

Dear Colleague:

Welcome to “The ‘CSI Effect’: Maximizing the Potential of Forensic DNA.” Forensic DNA is opening up a new world of possibilities for both solving and preventing crimes, as well as bringing a measure of resolution and peace to victims. That’s why we are so pleased to offer this exciting, multidisciplinary training with the support of Life Technologies, Thermo Fisher Scientific, a leader in forensic DNA technology.

Anyone involved in criminal justice work is keenly aware of the inaccuracies about forensic DNA that viewers take away from popular TV crime shows, such as *CSI* or *Law and Order*. Perhaps the two most common misconceptions are that DNA evidence is always found, tested, and matched to an offender (this happens in nearly every crime on television) and that lab results are quickly returned to investigators (within a few days or sometimes a few hours on television dramas). Such misconceptions may create unrealistic expectations in jurors, crime victims, and the general public. Some may even lose respect for the criminal justice system when they are confronted with the reality of how the system currently works and compare it to the fictional criminal justice world they see on television.

Battling these misconceptions can be challenging. But what if we truly had the resources and the know-how to find and test DNA evidence in many more cases than we do now, and to deliver rapid, accurate forensic DNA results for every criminal case? What if we could turn current fiction into reality?

Throughout today’s training, you will hear from experts and practitioners who are using DNA evidence in more types of crimes, apprehending and convicting more offenders, and finding ways to reduce backlogs and turnaround times for DNA test results. Although no one yet is solving double murders in 55 minutes flat, rapid progress is within reach. I hope today’s training will inspire you to build new collaborations that raise the bar for forensic DNA work in your jurisdiction. Let’s start turning fiction into reality, today.

Sincerely,

Mai Fernandez

Executive Director

National Center for Victims of Crime

AGENDA

The “CSI Effect”: Maximizing the Potential of Forensic DNA

August 19, 2014

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks <i>Ilse Knecht, Director of the DNA Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime</i>
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.	Katie’s Law: Preventing Crimes and Saving Lives with Arrestee DNA Databases <i>Jayann Sepich, Survivor and Advocate, DNASaves.org</i>
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Maximizing the Potential of DNA Technology: A Prosecutor’s Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Innovative Uses of DNA● Using DNA in Burglary Cases● Familial Searching● Cold Case Prosecutions <i>Mitchell Morrissey, District Attorney, Denver, Colorado</i>
11:00 – 11:15 a.m.	Break
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Maximizing the Potential of DNA Technology: A Prosecutor’s Perspective <i>Continued</i>
12:15 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	CODIS Overview, Policy Update, and DNA Funding News

2:00 – 3:15 p.m.	A Detective’s Perspective: Innovations in Law Enforcement Use of DNA <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Forensic DNA Collection● Touch DNA● Using DNA in Burglary: New York City’s Experience● Solving Cold Cases <p><i>Joe Blozis, Retired Detective, New York City Police Department</i></p>
3:30 – 3:40 p.m.	Break
3:40 – 4:45 p.m.	A Detective’s Perspective: Innovations in Law Enforcement Use of DNA <i>Continued</i>
4:45 p.m.	Wrap-up & Adjourn

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Katie's Law: Preventing Crimes and Saving Lives with Arrestee DNA Databases

Hear firsthand from a mother, homicide survivor, and advocate about the importance of collecting DNA evidence from those arrested for crimes. Presenter will discuss specific examples of crimes solved using arrestee DNA testing and address common concerns related to such testing.

Jayann Sepich, DNASaves

A Prosecutor's Perspective: Making the Most of DNA Evidence

Learn about innovative uses of DNA technology that make CSI seem like reality, rather than fiction. Some jurisdictions—both in the U.S. and abroad—are extremely advanced in their use of DNA technology, and can serve as models for U.S. states and counties. Presenter will discuss Denver's Burglary DNA project and the significant drop in the burglary rate after the program's implementation. Learn about the benefits and challenges of familial DNA searching and how this technology has resulted in successful identifications and convictions. Also includes information on cold case prosecutions and the use of John Doe Warrants.

