

WORKSHOPS

Pre-Registration Required by Jan. 30

W21 Implementing FIGG: How to put Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy Into Practice (Without Messing it up for Everyone Else)

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

CE Hours: 3.0

Learning Overview: After attending this workshop, attendees will better understand: (1) the standards and policies being created for and by the forensic community; (2) a comparative study of the different technologies available and data-driven guidance on when to use each; (3) database hygiene and best practices for using FIGG databases in alignment with the Interim Department Of Justice (DOJ) policy and evolving terms of services; (4) how to prepare and what to consider when bringing FIGG in-house; and (5) case studies and practical guidance for learning investigative techniques from the perspective of law enforcement.

Impact Statement: This workshop will impact the forensic science community by providing the most up-to-date information on the policies, procedures, and best practices associated with putting FIGG into practice in an operational forensic environment. Attendees will receive summaries of all standards and policies presented. Example checklists for implementation, data evaluations, and comparisons will be made available. By sharing experiences and knowledge, the community can build a framework for a system that works together on a wider, coordinated scale.

Program Description: This workshop will provide scientific, experiential, and collaborative guidance on the critical aspects of a FIGG workflow, namely, emerging standards and policy, DNA technologies and limitations, genealogical databases and terms of use, investigative genealogical skill-building, and laboratory implementation planning. Practical experience and implementation options will be focused by a discussion of how real world cases are solved, which will guide operational and policy choices. Experts from forensic laboratories, law enforcement, and industry will present their consensus, data, and guidance to provide a toolkit for the forensic community to apply to their own investigations.

Chair:

Ray A. Wickenheiser, DPS

New York State Police Crime Lab System
Albany, NY

Presenters:

Connie Bormans, PhD

Gene by Gene
Houston, TX

Swathi A. Kumar, PhD

GEDmatch
San Diego, CA

Steven Smugeresky, BA

Montgomery County Police Department
Gaitersburg, MD

Mandi S. Van Buren, MPharm

Kern Regional Crime Laboratory
Bakersfield, CA

Target Audience: Criminalistics, General, Jurisprudence

Knowledge Level Required: Basic