advances also came improvements to the way in which data were interpreted and included the adoption of Bayesian reasoning by forensic scientists, articulation of a hierarchy of propositions, and the implementation of probabilistic genotyping.

With the interpretive framework being mostly constructed, attention is being paid to efforts seeking to appraise the consistency of evaluations within and across forensic science service providers (FSSPs), as was done in [2, 3]. The findings show that, in the main, mixture interpretation is subject to sometimes impactful effects originating from service provider's policy decisions on matters pertaining to NoC and suitability [3] or the laboratory treatments and settings used to generate the data [4].

If generating as much useful information is as valued as making the best interpretive use of that data, the question then becomes: Is it possible to uncover what laboratory treatments give maximal amounts of relevant information for a given technology? If so, can the level of useful information across laboratories be similar despite differences in platforms and assays? In this workshop we attend to these questions.

The workshop is structured as follows: To begin, we review counting techniques, relevant definitions, and known distributions like the binomial distribution. Then we apply the concepts to predict the number of amplified DNA molecules of a given type. Next, we convert these numbers to a fluorescence, finally producing a distribution of peak heights for different extract fractions carrying an unknown number of target DNA molecules. We explore these distributions to examine if it is possible to uncover data generating procedures from which we receive maximal levels of genetic information across the broadest number of donors for a single amplification, regardless of platform or assay. Lastly, the group will explore the implications of the findings and discuss their impacts in light of the recent report in Forensic DNA Interpretation and Human Factors [5].

Click here for more information and references.

Tuesday, October 22nd
Half-Day Workshop 1:30 PM - 5 PM

NEAFS 50TH ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 21ST-25TH

2024

Speakers

7:30-9:30 pm

Wednesday Oct 23rd
Evening Plenary Session

Jerry Buting, Attorney at Buting, Williams & Stilling, S.C.

The Past 50 Years and the Future of Forensic Science:
The Criminal Defense Perspective

9:00-11:30 am

Thursday Oct 24th
AM Plenary Session

Panel

- **Judge Richard Geiger, Special Adjudicator, New Jersey Superior Court**
- **Raymond Valerio, Assistant District Attorney, Director of Forensic Sciences Queens County District Attorney's Office, NY**
- **Jerry Buting, Defense Attorney, Buting, Williams & Stilling, S.C.**

Forensic Science in the Courtroom:
Legal Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

12:00-2:00 pm

Thursday Oct 24th
Annual Luncheon

JoAnn Buscaglia, PhD, Research Chemist, FBI Laboratory

Inspiring words from the 1st NEAFS Student Award Winner!

2:30-5:00 pm

Thursday Oct 24th
PM Plenary Session

Pamela Marshall, Ph.D., Dir. & Associate Professor Duquesne University
Robin Cotton, Ph.D., Dir. Biomedical Forensic Science Program, Boston University

Inspiring Minds: The Evolution of the Next Generation Forensic Scientist

More details to come, subject to change.

EVENING PLENARY

Speaker

10/23
7:30 PM
TO
9:30PM

JEROME F. BUTING

Jerome F. Buting is a partner in the Brookfield, Wisconsin law firm of Buting, Williams & Stilling, S.C. He received his undergraduate degree in Forensic Studies from Indiana University and his law degree from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. He is a past board director of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the recipient of the 2017 NACDL Champion of Justice Legal Award, and a past president of the Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He was a trial public defender for 9 years in Milwaukee. His present private practice is entirely criminal defense, both trials and appeals. He has defended the citizen accused in many serious high profile trial cases, including the Steven Avery case as shown in the Netflix documentary, “Making a Murderer.”

Mr. Buting lectures worldwide and is frequently sought after for his knowledge of the criminal justice system, the use of expert witnesses, DNA and other forensic evidence. His first book is **Illusion of Justice: Inside Making a Murderer and America’s Broken System**, (Harper 2017).

MORNING PLENARY
MORNING PLENARY
MORNING PLENARY
MORNING PLENARY

Abstract

10/24
9 AM
TO
11:30 AM

Forensic Science in the Courtroom:
Legal Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

Panel:

- Judge Richard Geiger, Special Adjudicator, New Jersey Supreme Court
- Raymond Valerio, Assistant District Attorney, Director of Forensic Sciences Queens County District Attorney's Office, New York
- Jerry Buting, Defense Attorney, Buting, Williams & Stilling, S.C.