Mitchell Morrissey, Denver District Attorney

CODIS Overview, Policy Update, and DNA Funding News

Learn about forensic DNA profiles, including what information they contain and how they are matched with offenders through the Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS). Hear about current and proposed laws (at both the state and federal levels) affecting the collection, storage, and testing of DNA forensic evidence, as well as innovative state laws concerning missing persons and DNA.

Lisa Hurst, Consultant, Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs

A Detective's Perspective: Innovations in Law Enforcement Use of DNA

Learn about crime scene investigations focusing on the recognition, detection, documentation, collection, packaging, and storing of DNA evidence. Hear about how the New York City's Biotracks program focused on the collection of DNA evidence from burglary scenes identifying recidivists and subsequently reducing overall crime. The presenter will also discuss "Touch DNA" including the latest collection devices and Rapid DNA Technology.

Joe Blozis, Retired Detective, New York City Police Department

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Joseph Blozis

Retired Detective Sergeant Joseph Blozis was employed by the New York Police Department (NYPD) from 1979 until he retired in 2008. For 13 years as a senior sergeant in the Crime Scene Unit, and as Supervisor of the Detective Squad, he supervised the search, collection, preservation, and documentation of all types of physical and trace evidence. Detective Sergeant Blozis has managed more than 2,500 crime scenes, including more than 1,000 homicide investigations. In 1993 and 2001, he oversaw both crime scene investigations involving the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. On September 11, 2001, he was on scene as both towers collapsed, and was immediately assigned to “Ground Zero” until May 2002. Prior positions include supervising the criminalistics, narcotics, questioned documents, serology, and polygraph units for NYPD’s Police Crime Laboratory, as well as working as a patrol sergeant, in a detective squad, as plainclothes anti-crime, and as a uniformed patrol officer. Det. Sgt. Blozis most recently coordinated the NYPD’s Biotracks DNA Program, which expands the collection of DNA evidence to property crimes in addition to homicides and sexual assaults, and has identified more than 500 offenders to date.

Lisa Hurst

Lisa Hurst, a consultant at Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs, has worked in government affairs for 17 years, and has been directly involved in much of the forensic DNA research and policy formulation conducted at the firm. She is responsible for publishing a monthly report on national and international news and legislation affecting forensic DNA policies. The monthly report, which is distributed to over 8,000 recipients, is well-regarded by criminal justice professionals as a reliable and unique source of information about forensic DNA. Before joining the firm, Ms. Hurst worked in Washington, DC, for a Member of Congress, and most recently as an associate with a large DC lobbying firm.

Mitchell Morrissey

District Attorney of Denver, Colorado, Mitchell Morrissey is internationally recognized for his expertise in DNA technology in criminal prosecutions. A veteran prosecutor, he introduced the first DNA evidence used in a criminal trial in Denver and has worked extensively on the Denver Cold Case Project, where more than 4,200 unsolved sexual assaults and murders have been reviewed in an effort to solve them using DNA evidence. Along with the Denver Police Department, he is also implementing the use of DNA to solve burglary cases and other property

crimes. Mr. Morrissey is one of the lead proponents of using Familial DNA Database Searches in the United States and directs the Denver DNA Human Identification Research Project, which is studying the use of familial DNA searches in criminal investigations in Denver and Colorado.

Jayann Sepich

On August 31, 2003, Jayann Sepich's daughter, Katie, a graduate student at New Mexico State University, was brutally raped and murdered. In the aftermath of that experience, Ms. Sepich and her family have made it their mission to see legislation passed in all 50 states to mandate DNA testing upon felony arrest. Called "Katie's Law," such legislation was implemented in New Mexico on January 1, 2007. New Mexico has so far had 61 DNA matches from arrestees to criminal cases, and a total of 17 states now have similar legislation. Ms. Sepich has been honored by Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico as an Outstanding New Mexico Woman of 2007, and was inducted into the New Mexico Women's Hall of Fame. She was also honored by Redbook Magazine in October, 2008 with their "Strength and Spirit Award." Ms. Sepich and her husband recently co-founded DNA Saves to educate policy makers and the public about the value of forensic DNA.

