

Section 4.

Panel Descriptions



Improving Fire Investigations through Science, Best Practices, and Transparency

A major challenge for the community nationwide is to ensure current science and best practices are used consistently in fire investigations, regardless of jurisdictional resources. Attendees will learn about the tremendous transformation that occurred in the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) in an attempt to achieve consistency in applying best practices throughout the State.



You Want Us To Do WHAT? Conducting a Retroactive Review of Hair Microscopy Cases as a Matter of Shared Ethical and Professional Duty

On July 18, 2013, DOJ announced it would review cases involving hair microscopy analysis, testimony & reports provided by FBI examiners before December 31, 1999. The DOJ recognized some FBI examiners had exceeded the limits of science by overstating conclusions that may be drawn from a positive association between evidentiary hair and a known hair sample. Attendees will learn how the Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors responded by publicly acknowledging their shared "ethical and professional duty, as scientists, to take appropriate action if there has been a miscarriage of justice."



Bridging the Gap Between Black Box/White Box Research and Implementation in Latent Print Casework

Since 2011, FBI and Noblis have published several papers related to Black Box/White Box latent print research. Implications or recommendations on latent print business processes can be drawn from research to include blind verification, standardization of minutia mark up, decision thresholds etc., Are the various LPU's dealing with these recommendations? How? Are these recommendations practical or intangible?