

Day 1: Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Time	Session & Speaker Details
7:00 AM	Registration (outside of the Shenandoah Ballroom)
8:15 AM	Welcoming Remarks Theresa Staropoli — Director of Technical Services, Virginia Department of Forensic Science
8:20 AM	NGS Solutions at QIAGEN Josh Abernathy — Sr. Technical Accounts Manager, HID & Forensics, Qiagen
8:50 AM	Who Were They? Uncovering the Stories of East Marshall Street Well Ancestors Through DNA Analysis Baneshwar Singh, Ph.D. — Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of Forensic Science, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia
9:30 AM	DNA Recovery from Human Remains Submerged in Aggressive Household Chemicals Jennifer Snedeker, Ph.D. — Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Human Identification, UNT Health Fort Worth
10:15 AM	<i>Morning Break (10:15 AM – 10:30 AM)</i>
10:30 AM	Development and Evaluation of Forensic Proteomic Methods for Human Semen Analysis Zachary C. Goecker, Ph.D. — Health Scientist, National Institute of Standards and Technology
11:15 AM	Differential Extraction and the Complicated Biology Underlying This Process Robin W. Cotton, Ph.D. — Biomedical Forensic Sciences, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine
12:00 PM	<i>Lunch Break (12:00 PM – 1:30 PM)</i>



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Time	Session & Speaker Details
1:30 PM	DNA Extraction Efficiency and Optimized DNA Recovery from Cartridge Cases Lauren Mullen — Research Biologist, National Institute of Standards and Technology
2:00 PM	SRMs, RMs, and RGTMs, oh my! Erica Romsos — Research Biologist, National Institute of Standards and Technology
2:30 PM	Rise in Non-Fatal Strangulation: Multidisciplinary Practice Implications Julie L. Valentine Ph.D., RN, SANE-A, FAFS, FAAN — Professor, Barnes Presidential Endowed Chair, University of Utah College of Nursing
3:15 PM	<i>Afternoon Break (3:15 PM – 3:30 PM)</i>
3:30 PM	Reducing Mixture Complexity: Paradyme™ 27GY STR System and Spectrum CE Systems Margaret Ewing — Product Manager, Genetic Identity Business Unit, Promega Corp.
4:00 PM	A Profile Out of Place: Investigating an Unexpected CODIS Hit in the Annie Le Homicide Peter Valentin, Ph.D., ABC-CC, CSCSA — Associate Professor of Forensic Science, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, University of New Haven
5:00 PM	End of Day 1



Day 2: Thursday, November 5, 2026

Time	Session & Speaker Details
7:30 AM	Registration (outside of the Shenandoah Ballroom)
8:30 AM	Impact of AI on Forensic DNA Analysis Mike Marciano, Ph.D. — Professor of Practice/Director of Research, Syracuse University Forensic and National Security Sciences Institute
9:15 AM	Guilty by Transfer? Assessing the Evidentiary Value of Trace DNA Ray Wickenheiser, DPS, MBA — New York State Police Crime Laboratory System (retired)
10:00 AM	<i>Morning Break (10:00 AM – 10:15 AM)</i>
10:15 AM	Activity Level Challenges: Finding a Responsible Path Forward Lynn R. Garcia — General Counsel, Texas Forensic Science Commission Jarrah R. Kennedy — Scientific Program Coordinator, Texas Forensic Science Commission
11:30 AM	Panel Discussion: Activity Level & Transfer Lynn R. Garcia, Jarrah R. Kennedy, Mike Marciano, Ray Wickenheiser, J.H. Pate Skene, Colin Bellair
12:30 PM	<i>Lunch Break (12:30 PM – 2:00 PM)</i>
2:00 PM	When is DNA Analysis “Based on My Training and Experience” (BOMTAE) - and Can That Be Reliable? J. H. Pate Skene — Cognitive Neuroscientist, Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Colorado Boulder Colin Bellair — Forensic Integrity Counsel, Assistant District Attorney, Travis County District Attorney’s Office
3:00 PM	Transforming the Ecosystem: The Future in Focus Jeremy Boone — Senior Field Application Scientist, Thermo Fisher Scientific
3:30 PM	<i>Afternoon Break (3:30 PM – 3:45 PM)</i>



Day 2: Thursday, November 5, 2026

Time	Session & Speaker Details
3:45 PM	STRmix: Trials and Tribulations Brian Kim — Supervising Criminalist, LAPD Amanda D. Garrett — DNA Technical Leader, WDOJ Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories
5:00 PM	End of Day 2

FINAL AGENDA



Day 3: Friday, November 6, 2026

Time	Session & Speaker Details
8:00 AM	Solving the Unsolvable: A Landmark Cold Case Sexual Assault Prosecution Involving Identical Twin DNA Master Detective Colleen Grantham — Prince William County Police Professor Andrea M. Feldman — George Mason University Dr. Janet Cady — Parabon NanoLabs
9:00 AM	IDseek®: Removing Workflow Barriers in Forensic MPS Enabled by Reverse Complement PCR Tim Kupferschmid — Sr. Director, Genetic Identity Business Unit, Promega Corp.
9:30 AM	<i>Morning Break (9:30 AM – 9:45 AM)</i>
9:45 AM	Under Pressure: A Study of Stress and Burnout in Forensic Scientists Donia Slack, Ph.D., PMP — Special Advisor on Forensic Science Policy, Innocence Project
10:45 AM	Closing Remarks Elizabeth Ballard — Forensic Biology Program Manager, Virginia Department of Forensic Science
11:00 AM	Virginia Department of Forensic Science Staff Meeting (DFS Staff Only)

