



**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Forensic DNA Conference – Bode 2022**

**April 5-8, 2022**

**Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, FL**

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

**Tuesday, April 5**

**Workshops - Audubon Ballroom First Floor**

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**7:00am – 4:00pm**

**Registration – Audubon Foyer**

**8:00am – 10:00am**

**All Things Forensic Genealogy Workshop**

Speakers will discuss how forensic genealogy works in practice and some of the challenges that genealogists, investigators, and prosecutors face as well as keys to setting up a successful program.

**Topics covered will include:**

- Integrating forensic genealogy into your workflow
- Use of available tools in the genealogy process
- How to identify your match of interest
- Differences in familial searching vs. genealogy
- Best practices and recommendations

*Hosts/Presenters:*

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

*Teresa Vreeland, Director, Forensic Genealogy Services, Bode Technology*

**10:00am – 10:15am**

**Break with Exhibitors**

**10:15am – 12:15pm**

**[Thermo Fisher Scientific Workshop – Click for Agenda](#)**

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 – Audubon Ballroom A**

*(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.

*Speakers include:*

*Heather Lenzy, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation*

*Danielle Brownell, Promega Corporation*

*Amy McGuckian, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office*

*Kristin Sasinouski, Technical Leader, Bode Technology*

**2:45pm – 3:00pm**

**Break with Exhibitors**

5:30pm – 7:30pm

**Tuesday Welcome Reception at the Grand Hyatt's [Oystercatchers Hammock Deck](#) Overlooking Tampa Bay**

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

**Wednesday, April 6**

**General Session - Audubon Ballroom First Floor**

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7:15am – 8:15am

**Hot Breakfast Buffet - Audubon Ballroom A**  
*Sponsored by Bode Technology*

7:15am – 12:00pm

**Registration - Audubon Foyer**

8:30am – 8:45am

**Welcome**  
*Manzar Ahmed, Vice President, Global Products & International Business,  
Bode Technology*

8:45am – 10:00am

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Ashley Spence**

Ashley Spence is an inspirational speaker, victim advocate and founder of the DNA Justice Project. At 19 years old, she was the victim of a brutal home invasion rape that nearly took her life. It was through DNA that her perpetrator was caught and is now serving nearly 138 years in prison. She focuses her efforts on educating others on the power of DNA to create policy change that can provide justice, prevent crimes and exonerate the innocent. Ashley has worked globally to spark conversations on how to tackle the worldwide sexual assault kit backlog crisis. She believes that every survivor has an important story to be told and a courageous voice to be heard.



Ashley joins Bode to tell her story on the importance of DNA technology in [Preventing Tomorrow's Victim](#).

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

**Implementation of Rapid DNA Programs by the Department of Homeland Security**  
*Dane Plaza, Director of Federal Operations, Bode Technology*

11:30am – 12:00pm

**NIJ Updates for NamUs: What's New in 2022?**  
*Charles Heurich, Senior Physical Scientist, US Dept. of Justice,  
National Institute of Justice  
Carrie Sutherland, NamUs Regional Program Specialist,  
RTI International, Center for Forensic Sciences*

12:00pm – 1:00pm

**Buffet Lunch - Audubon Ballroom A**  
*Sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific*

1:00pm – 1:30pm

**Thermo Fisher Scientific Technology Update**  
*Jonathan Tabak, Director, HID Market Development, Thermo Fisher Scientific*

1:30pm – 2:00pm

**Rapid Growth: One Forensic Laboratory's Approach to Incorporating Rapid DNA Analysis into Daily Casework**  
*Stacie R. Brenner, Senior Forensic Scientist, Forensic Biology Unit,  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office*

- 2:00pm – 2:30pm** **Local DNA Databases and Rapid Implementation, the Challenges**  
*Frederick Harran, Bucks County Sheriff*
- 2:30pm – 3:00pm** **Break with Exhibitors**  
*Sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific*
- 3:00pm – 3:30pm** **Bringing Identity Data to the DNA World**  
*Josh Levin, Director, Market Planning, State & Local Public Safety, LexisNexis Special Services Inc.*
- 3:30pm – 4:15pm** **DNA Analysis on Firearms and Fired Cartridge Cases at the ATF Laboratory**  
*Lynette Albrecht, Forensic Biologist, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, National Laboratory Center*
- 4:15pm – 4:45pm** **The Role of DNA in Crime: Gun Intelligence and Reducing Gun Violence**  
*Janeisha Hutley, Forensic Scientist 4, Philadelphia Police Department Office of Forensic Science*
- 6:30pm – 9:30pm** **[Dinner Cruise of Tampa Bay - Exclusive Use of Yacht Starship](#)**  
*Includes dinner, drinks, karaoke, music and more!*

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**Thursday, April 7**

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**General Session - Audubon Ballroom First Floor**

- 7:00am – 8:00am** **Hot Breakfast Buffet - Audubon Ballroom A**  
*Sponsored by NicheVision Forensics*
- 8:15am – 8:30am** **Opening Remarks**  
*Manzar Ahmed, Vice President, Global Products & International Business, Bode Technology*
- 8:30am – 9:00am** **The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Cold Case Unit**  
*Kevin Kellogg, Criminalist III, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Crime Laboratory*
- 9:00am – 9:30am** **A World of Possibility: Where Forensic Biology and Human Decomposition Meet**  
*Sheree Hughes, PhD, Associate Professor of Forensic Science, Assistant Chair, Department of Forensic Science, Director, Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science (STAFS) facility, Sam Houston State University*
- 9:30am – 10:00am** **More Insight for Confident Decisions: Investigator Quantiplex Pro Kit**  
*Josh Abernathy, Account Manager, QIAGEN*
- 10:00am – 10:30am** **Break with Exhibitors**  
*Sponsored by QIAGEN*
- 10:30am – 11:00am** **Spectrum CE System and PowerPlex® 35GY System – Advancing STR Analysis Together**  
*Anupama Gopalakrishnan, PhD, Sr. Global Product Manager, Genetic Identity, Promega Corporation*
- 11:00am – 11:30am** **Six Months to 30 Days in 24 Hours: A Laboratory's Journey to Meet Statutory Requirements Relative to Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK) Processing**  
*Lynn Schneeweis, Deputy Chief Science Officer/Assistant Lab Director, Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory*

