

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 25, 2026

- 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM**
WORKSHOP
SNP Genotyping Using WGS on Benchtop Sequencers: Making the Most of Every DNA Sample
- 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM**
WORKSHOP
DNA Profile Analysis in a Validated Process for Efficiency and Interpretation
- 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM**
WORKSHOP
From Awareness to Action: Building Resilience in Forensic Science
- 1:30 – 4:30 PM**
WORKSHOP
DNA Trainers' Meeting

MONDAY

OCTOBER 26, 2026

- 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**
WORKSHOP
Human Intelligence in the Age of AI: Meaningful Oversight, Trust, and Legal Scrutiny in Forensic Science
- 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
MEETING
Grupo Científico Latino-Americano de Trabajo Sobre Identificación Humana (GCLAITH)
- 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
WORKSHOP
Build Your Brand – Build Your Culture: Putting Success in Succession Planning
Forensic Leadership Alliance
- 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**
WORKSHOP
Bayes to Bench: Understanding Likelihood Ratios and Probabilistic Genotyping from Foundations to Legal Challenges
- 1:00 – 4:00 PM**
WORKSHOP
Shifting the Forensic Mindset Moving Forward
- 1:00 – 4:00 PM**
WORKSHOP
Building Your Dream Job While Making Work Fun

5:00 – 6:15 PM Welcome Reception – Outside the 5th Floor Ballroom

Session times, speakers, and room assignments are subject to change — please check onsite signage for the most current information.

TUESDAY

OCTOBER 27, 2026

GENERAL SESSION • 5th Floor Ballroom A–E

7:15 – 8:30 AM Breakfast with Exhibitors — Exhibition Hall A–C

8:30 – 8:45 AM Welcome and Opening Remarks

Bill Linton, Promega Corporation

8:45 – 9:45 AM

KEYNOTE

When Evidence Breaks the Rules: Forensic Firsts in the Courtroom

Janet Cady, Parabon Nanolabs • Cristina Valencia, Astrea Forensics

9:45 – 10:30 AM Break with Exhibitors — Exhibition Hall A–C

10:30 – 10:50 AM

A Paradyme Shift in Forensic DNA Analysis: Investigation into the Reduced Stutter Chemistry and Its Implications for Profile Interpretation

Jo-Anne Bright, New Zealand Institute for Public Health & Forensic Science • Michael Coble, Center for Human Identification (CHI), UNT Health Science Center

10:53 – 11:08 AM

Serial Offender or Personnel Contamination: Practical Application of Internal Laboratory Databases

Marissa Esterline, Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Laboratory

11:11 – 11:26 AM

When ‘Unsuitable’ Obscures ‘Absent’: A Case-Based Analysis of DNA Reporting Practices

Virginia Barron, Barron Law Office • Minnesota Board of Public Defense

11:29 – 11:50 AM

CODIS/NDIS Update

Lisa Grossweiler, Federal Bureau of Investigation

11:50 AM – 1:20 PM Lunch — Exhibition Hall A–C

1:20 – 1:38 PM

FBI Rapid Update

Douglas Hares, Federal Bureau of Investigation

1:38 – 1:58 PM

The New NCJA Center for Forensic DNA Policy and Practice: Addressing Legacy Issues and New Technologies to Maximize the Potential of Forensic DNA Technology

Christopher Asplen, National Criminal Justice Association

2:01 – 2:21 PM

Probabilistic Searching of Databases Compared to Binary CODIS Eligibility: An Improved Methodology for Maximizing Investigative Leads Using STR DNA Profiles

Michael Coble, Center for Human Identification (CHI), UNT Health Science Center

2:24 – 2:44 PM

When Science Speaks for the Dead: A Prosecutorial Framework for Human Remains Identification

Karen Ross, Queens County District Attorney’s Office

2:47 – 3:07 PM

The Wayward Beach Bum: Resolving Unidentified Human Remains Using Integrated Forensic and Genealogical Approaches

Stacey Baker, Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office

3:10 – 3:30 PM

The Five Year Mark: Innovations in the Identification of the Lake and Ng Serial Killer Victims