Description: Join us for a dynamic plenary session featuring a panel of three distinguished legal experts—a prosecutor, a judge, and a defense attorney—who will provide unique insights into the challenges forensic scientists face when presenting their findings in the courtroom.

Keywords: Expert Testimony, Admissibility, Federal Rules of Evidence

MORNING PLENARY

Speaker

JUDGE RICHARD GEIGER

Judge Richard Geiger graduated magna cum laude from Case Western Reserve University in 1975 and earned his law degree from Rutgers - Camden Law School in 1978. Following a one-year judicial clerkship, he joined Davidow, Sherman, Eddowes and Geiger in Bridgeton, New Jersey, where he advanced from associate to partner.

Judge Geiger served as Cumberland County Counsel from 1993 to 2002. In 2002, he was appointed as a Superior Court Judge, presiding over the Civil, Criminal, Family Divisions, and Probate Part during his fifteen years as a trial judge. Judge Geiger was elevated to the Appellate Division in 2017 and served six years, authoring thirty published opinions and hundreds of unpublished opinions.

Currently, Judge Geiger is the Special Adjudicator in the pending New Jersey Supreme Court appeal concerning the admissibility of Alcotest 9510 device test results in DWI trials. In this role, he will conduct hearings, make findings, and provide recommendations to the Supreme Court, applying the Daubert-type admissibility standard adopted by the Court.

MORNING PLENARY

Speaker

RAYMOND VALERIO

Raymond Valerio has been an Assistant District Attorney in New York City for nearly 20 years. Currently, he is the Director of Forensic Sciences at the Queens County District Attorney's Office, overseeing all forensic science-based prosecutions.

Mr. Valerio received the Thomas E. Dewey Medal from the New York City Bar Association for his accomplishments in forensic science as a prosecutor. Scientific American published his opinion editorial ""Firearm Forensics Has Proven Reliable in the Courtroom. And in the Lab" and WIRE Interdisciplinary Journal, a peer-reviewed journal, published Mr. Valerio's article titled "Likelihood Ratios For Lawyers...I Didn't Go to Law School for This."

Mr. Valerio is a member of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees Firearm and Toolmark Subcommittee, the Firearm Toolmark and Friction Ridge American Standards Consensus Bodies of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the National District Attorneys Association Forensic Science Working Group, and serves on the Strategic Advisory Board for the Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence. Mr. Valerio has participated on various Organization of Scientific Area Committees Scientific Technical Review Panels. He frequently lectures and consults with prosecutors across the country on issues related to forensic evidence.

Mr. Valerio received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania in 2001, his Juris Doctor from Temple University School of Law in 2004.

MORNING PLENARY

Speaker

JEROME F. BUTING

Jerome F. Buting is a partner in the Brookfield, Wisconsin law firm of Buting, Williams & Stilling, S.C. He received his undergraduate degree in Forensic Studies from Indiana University and his law degree from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. He is a past board director of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the recipient of the 2017 NACDL Champion of Justice Legal Award, and a past president of the Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He was a trial public defender for 9 years in Milwaukee. His present private practice is entirely criminal defense, both trials and appeals. He has defended the citizen accused in many serious high profile trial cases, including the Steven Avery case as shown in the Netflix documentary, “Making a Murderer.”

Mr. Buting lectures worldwide and is frequently sought after for his knowledge of the criminal justice system, the use of expert witnesses, DNA and other forensic evidence. His first book is **Illusion of Justice: Inside Making a Murderer and America’s Broken System**, (Harper 2017).

PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

Speaker

10/24
12 PM
TO
2 PM

JOANN BUSCAGLIA, PHD

Dr. JoAnn Buscaglia is a Research Chemist with the FBI Laboratory in the Research and Support Unit. JoAnn's research is primarily focused in the areas of microscopy, microanalysis, and elemental analysis of trace materials, impression and pattern evidence, and the interpretation of data in a forensic context. JoAnn received her PhD from the City University of New York, and a B.S. and M.S. in Forensic Science (Criminalistics) from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Prior to joining the FBI Laboratory, JoAnn worked for 10 years in academia and as a consultant scientist and quality assurance director for both private- and public-sector forensic science, environmental, and industrial hygiene laboratories.

Click here for additional information.

