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### **B88      What Do You Get When You Mix a Double Helix With a Becke Line? A Forensic Family**

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The goal of this presentation is to present the story of a real forensic family.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing an entertaining yet informative discussion on how two siblings have mentored each other, learned from each other, and impacted the forensic science community together.

The Gross sisters (Ann Marie and Susan) are two forensic scientists who have worked together at the same crime laboratory for 18 years. These sisters can be as different as DNA and trace evidence yet can work together, just as mitochondrial DNA and microscopic hair examinations work hand-in-hand. After working 26 and 20 years, respectively, in forensic science, the sisters not only have family at home but also in their workplace. Ann Marie Gross has spent 26 years working in forensic science at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) Forensic Science Services Laboratory. Her career began in 1989 as DNA analysis was being introduced into the forensic arena and she has experience in all DNA technologies — from Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) to Short Tandem Repeats (STRs) and mitochondrial DNA. Susan Gross has spent 20 years in forensic science, 18 of which have also been at the BCA; her career has involved working in drug chemistry and transitioned into trace evidence. Both have experience in crime scene processing and are currently supervisors in their respective disciplines. How did it happen that two sisters are both working in the exclusive field of forensic science AND in the same laboratory?

This presentation will tell the story of how they entered into the forensic field. “Who followed who?” is a question often posed to the two of them — are their stories the same? Also addressed will be how each has mentored the other and what they have learned from each other. Benefits of having a sibling work in the same field and in the same laboratory will be discussed and the disadvantages of working together will be presented, as well. The challenges of being on crime scenes together and working cases together, which has led to testifying in the same cases, will be described. Finally, research projects the two have collaborated on and future endeavors for the two sisters will be discussed.

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#### **Forensic Family, Siblings, Mentoring**