E23   Examining Bloodstain Patterns to Facilitate DNA Testing

Thomas L. Martin*, Crime Scene Forensics, LLC, PO Box 515, Red Hook, NY 12571

After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to identify specific types of bloodstain patterns at a crime scene, or on bloodstained evidence submitted to a crime lab. This will help narrow the scope of bloodstain evidence to be tested by the forensic laboratory.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by setting guidelines for testing bloodstains, and ensuring that the most probative evidence is given priority. This presentation will assist attendees in recognizing bloodstain patterns with the most probative value.

At any given crime scene involving significant bloodshed, it's not unusual for the crime scene investigator to collect hundreds of bloodstain samples. Crime scene investigators are trained to collect as much evidence as possible before the crime scene is released. This is a good practice as there are no second chances to collect additional evidence at a later time. Most forensic crime laboratories operate within personnel and budgetary constraints. As a result, cases are often prioritized, and in cases where hundreds of items of evidence are collected, it is neither possible nor practical for the lab to test all items collected. This can create a disparity between the objective of the crime scene investigator, who is trained to collect "everything" and the laboratory analyst, who must prioritize evidence for testing.

Once the evidence has been collected, and is being prepared for DNA testing, a review should be conducted by the crime scene investigators, case investigators, attorneys, laboratory personnel, etc., to determine which evidence has the most probative value. This evidence would be most pertinent to the case, and should be given priority by the laboratory. The proper identification and evaluation of bloodstain evidence can facilitate this procedure. This presentation will assist attendees in recognizing bloodstain patterns with the most probative value.

Bloodstain, Evidence, DNA Testing