AFTERNOON PLENARY
AFTERNOON PLENARY
AFTERNOON PLENARY
AFTERNOON PLENARY

Abstract

10/24
2:30 PM
TO
5PM

Inspiring Minds: The Evolution of the Next Generation Forensic Scientist

Pamela Marshall, Ph.D. and Robin W. Cotton, Ph.D.
Forensic Science & Law Program, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA 15282, USA.
Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA 02215, USA.

Best practices in forensic education and training of new forensic scientists will be discussed to help develop a more resilient, and better-educated, workforce. Specifically, the presenters will examine forensic science curricula, accreditation standards, forensic discipline standards, and employment trends to help align stakeholder goals and objectives with educational goals and objectives. Additionally, the discussion will focus on improving communication between key criminal justice stakeholders, such as FEPAC (Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Committee, ASCLD (American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors), and groups who are writing standards such as the SWGS, the OSAC committees, and the ASB. These standards and decision-making guidelines address the education needed (hiring standards) for working in the various forensic disciplines. We will make the argument for enhancing communication amongst these stakeholders. Without a doubt, if all stakeholders come together, we could better align our missions, with the objective being a higher-quality graduate ready to tackle the forensic landscape.

Keywords: Forensic Education, FEPAC, Forensic Workforce

AFTERNOON PLENARY

Speaker

DR. PAMELA MARSHALL

Director, Forensic Science and Law Program
Director, Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dr. Pamela Marshall has been involved in the field of forensic analysis since 2002. Upon the completion of her MS in Forensic Genetics in 2002, she worked as a Forensic Scientist III at the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division. While in Maryland, she was the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Coordinator for the state, helped to promote 120-hour SAFE collection legislation, and assisted in the training of over 200 SAFE nurses. Pam has also traveled abroad to Luanda, Angola, Africa to train analysts in forensic DNA analysis. She has been qualified as an expert witness in the fields of serology and DNA in Maryland, New Jersey, Texas, and West Virginia.

Click here for additional information.

EDUCATORS FORUM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND | 6-8 PM

2024 NEAFS Annual Meeting

STUDENT FORUM

22 OCT,2024 | 5:30-4:30 PM

Chin Up Competition

Thursday, October 24th

5:30PM - 6:30PM

Come out and support your team
and then celebrate at the
President's Reception!

NEAFS PRESENTS

DISCO PARTY 70S THEME PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

24 OCTOBER 2024 AT 7PM

LIVE MUSIC AND DRINKS

SCAN TO REGISTER

FORENSICS UNLEASHED

NEAFS OUTREACH

HEAR THEIR STORIES. NETWORK WITH REAL SCIENTISTS.
LEARN WHAT IT TAKES. ASK YOUR QUESTIONS.
GET YOUR ANSWERS.

October 25th, 9:00am-12:00pm

Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City, NJ

COLLEGE FAIR TO FOLLOW!

Email outreach@neafs.org with questions

Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientist
Membership Committee
Joseph Phillips, Chair

NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS TO BE VOTED ON AT 2024 ANNUAL MEETING*

STATUS	FULL NAME	AFFILIATION
Regular	Michael McCasland	NYC OCME
Regular	Katrina Keenan	New Hampshire Department of Safety State Police Forensic
Regular	Christine Hsiao	State of Connecticut
Associate	Julie Young	New York City Police Department Police Laboratory
Regular	Laura Combs	Suffolk County Crime Laboratory
Regular	Alice Danas	A&E Firearms Experts, Inc.
Regular	Kaitlin Farrell	Hudson County Prosecutor's Office
Regular	Maiko Suzuki Ferro	PA State Police Wyoming Regional Laboratory
Regular	Joshua Rosenthal	New York City Police Department Laboratory
Associate	Gregory Emerson	Road Island Department of Health
Regular	Elsbeth Murata	Massachusetts State Police
Student	Qhawe Bhembe	Rutgers University - Camden (Department of Chemistry)
Regular	Christy Girard	Greenwich Police
Regular	Natalie Novotna	Syracuse University
Regular	Andra Lewis	Cedar Crest College
Student	Benjamin Wheeler	University of New Haven
Regular	Oshane Gayle	Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory
Associate	Gabriella Ruocco	Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory,
Student	Veronica Poole	Syracuse University