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Jayann Sepich

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WEB RESOURCES

National Center for Victims of Crime, DNA Resource Center

VictimsofCrime.org/dna

Educational materials about the use of forensic DNA in the criminal justice system, including archived training webinars on using DNA in burglary, DNA collection upon arrest, the rape kit backlog, and working cold cases. National Center publications, including our new cold case victim notification protocol and report from our roundtable with survivors from old untested SAK cases, are posted here. FAQs and brochures about forensic DNA for survivors, law enforcement professionals, and victim services providers are available for download.

Life Technologies

lifetechnologies.com/hid

Life Technologies™ products harness the power of science to transform lives. A member of the Thermo Fisher Scientific family of brands, our instruments, everyday tools, and services offer high-quality, innovative life science solutions for every lab and application. As a worldwide leader in forensics, we deliver some of the most comprehensively validated products, expertise, and application support available to the human identification community. From our trusted reagents, through high-performance genetic analyzers and software, to in-depth training and on-site technical assistance, our integrated systems work together to help maximize your productivity and enable your success.

Denver District Attorney's Burglary Project

www.denverda.org/DNA/Denver_DNA_Burglary_Project.htm

Information on the Denver DNA Burglary Project, including using DNA to solve property crimes. Also includes legal decisions on a variety of DNA-related issues.

DNA Resource Report/Gordon Thomas Honeywell

www.DNAresource.com

Media and legislative information concerning forensic DNA. Sign up for periodic DNA e-mail reports.

DNA Saves

www.dnasaves.org

Web site created by Jayann and David Sepich provides information about the value of forensic DNA and passing arrestee DNA testing laws.

FBI Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/html/codis1.htm

Information about CODIS, including the number of investigations aided to date.

Hope Exists After Rape Trauma

www.h-e-a-r-t.info

Web site created by Rob and Debbie Smith includes information on the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Act, Debbie's story and H-E-A-R-T's mission, and contact information for the foundation.

International Association of Cold Case Investigators

www.cold-case.org

Website created to serve as a single point of access (particular for law enforcement professionals) to the information and tools vital to investigating and solving cold cases.

National Criminal Justice Reference Service

www.NCJRS.gov

Federally funded resource that includes information on justice-related topics, including publications on DNA.

National District Attorney's Association/American Prosecutors Research Institute DNA Forensics Program

www.ndaa.org/apri/programs/dna/dna_home.html

Written materials on scientific advancements, case law, and legislation for prosecutors.

National Forensic Science Technology Center

www.nfstc.org

The National Forensic Science Technology Center is a not-for-profit corporation funded by a Cooperative Agreement with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and provides programs that build individual competency and quality systems for the forensic science community in the United States.

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

www.namus.gov

Free, online national centralized repository and resource center for missing persons and unidentified decedent records searchable by medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officials, and the general public.

The President's Initiative to Advance Justice Through DNA Technology

www.DNA.gov

Online training opportunities for law enforcement, victim advocates, forensic scientists, officers of the court, researchers, crime lab managers, and policymakers. DNA-related grant information. Publications containing information on DNA technology and its applications in criminal justice systems.

Understanding DNA Evidence: A Guide for Victim Service Providers

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/bulletins/dna_4_2001

University of North Texas Center for Human Identification

www.hsc.unt.edu/departments/pathology_anatomy/dna/Forensics/Initiative/Initiative.cfm

Nationally recognized facility providing scientific and technical support to law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners, and crime laboratories throughout the country.

University of North Texas Forensic Sciences Unit

www.untfsu.com

The Forensic Sciences Unit provides investigative support and nationwide training on DNA, CODIS, and the investigation of missing and unidentified person cases.