



## Workshops - 2017

### **W22 Viewing Research Through Different Lenses: How to Achieve Success in Court**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will better understand the value of scientific research in their courtroom practice. Participants will understand the value of scientific research and how to identify credible reference material, interpret information, and access such materials through the internet. Practitioners, such as forensic investigators, researchers, and lawyers, view scientific information through different lenses. Determining what is valuable and where to locate these resources is often challenging.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by raising awareness of practitioners, scientists, and lawyers to high-quality, no-cost, as well as paid, resources available through the internet and online materials. Those in attendance will take such awareness back to their respective employers and potentially increase the use of such materials by associated individuals and their organizations. Improving participants' skills in evaluating and locating information sources could decrease their reliance on materials of questionable value.

Researchers, practitioners, and attorneys rely on published scientific information to interpret forensic evidence. Historically, individuals relied on their training within their given profession to locate such resources; however, given such training can vary depending on their profession (e.g., researcher versus attorney), the end result of these searches can be quite different which can lead to: (1) confusion; (2) reliance on low quality data; (3) conflicting terminology being applied; and, (4) frustration due to lack of training in locating resources of value. This workshop will utilize library and information science to provide participants with valuable tools for assessing published research to determine the most appropriate materials for use in court. Along with library scientists, experts in forensic entomology and microbiology will guide participants and lead discussions of discerning accurate and discriminative scientific and experimental details. Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to: (1) identify resources for locating scientific information on the internet; (2) identify scholarly information; and, (3) determine associated scientific merit, application, and limitations.

This "hands-on" workshop will focus on locating and evaluating information resources across the science and law spectrum through the internet. Awareness of practitioners, scientists, and lawyers to high quality, no-cost, as well



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as paid, resources available through the internet and online materials will be raised. Those in attendance will take such awareness back to their respective employers and potentially increase the use of such materials by associated individuals and their organizations. Improving participants' skills in evaluating and locating information sources could decrease their reliance on materials of questionable value. Entomology and microbiology will be discussed. What is thought to be known about these sciences within forensics (give a presentation making the sciences look like they are phenomenal tools for forensics) will be discussed, which will be followed by presentations demonstrating what really is known and where the challenges are located. Such contrasts are important to be emphasized to researchers, practitioners and attorneys. A review of forensic science-applicable science and legal information resources that are available for participants to use (i.e., American Academy of Forensic Sciences Reference Library, PubMed, Google Scholar) and how to potentially determine high- versus low-quality scientific research publications will be presented.

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### **Interpreting Science, Courtroom Applications, Bridging Science and Law**