REINSTATEMENTS TO BE VOTED ON AT 2024 ANNUAL MEETING *

STATUS	FULL NAME	AFFILIATION
Regular	Opritsa Tudoriu	Westchester County Forensics

UPGRADES TO BE VOTED ON AT 2024 ANNUAL MEETING *

UPGRADE TO	FULL NAME	AFFILIATION
Emeritus	Joanne Sgueglia	InnoGenomics (retired)
Regular	Sara Alvaro	Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

MEMBERS TO BE DROPPED*

MEMBER #	FULL NAME	AFFILIATION
697	Diane Y. Gilson	
841	Colleen Lockhart	Yonkers Police Dept. Forensic Lab
851	Maribel Sansone	NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
862	Victoria Davis	National Medical Services
886	Joelyn M. Cornwell	NY State Police, Mid-Hudson Satellite Crime Lab
918	Raymond Van Orden	Retired
1029	Linda D. Bouchard	NH State Police Forensic Lab
1084	Lisa A. Biega	New York State Department of Health
1123	Vincent J. Desiderio	US Postal Inspection Service
1126	Paul Goncharoff	NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
1156	Stewart M. Hung	PA State University
1280	John W. Drawec	Western New England College
1290	Kevin A. MacLaren	Westchester County Forensic Lab
1364	Judith Cooper	Newburgh City School District
1425	Karen McDermott	MA State Police Crime Laboratory
1472	Brooke Kammrath	University of New Haven
1493	Maria L Torre	University of New Haven
1520	Amanda Bolduc	Vermont Forensic Lab Dept. of Public Safety
1536	Edward Kovacs	DEA Northeast Laboratory
1544	Jeannie Valinsky	Westchester County Forensic Lab
1551	Chris D'Amato	Westchester County Forensic Lab
1577	Lisa Ramos Yelle	Mass. State Police Crime Lab
1736	Tamara Wong	Rhode Island Dept. of Health Labs
1783	Megan Bueno	NYSP Forensic Investigation Center
1829	Jennifer Green	Division of Forensic Services, CT Forensic Lab
1838	Tracy Breton	Bay Path University
1882	Lewis Gordon Mr.	Forensic Evidence, Inc.
1906	Jasmine L. Drozdowski	Vermont Forensic Laboratory
1947	Madison Vanaman	Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory
1978	Erin P Forry	Boston Police Department Crime Laboratory Unit
1981	Jennifer P Cravo	Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory
1986	Michelle M Cerreta	Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration
2000	Jamie LiCausi	N/A
2010	Amy M Osborne	University at Albany- SUNY
2059	Ayse Keles	NYSP Forensic Investigation Center
2072	Kimberly Farah	Lasell University
2087	Reshma Gheevarghese	BU school of Medicine, Biomedical Forensic Sciences
2109	Benedetta Garosi	University of Albany
2112	Jessica Haresign	Industiral UI services
2113	Taylor Zekri	Syracuse University (Student)
2115	Jennifer Farley	New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory
2130	Mary Corrigan	University of New Haven
2154	Julia Dirre	Syracuse University
2155	Niara Nichols	University at Albany
2164	Syndey Leffler	University of New Haven

***subject to change**

NEAFS

By-Laws Revision

To be voted on at the 2024 Annual Business Meeting.
The complete By-Laws can be found here.

Article VI, Membership Section 2, B.

B. Completed Membership applications received after September 1st of the current year and by April 30th of following year may be considered for approval by the Membership Committee and elected ~~by~~ on our about June 1st of that current year with ¾ of the voting membership, using a Board of Directors approved virtual platform and establishing a quorum. If a quorum is not met, completed applications approved for membership will be elected with ¾ of the voting membership at the next annual business meeting.

Article VI, Membership Section 9.

Section 9. Fees and Dues: Annual dues for Student, Associate, and Regular Members and application fees for membership shall be set by the Membership of the Corporation. The first year of dues will be waived for members upgrading from a Student Membership to an Associate Membership. Registration fees for Members, Associate Members, Active Applicants, Student Members and Non-Members to attend the Annual Meeting shall be set by the Board of Directors.

Article VI, Membership Section 11, B.

B. Student ~~Affiliate~~ Member to Associate ~~or Regular~~ Member

Article VII, Officers, BOD and Executive Staff Members Section 3, N and O additions.

