

S1 Interdisciplinary Symposium: Problems of Today and Solutions for Tomorrow

Tuesday, February 22

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Chair:

Christopher M. Milroy, MD, LLB

University of Ottawa

Ottawa Hospital

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Co-Chair:

Paul Messner, JD

Dry Ridge, KY

Faculty:

James L. Caruso, MD

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner/Coroner

Denver, CO

Heidi Eldridge, PhD

RTI International,

Research Triangle Park, NC

Lucy Davis, BHS

LDH Consultants, LLC

Pikeville, KY

Roderick T. Kennedy, JD

Los Ranchos, NM

Barry Logan PhD

NMS Labs

Horsham, PA

Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will have a greater understanding of current challenges in multiple forensic science disciplines, death investigations, and in the courts

Impact Statement: This presentation will impact the forensic sciences community by offering various perspectives regarding current issues and possible future solutions

Program Description: This presentation will present various perspectives as they relate to forensic science, medicine, and the courts including: workload and workforce issues in forensic pathology and their impact on death investigations; the analytical challenges presented by the rapid development of illicit novel psychoactive substances; why standards created by the Academy Standards Board (ASB) are crucial to forensic science; and how pattern recognition discipline validity challenges are being addressed. The symposium will also discuss why courts are both reluctant to recognize challenges to previously accepted forensic science techniques and resistant to admitting evolved techniques.

S2 Young Forensic Scientist Forum (YFSF) Special Session: Meeting and Overcoming Challenges Faced by Young Forensic Scientists

Tuesday, February 22
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Zain Bhaloo MSc

Canada Border Services Agency
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Cheryl Hunter

American Academy of Forensic Sciences
Colorado Springs, CO

Carl McClary, MS

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
Atlanta, GA

Joe Trevino, MS

Forensic Investigations
Sunnyside, NY

Modhuparna Manna

Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA

Timothy Campbell BSc

Canada Border Services Agency
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Robert Lynch, BArch

Architectural Expert & Consultant
Haymarket, VA

Brian Janysek, MFS

Oakton, VA

Jessica Powers, MS

Houston Forensic Science
Houston, TX

Molly Van Buren, MSc

Houston Forensic Science
Houston, TX

Kelly Freeman, MS

Houston Forensic Science
Houston, TX

Aja Moss, MS

Houston Forensic Science
Houston, TX

Dirk Vastrick, BA

Dirk Vastrick Presents
Spokane Valley, WA

Hannah Simmons, BS

Dirk Vastrick Presents
Spokane Valley, WA

Learning Overview: The YFSF will aim to bring to light some of these challenges and more importantly, highlight how the members and attendees of our very own American Academy of Forensic Science met these challenges head on, rose to the occasion and circumvented these challenges in order to get to their current positions.

Impact Statement: The impact of this Special Session will focus mostly on, but not exclusively on, the younger forensic scientists who are still in the process of trying to get to their "dream job". We say not exclusively because the age of the person will never dictate their entrance into a new career in forensics, therefore anyone and everyone can and will benefit from the information provided in this Special Session.

This session is designed from the ground up and tailored to the Young Forensic Scientists Forum attendees as well as any members of the AAFS who are or were experiencing difficulties in the transition from Student to Professional. So many hurdles are present in this journey, many of which young scientists are completely unprepared for: building and updating resumes, job interviewing skills and techniques, proper and efficient networking, and all the mistakes, difficulties and challenges in between.