11:30am – 12:00pm

**Eliminating a SAK Backlog, Preventing a New One: Lessons Learned and Best Practices from a Multi-Year Project in Florida**

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

12:00pm – 1:00pm

**Buffet Lunch - Audubon Ballroom A**

*Sponsored by Promega*

1:00pm – 2:00pm

**Development and Use of Microsoft Excel Tools to Facilitate Forensic DNA Sample Processing and STRmix Analysis**

*Melanie Russell, Forensic Science Examiner 1, Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection*

2:00pm – 2:30pm

**Analysis of Mixed MPS Samples Using the ForenSeq and MainstAY Kits**

*Brian Young, Chief Science Officer, NicheVision Forensics*

2:30pm – 3:00pm

**Break with Exhibitors**

*Sponsored by Verogen*

3:00pm – 3:30pm

**Operationalizing Next-Generation Sequencing for Sexual Assault**

*Meredith Turnbough, PhD, Director, Scientific Affairs, Verogen*

3:30pm – 4:30pm

**East Valley Rapist**

*Krista Placko, Forensic Scientist Supervisor-Biology, Mesa Police Forensic Services*

**Friday, April 8**

**Workshops - Audubon Ballroom First Floor**

**7:00am – 8:00am**

**Continental Breakfast – Audubon Foyer**

*(workshop participants only)*

8:00am – 12:00pm	8:00am – 10:00am
<p align="center"><b>Workshop</b>  <b>From Bench Criminalist to Lab Director: Lessons Learned Leadership Training</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Workshop</b>  <b>The Victim Always Matters – The Cold Case Investigation</b></p>
<p>If you think about the numbers 6 and 9, depending on which way you look at this page, you may see 6 and 9 or flip the page upside down and you will see a 9 and a 6. When we are bench scientists or front-line workers, we look at situations or circumstances perhaps in a much different way than our leaders do. This was exactly how I viewed things when I was a bench scientist. It is often challenging to be a follower and difficult to try to see things through a leader’s lens; in fact, I rarely did. I was a nerdy bench analyst who apparently didn’t screw up enough and found myself promoted to supervisor. Unfortunately, I was a much better scientist than a leader and I screwed up a lot of humans in those early days. My trajectory moved me through DNA Technical Leader, Laboratory Manager, Assistant Director and finally Laboratory Director. Leadership wasn’t something that I actively sought. In fact, it happened rather organically, and I had a lot of luck. My success was a perfectly timed collision between luck and skill (ok,... a lot of luck!). My early failures prompted me to learn and gain the competence and character to become a better leader. It doesn’t matter whether you are a formal leader in your lab, community or church, or the bench analyst that started last week; we all have the ability influence human behavior</p>	<p>We will discuss examples of how and why cold cases are worked the way they are. Two major cases from Fairfax County Virginia will be shared. Items that will be highlighted during the workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing the case file (notes/interviews/evidence review)</li> <li>• Interviews (prior LEO/witness/victim) – how to keep the original disclosure</li> <li>• Involving a victim advocate</li> <li>• Working with your crime scene section/lab</li> <li>• Resubmission of evidence – advancement in technology, partnerships that matter</li> <li>• How leads come in – tips/fingerprint hit/DNA hit</li> <li>• Complications in a cold case – evidence destruction/knowing the different evidence databases</li> <li>• How to and when to reach out to a victim</li> <li>• Moving forward with prosecution in 2022 and beyond</li> </ul>

and develop people around us. And you never know when you are going to be called upon to be a formal leader. In this workshop, we will go over some simple lessons that I learned and still find very important daily. We will learn basic leadership concepts and work through leader strategies to help us influence human behavior.

*Presenter:*

*Brian Hoey, Laboratory Director, Missouri State Highway Patrol*

**10:00am – 10:20am**

*Presenters:*

*Major Ed O'Carroll, Bureau Commander, Major Crimes, Cyber & Forensics, Fairfax County Police Department*

*Detective Tiffany Horton, Major Crimes Bureau - Cold Case, Fairfax County Police Department*

**Break**

**10:20am – 12:20pm**

**Workshop**

**Generate Actionable Leads in Your Investigation:  
Solve More Crime and Discover  
Hard-to-Find Information**

LexisNexis® Special Investigations Unit (SIU) will be highlighting how LexisNexis can partner with law enforcement to identify the missing link during an investigation. LexisNexis will highlight a case where the data capabilities and resources LexisNexis can offer provided an investigative lead that helped in solving the case utilizing Accurant Virtual Crime Center (AVCC). Within AVCC users are able to data mine public records and agency contributed law enforcement data to identify links and associations between relatives, associates, addresses, phone numbers and/or law enforcement data for both current and cold case investigations. Presenters will also discuss bulk/batch searching as an effort to triage and prioritize investigations. Presenters will also introduce forensic flashback as a tool to allow for neighborhood reconstruction to generate leads in cold cases.

*Presenters:*

*Shanna Spagnuolo, Lead Data Analyst, Special Investigations Unit, LexisNexis Risk Solutions  
Tabitha Bandy, Technical Account Manager, Bode Technology*

**[Join this Workshop to learn how we can help in your forensic genealogy and cold cases.](#)**

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