N. Outreach Coordinator: Responsible for planning and organizing outreach events to inform the community about the benefits of NEAFS and becoming a member of the organization. Serves as a liaison between the organization and local educational institutions or laboratories. Elected by approval of ⅔ vote of the Board of Directors. Term: One Year.

O. Volunteer Coordinator: Responsible for soliciting volunteers for assistance at the Annual Meeting or other NEAFS sponsored events, as needed. Responsible for organizing and directing the efforts of volunteers on behalf of the organization. Elected by approval of ⅔ vote of the Board of Directors. Term: One Year

NEAFS 51ST ANNUAL MEETING

Program Chair
Matthew Marino

OCTOBER 20 - 24, 2025

Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster, PA

Email treasurer@neafs.org

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GOLD AND PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS
OF THE 2024

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Promega

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QIAGEN

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NicheVision Forensics, LLC

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SPEAKHIRE develops the social and cultural capital of individuals from immigrant families to become leaders in the workforce.

Spanish-speaking Champions needed

Become a Champion

SPEAKHIRE ensures diverse individuals get a fair chance of pursuing colleges and careers of their choice. We envision a future workforce with more professionals of color of all backgrounds in positions of power across a variety of careers.

If you're looking for an opportunity to empower the next generation of leaders, join SPEAKHIRE as a Career Pathways Champion. Deliver a Seminar about a career skill, coach a young person through the Foundational Year, or share your school to career pathway through Pathways Days or SPEAKHIRE Series. As a Champion, you help young people explore careers and learn early career skills, supporting them as they pursue a career pathway, preparing them for future careers, and empowering them toward life success.

LEARN MORE AT HTTPS://WWW.NEAFS.ORG/SPEAKHIRE

>>> NOW ACTIVE <<<

SCIENCE DIRECT SUBSCRIPTION

ScienceDirect

ELSEVIER

INFORMATION

>>> READ MORE

Our organizational subscription to Science Direct is now active, and we are thrilled to announce that all members may now submit a request to receive their login credentials. The subscription covers almost 800 scientific journals (list attached) in the Physical Sciences category – one which we felt covered as much of the diverse and technical disciplines within our organization as possible while also maintaining a financially responsible commitment.

HOW TO ACCESS

READ MORE <<<

In order to request your credentials, you must log in to the Member Area of the NEAFS website by navigating to www.neafs.org and selecting “Member Area” under the “Membership” header on the main page. There you will be prompted to enter your name, preferred e-mail address, and member number. In return, you will receive an e-mail from a member of our board and staff with your registration ID and password. Instructions on how to activate will be attached to the email.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

>>> READ MORE

By requesting your Science Direct credentials, you agree to the following terms and conditions listed on the NEAFS website. All of this information will also be hosted on the Member Area of the website for future reference along with a listing of journals that can be accessed with the subscription. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Minero (presidentelect@neafs.org).

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Proceeds go to the Carol De Forest Research Grant Fund

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National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Study of

Illicit Drug Exposure in Forensic Science Workers

What are Illicit Drugs?

- Illicit drugs are drugs that have been prohibited in the United States and are controlled both by the Federal and all 50 state governments.
- Illicit drugs in this research study will be cocaine, methamphetamine, and opioids (fentanyl and heroin).

Why is NIOSH studying illicit drugs in workers?

- Illicit drugs exposure in the workplace may impact worker's health. Symptoms that can result from illicit drug exposures could include lightheadedness, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, or be fatal and can create the need for medical attention and prevent workers from performing their duties as needed.
- Workers that handle illicit drugs are likely routinely exposed to low levels of illicit drugs and there is little understanding of potential health effects from these routine low-dose exposures.

What are the objectives of this study?

- NIOSH would like to know more about the range of illicit drug exposures occurring in US workplaces.
- Findings from this study will be used to 1) identify worker tasks and processes associated with elevated illicit drug exposures and 2) determine ways to reduce illicit drug exposures in the workplace.

What will NIOSH be collecting?

- NIOSH researchers will collect air, surface wipes, handwipes, and urine samples at all selected work sites and samples will be analyzed for cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine.
- NIOSH researchers will conduct a questionnaire that will ask about medical history, exposures, and perceived health effects.

Who is eligible for this study?

