



B80 The History of the Association of Forensic DNA Analysts and Administrators (AFDAA)

Joseph E. Warren, PhD, University of North Texas Health Science Center Fort Worth, Department of Pathology and Anatomy, 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth, TX 76107; Aliece M. Watts, MS, Association of Forensic DNA Analysts and Administrators, 11001 Smallwood Drive, Burleson, TX 76028; Brady Mills, BS, Texas Department of Public Safety, PO Box 4143, Austin, TX 78752; and Catherine Caballero, BS, Applied Biosystems, Inc., 850 Lincoln Centre Drive, Foster City, CA 94404*

After attending this presentation, attendees will learn of the history of the Association of Forensic DNA Analysts and Administrators (AFDAA), a “grass-roots” organization that began in Texas for Forensic DNA analysts.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by informing Forensic DNA analysts of the existence of an organization that encourages interaction among each other to share testing tips, new techniques, and problem troubleshooting.

The Association of Forensic DNA Analysts and Administrators (AFDAA) is a nonprofit organization composed of professionals engaged in the forensic aspects of DNA analysis for the judicial system. Members include forensic DNA analysts, supervisors, and administrators. AFDAA provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among forensic DNA scientists to:

- keep current on the methods, techniques, and procedures presently used in the field of forensic science
- promote the dissemination of information on research and developments of new techniques within the field
- discuss the latest legislative issues concerning DNA analysis
- network with other DNA crime laboratories and personnel
- obtain formal training and attend guest lectures
- share and troubleshoot forensic DNA data and/or issues.

This presentation will review the history of the organization from the group's inception in 1990 as an informal meeting of several forensic DNA analysts. Today the current AFDAA membership is composed of over 200 forensic DNA professionals in over 75 agencies/companies across 25 states.

AFDAA is proud to be a large contributor to the professional growth of the forensic DNA community. Meeting held twice a year provide education of current and future technologies that is valuable to trainees in the field, as well, as the experienced veterans. The peer interaction of varied experience between researchers, government labs, private labs, administrators, vendors, and educators provides an important forum to share and learn from each other. For more information on AFDAA, visit the website at www.AFDAA.org.

AFDAA, Forensic DNA, Organization