

Workshop #8: Laboratory Development: Where to Start and How to Continually Improve

Date: Tuesday October 29, 2024

Time: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Rates:

MEMBER RATES		
Early Bird Registration June 26 – September 11 \$150	Late Registration Begins September 12 \$175	On-site Registration Begins October 10 \$200
NON – MEMBER RATES		
Early Bird Registration June 26 – September 11 \$200	Late Registration Begins September 12 \$225	On-site Registration Begins October 10 \$250

Chairs

Dani C. Mata, MSFS D-ABFT-FT
Senior Forensic Scientist
Orange County Crime Lab
dmata@ocsheriff.gov

Luke N. Rodda, Ph.D.
Chief Forensic Toxicologist and Director
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, City and County of San Francisco
luke.rodde@sfgov.org

Abstract

The SOFT Toxicology Resource Committee presents a forensic toxicology laboratory development and improvement workshop. In recent years, there has been an increased focus on forensic toxicology due to the fentanyl epidemic, various NPS popping up across the country, and a greater national focus on driving under the influence of drug and drug-facilitated crime testing. Various laboratories nationwide have been developing and improving their forensic toxicology programs with sharable learnings of successes, trials, and tribulations. At this workshop, hear from five different laboratories that have tackled this challenge. You will learn what worked, what didn't, and what may have if other resources had been asked or planned for. There will be a focus on technological advances, efficient improvements, funding, and personnel. We encourage attendees to come with their own laboratory problems and solutions as there will be time for discussion within the workshop.

Learning Objectives

1. Inform attendees of various ways to fund instrumentation and personnel for the forensic toxicology laboratory.
2. Provide attendees with the pros and cons of implementing different workflows and improvements in technology and instruments.
3. Discuss the various aspects of implementing changes within a laboratory.

Faculty

Luke N. Rodda, Ph.D.

Chief Forensic Toxicologist and Director

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, City and County of San Francisco

luke.rodde@sfgov.org

Dani C. Mata, MSFS D-ABFT-FT

Senior Forensic Scientist

Orange County Crime Lab

dmata@ocsheriff.gov

Sara Short, MSFS, D-ABFT-FT

Toxicology Technical Lead

Oregon State Police

sara.short@osp.oregon.gov

Matthew P. Juhascik, Ph.D., F-ABFT

Chief Toxicologist

Montgomery County Coroner / Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab

juhascikm@mcoho.org

Joey Jones, PhD

Systems Director

North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory

jjones@nlcl.org

Audience Knowledge Level:

Intermediate

Workshop Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
8:00-8:15 am	Introduction and Laboratory Background	All Speakers
8:15-8:45 am	Technology	Matthew Juhascik, Luke Rodda, Dani Mata
8:45-9:00 am	Technology Panel Discussion	All Speakers
9:00-9:30 am	Culture/Work Environment	Sara Short, Joey Jones, Luke Rodda
9:30-10:00 am	Culture/Work Environment Panel Discussion	All Speakers
10:00-10:30 am	Break	
10:30-10:50 am	Funding	Joey Jones
10:50-11:30 am	Workflow Changes	Sara Short, Matt Juhascik, Dani Mata, Luke Rodda
11:30-12:00 pm	Funding and Workflow Panel Discussion	All Speakers