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Identifinders International

3:30 – 5:30 PM Odd-Numbered Posters and Exhibits — Exhibition Hall A–C

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 28, 2026

GENERAL SESSION • 5th Floor Ballroom A–E

7:15 – 8:30 AM Breakfast with Exhibitors — Exhibition Hall A–C

8:30 – 9:30 AM

KEYNOTE

When DNA Changes Everything: The Impact of One Identification

CeCe Moore • Deborah Brashers • Shena Latcham, Missouri State Highway Patrol

9:30 – 10:15 AM Break with Exhibitors — Exhibition Hall A–C

10:15 – 10:35 AM

It Takes a Village: The DNA Identification of a Revolutionary War John Doe

Allison Peacock, FHD Forensics

10:35 – 11:50 AM

Panel: The Connective Thread — A Multidisciplinary Conversation on the Role of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

Steve Bailey • Megan O'Donnell, New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory Biology Unit • Ryan Powell • Ashley Spence

Moderator: Jennifer Degner

11:50 AM – 1:15 PM Lunch — Exhibition Hall A–C

1:15 – 1:30 PM

When Innovation Meets Reality: Lessons from a Complete Forensic DNA Workflow Overhaul

Raman Sandhu-Kirmer • Kris Cano, Mesa Public Safety Support

1:33 – 1:48 PM

From Tarp to Truth: DNA Evidence Unravels a Hidden Homicide

Christine Scott, Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Laboratory

1:51 – 2:11 PM

Breaking the UK Barrier: Investigative Genetic Genealogy and the First Solved Case of a UK Citizen

Cairenn Binder, Ramapo College of New Jersey • David Gurney, Investigative Genetic Genealogy Expert

2:14 – 2:40 PM

From Admissibility to Precedent: Scientific and Legal Lessons from the Gilgo Beach Frye Hearing

Nicole Novroski, UNT Health Center for Human Identification • Andrew Lee, Nicholas Santomartino, Ray Tierney, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

2:45 – 4:45 PM Even-Numbered Posters and Exhibits — Exhibition Hall A–C

7:00 – 11:30 PM

SOCIAL

Gillette Stadium Offsite Dinner Event

- Bus staging begins at 5:30 PM — first bus departs 5:45 PM, last bus departs 6:15 PM
- All attendees must use provided transportation; parking is not available at the venue.

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THURSDAY

OCTOBER 29, 2026

GENERAL SESSION • 5th Floor Ballroom A–E

8:00 – 9:15 AM Breakfast with Exhibitors — Exhibition Hall A–C

9:15 – 9:35 AM

A Promise Made: Reflecting on 9/11 Victim Identification 25 Years Later

Kevin McKenna, New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Dept. of Forensic Biology

9:38 – 9:53 AM

DNA Databases: INTERPOL's Strategy and Experience in International Identification

Ronaldo Carneiro da Silva Junior, INTERPOL

9:56 – 10:16 AM

It's Ys: Probabilistic Genotyping of Y-STR Profiles

Jo-Anne Bright, New Zealand Institute for Public Health and Forensic Science

10:19 – 10:39 AM

How Courts Decide Reliability: Lessons from the Third Circuit's Anderson Decision

Mark Perlin, Cybergenetics

10:42 – 11:12 AM Break with Exhibitors — Exhibition Hall A–C

11:12 – 11:32 AM

The Power of No DNA: When Testimony Should Communicate the Information Gained from the Absence of DNA

Tim Kalafut, Sam Houston State University

11:35 – 11:55 AM

Discover the Hidden Dangers Lurking in Your FIGG SNP Profile

Kevin Lord, Astrea Forensics

11:58 AM – 12:18 PM

Advances in Forensic Proteomics: From Research to Casework

Zachary Goecker, National Institute of Standards and Technology • Donald Siegel, NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner

12:21 – 12:41 PM

The SCAnDi Project: Single Cell Technologies for DNA Analysis

Nick Dawney, Liverpool John Moores University

12:44 – 12:55 PM

CLOSING

Concluding Remarks

Tim Kupferschmid, Promega

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS • 1:30 – 4:30 PM

1:30 – 4:30 PM

WORKSHOP

Embracing Single Cell Analysis in Forensic Science: Exploring the Opportunities

1:30 – 4:30 PM

WORKSHOP

The Power of Numbers and the Power of the Individual: Database Growth, Reach, and Limitations of FIGG

1:30 – 4:30 PM

WORKSHOP

From the Lab Bench to the Witness Stand: Communication of DNA Evidence

1:30 – 4:30 PM

WORKSHOP

Forensic Science Validation: Principles and Guidance