



**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Forensic DNA Conference – Bode 2023**  
**April 11-14, 2023**  
**Hyatt Regency Phoenix – Regency Ballroom**

[WWW.BODECONFERENCE.COM](http://WWW.BODECONFERENCE.COM)

**Tuesday, April 11**

**Workshops**

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**7:00am – 4:00pm**

**Registration**

**8:00am – 10:00am**

**QIAGEN/Verogen Workshop**

**A New Era of Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy**

As the demand for FIGG services increases, laboratories and law enforcement are looking for more ways to use this groundbreaking technique in their cases. For many, this means bringing FIGG capabilities in house which requires a new level of collaboration between the lab and the investigating agency. This workshop will demonstrate the value of effective collaboration during a FIGG investigation, providing perspective and practical advice for operational crime labs and investigative agencies on their respective parts of the FIGG workflow. Attendees will learn how to support and guide their investigators during the DNA process, whether it's advising on sample suitability for outsourcing or bringing FIGG DNA analysis in house. They'll also hear how other agencies are using FIGG in their cases, and considerations for integrating a genetic genealogist into their regular investigative process.

**10:00am – 10:15am**

**Break with Exhibitors**

**10:15am – 12:15pm**

**Thermo Fisher Scientific Workshop**

Join us as we explore ways to maximize resources and save time. Gain insights on best practices from forensic DNA practitioners who are leveraging innovative workflow solutions to enhance laboratory effectiveness and solve crime more efficiently.

**12:15pm – 1:00pm**

**Lunch**

*(am & pm workshop participants only)*  
*Sponsored by Bode Technology*

**1:00pm – 5:00pm**

**Promega Tech Tour**

Please join us for presentations and discussions on the latest advances in STR analysis and the forensics workflow. This workshop will feature presentations by leaders in the forensics community who will provide information and tips on maximizing success with challenging samples and improving laboratory efficiencies through workflow enhancements. The presentations will also include customer experiences and insights from using Promega products.

**2:45pm – 3:00pm**

**Break with Exhibitors**

Topics include: Lessons Learned After Going Live with Prob Gen, Automation in your lab, Using FaSTR and more

**5:30pm – 7:00pm**

**Tuesday Welcome Reception**

*Join us for hors d'oeuvres and drinks*  
*Sponsored by Bode Technology*

**Wednesday, April 12**

**General Session**

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**7:00am – 8:00am**

**Breakfast Buffet**

*Sponsored by QIAGEN/Verogen*

**7:00am – 12:00pm**

**Registration**

**8:15am – 8:30am**

**Welcome**

*Mike Cariola, President & CEO, Bode Technology*

**8:30am – 10:00am**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Julie Weil**

**The Power of DNA: Finding Peace, Closure and Global Progress at the End of My Nightmare**

On a hot October Day in Miami many years ago, Julie and her two children were carjacked at knifepoint from the parking lot of their church preschool. Their abductor, an unknown assailant, drove the family deep into the Florida Everglades. Throughout the day, Julie was raped multiple times and tortured in front of both of her children in multiple sites across the area. When the attacks were over, Julie was left bleeding with a knife in her neck on the floor of her van. What followed was a dizzying array of activity including the police, forensic nurses and eventually a bulldog prosecutor. The assailant was finally identified using DNA taken after the commission of a separate crime and uploaded into CODIS. Four long years after the assault, Julie's perpetrator was sentenced and the road to healing began. She spends her life speaking and giving back to the disciplines that helped her secure justice-primarily individuals and companies involved in the science of DNA. She credits her team, and especially her analyst, for saving her life and giving her back her future. Julie has been instrumental in passing Federal and State legislation pertaining to rape kit backlog and has travelled to Mexico, Canada and Egypt on projects with the IACP to expand services to survivors.



**10:00am – 10:30am**

**Break with Exhibitors**

*Sponsored by Promega*

**10:30am – 11:00am**

**Policy and Funding Update: Forensic DNA Programs**

*Lisa Hurst, Senior Consultant, Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs*

**11:00am – 11:30am**

**Preventing and Correcting DNA Errors**

*Greg Hampikian, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, and Criminal Justice, Director of the Boise State Wastewater Virus Lab, Director of the Forensic Justice Project, Co-Director of the Idaho Innocence Project at BSU*

**11:30am – 12:00pm**

**Analyzing Sequence Based STR Alleles the Easy Way**

*Dr. Brian Young, Chief Scientist, NicheVision Forensics*

**12:00pm – 1:00pm**

**Buffet Lunch**

*Sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific*

**1:00pm – 1:30pm**

**Thermo Fisher Scientific Technology Update**

*Dave Jackson, Sr. Manager, Application Scientist, Thermo Fisher Scientific*

**1:30pm – 2:00pm**

**CODIS and NDIS Update**

*Douglas Hares, Rapid DNA Implementation Advisor, FBI Laboratory, Biometrics Analysis Section*

