

## 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**

Tim Kupferschmid, Promega

**8:45 – 9:45 AM**

**KEYNOTE**

**From Evidence to Impact: 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 – 10:35 AM Break with Exhibitors — Exhibition Hall A–C

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**

Edie Holmes, Earlham Institute

**12:44 – 12:55 PM**

**CLOSING**

**Concluding Remarks**

Lotte Downey, 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**