- To participate in this study, workers must be adults, work in a law enforcement forensic science division, and regularly handle illicit drugs.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

What is NIOSH?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is a multidisciplinary research institute of the government. NIOSH is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the Department of Health and Human Services.

Will participants receive their study results?

Yes, study participants will have the option of receiving their individual study results. Results will be sent within 1 year of the site visit.

How will this research be used?

The results from this study will be:

- Communicated to the public
- Used to inform future research into illicit drug exposure and health
- Assist in the development of best practices for how to manage and reduce exposures to illicit drugs

NIOSH project officer:
Jennie Cox, PhD, MS
Lead Industrial Hygienist
jcox@cdc.gov
1090 Tusculum Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

AFQAM Cooperative Training Program

The AFQAM Executive Board is pleased to announce the release of the AFQAM Cooperative Training Program! This training program is designed for those new to forensic quality assurance and will provide a key steppingstone to achieving success in the position and with the responsibilities. The training program was developed by experienced forensic quality assurance experts and is broken up into courses that focus on key topics in quality assurance. The first two courses available are 'Introduction to ISO' and 'Accreditation – What Is It Good For?'.

The AFQAM Cooperative Training Program is open to everyone, and you do not need to be an AFQAM member to participate. Each course can be purchased individually, and a certificate of completion will be given to the student at the successful completion of the course. The interactive training will keep you engaged, motivated, and eager to learn as you progress through the course.

This training program is ideal for those new to quality assurance or interested in quality assurance such as new Quality Manager's, Technical Leader's, new hires, or other roles that assist with quality assurance in the laboratory. Whether you are simply seeking to learn more about what the job entails, or seeking tools to help you succeed in your job, this is for you!

To review the available courses and register please follow this link: https://afqam.org/cooperative/. Additional courses will be released in the near future. For questions, please email contact@afqam.org.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

SWGDRUG WEBINAR SERIES #2

Topic: MS Techniques and Their use in the Seized-Drug Analytical Scheme

Presentation 1: Introduction to Mass Spectrometry Technology and Techniques

Mr. Benjamin Place, National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA

Mass spectrometers are extremely powerful instruments that are able to provide useful information regarding the identity and quantity of chemicals, including applications for identifying seized drugs. This presentation will provide a high-level overview of the fundamentals of mass spectrometry, an introduction to the different types of technologies and instruments that are available, and a description of specific analyses that can be performed using mass spectrometry. Topics such as ion fragmentation, mass spectrum interpretation, and library matching will be discussed in the presentation.

Presentation 2: Application of Mass Spectrometry into a Seized Drug Analytical Scheme

Mr. Christian C. Matchett, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, USA

The application of mass spectrometry in a seized drug analytical scheme requires an analyst to consider the selectivity of the data produced, which can be influenced by numerous factors. This presentation will discuss some of the factors which may be relevant to an analyst when applying mass spectrometry towards an analytical scheme. Attendees will be presented with examples of diminished selectivity within mass spectrometry and potential courses of action for when the mass spectra do not rise to Category A classification.

Scan or click to register by 11th October (Session 1); 18th October (Session 2)

Session 1

Date: 18th October 2024 (Friday)
Time: 12.00pm - 1.30pm (Brasilia Time, UTC-3)
Platform: Microsoft Teams
Facilitator:
Dr. Adriano Otavio Maldaner
Brazilian Federal Police , Brazil

Session 2

Date: 25th October 2024 (Friday)
Time: 11.00am - 12.30pm (Singapore Time, UTC+8)
Platform: Zoom
Facilitator:
Dr. Angeline Yap
Health Sciences Authority, Singapore

NORTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS

TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD
JANUARY 1st to DECEMBER 31st
OF THE CURRENT YEAR

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists(NEAFS) is proud to offer its members a Training Scholarship Fund (TSF). Members in good standing are eligible to receive up to $400 towards training, workshop or non-NEAFS meeting registration and travel expenses. Individuals will only be allowed reimbursement once per application period. Any NEAFS Annual Meeting expenses are ineligible to receive funding. Reimbursement will occur upon receipt of a certificate showing successful attendance and completion of the course along with an article summarizing the course for the NEAFS newsletter.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must submit a Pre-Approval Application prior to attending the training for which they wish to obtain funding. For additional instructions, requirements and forms visit the NEAFS website.

https://www.neafs.org/trainingscholarshipfund

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