**2:00pm – 2:30pm**

**Testimony Challenges**

*Leigh A. Clark, Deputy Director of Forensic Services, Florida Department of Law Enforcement*

**2:30pm – 3:00pm**

**Break with Exhibitors**

*Sponsored by NicheVision Forensics*

3:00pm – 3:30pm

**Pulling the Trigger: Developing a DNA Submission Policy for Firearm Evidence**

*Julie Conover Sikorsky, Manager, Forensic Biology Unit, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office*

3:30pm – 4:00pm

**The Role of DNA in Crime Gun Intelligence**

*Michael Garvey, Director, Philadelphia Police Office of Forensic Science*

4:00pm – 4:45pm

**The North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission: An Innovative Approach to Reviewing Post-Conviction Claims of Factual Innocence**

*Lindsey Guice Smith, Executive Director, NC Innocence Inquiry Commission*

6:15pm – 9:15pm

**Group Event**

[Topgolf! First floor full buy out!](#)

Join us for dinner, drinks, golf & more!

**Thursday, April 13**

**General Session**

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7:00am – 8:00am

**Breakfast Buffet**

*Sponsored by SoftGenetics*

8:00am – 8:15am

**Opening Remarks**

*Ted Andrew, Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Bode Technology*

8:15am – 8:30am

**Grant Programs for Unsolved Cold Cases - Season of Justice**

*Brad Schleppe, Executive Director, Season of Justice*

8:30am – 9:30am

**The CSI Effect: The Importance of Remembering the Victim in Every Cold Case Investigation**

*Bureau Chief (retired) Ed O'Carroll, Fairfax County VA Police Department  
Jessica A. Veltri, Special Agent, Criminal Investigation Division, Department of the Army*

9:30am – 10:00am

**Rapid DNA & Local DNA Databases – Powerful Investigative Tools**

*Glenn Vandegrift, Detective Sergeant of Forensics, Bensalem Township Police Department*

10:00am – 10:30am

**Break with Exhibitors**

*Sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific*

10:30am – 11:00am

**Elizabeth Price 1976 Homicide**

*Jason Shea, Texas Ranger, Texas Department of Public Safety*

11:00am – 11:30am

**AZDPS Lab's Familial DNA Program – Challenges and Successes**

*Amy Gerow, Supervising Forensic Scientist, Arizona Department of Public Safety*

11:30am – 12:00pm

**Promega's Newest Solution for the Forensic Workflow**

*Benjamin Krenke, Sr. Global Product Manager, Promega*

12:00pm – 1:00pm

**Buffet Lunch**

*Sponsored by Promega*

1:00pm – 1:30pm

**The Bench and Beyond: The Technology Journey from Sample to True Insight**

*Meredith Turnbough, PhD, Scientific Affairs, QIAGEN/Verogen*

1:30pm – 2:30pm

**Please Process For DNA, Obtain a Profile And...**

*Detective Steve Ainsworth, Major Crimes (retired), Boulder County Sheriff's Office*

2:30pm – 3:00pm

**Break with Exhibitors**

*Sponsored by QIAGEN/Verogen*

3:00pm – 3:30pm

**Rapid DNA Updates**

*Douglas Hares, Rapid DNA Implementation Advisor, FBI Laboratory, Biometrics Analysis Section*

3:30pm – 4:00pm

**Arizona Rapid DNA Law Enforcement Program**

*Mark Smith, Supervising Forensic Scientist, Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Lab*

4:00pm – 4:30pm

**Determining the Probability of the Number of Contributors in Forensic DNA Data**

*Catherine Grgicak, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Henry Rutgers Chair and Department Chair of the Department of Chemistry, Rutgers University*

**Friday, April 14**

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**Workshop**

7:00am – 8:00am

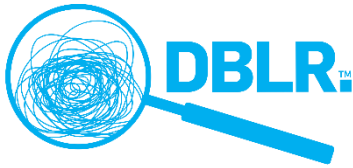
**Continental Breakfast**

10:00am – 10:15am

**Break with Exhibitors**

8:00am – 12:30pm

**Introduction to the DBLR™ Software, ESR**



Participants will become familiar with the use of the DBLR™ software through a series of live demonstrations involving DNA mixtures and kinship problems. Following the workshop, registered participants will be offered a time-limited evaluation copy of the DBLR™ software and access to comprehensive on-line training material, where they will be free to undertake further evaluation of DBLR™ using their own laboratory's data.

**There is no longer a requirement for participants to bring a laptop.**

*Zane Kerr, Senior Scientist, ESR*

*Kevin Cheng, Scientist Developer, ESR*

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