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## PLENARY DESCRIPTIONS

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### The “CSI Effect”: Maximizing the Potential of Forensic DNA

April 28, 2009 • Holiday Inn-Mart Plaza • Chicago, Illinois

#### **A Survivor’s Story**

Hear firsthand from a rape survivor and her husband, a retired law enforcement officer, about the importance of DNA evidence for victims.

*Debbie and Rob Smith, H-E-A-R-T*

#### **Maximizing the Potential of DNA Technology**

Learn about innovative uses of DNA technology that make CSI seem like reality, not fiction. Some jurisdictions—both in the United States and abroad—are extremely advanced in their use of DNA technology and can serve as models for U.S. states and counties. Recent advances in search techniques also have the potential to yield more investigative leads and close more cases.

*Chris Asplen, Vice President, Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs*

#### **Demystifying DNA Profiles and CODIS: Privacy and Other Issues**

Learn how forensic DNA profiles are generated from evidence, what information they contain, and how they are matched with offenders through the Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS). This workshop will also cover how the different types of samples and profiles (offender, victim, exclusion, crime scene) are stored and accessed, and will address concerns about victim privacy.

*Janet Girten, Deputy Laboratory Director, Forensic Science Center at Chicago*

#### **A Detective’s Perspective: Innovations in Law Enforcement Use of DNA**

Learn about New York City’s Biotracks program, which focused on collection of DNA evidence from burglary scenes, thereby identifying recidivists and preventing crime. Also learn how collecting DNA at burglary scenes can solve more serious crimes and why it is important to work in a multidisciplinary team approach in such programs.

*Joe Blozis, Retired Detective, New York City Police Department*

#### **Interacting with Victims in DNA-Related Cases**

Learn about the emerging best practices regarding interaction and service provision for cold case victims, co-victims, and their families, as established in the Victim Assistance Unit of the Denver Police Department. Topics will include interacting sensitively and respectfully with victims while obtaining needed information and cooperation. This workshop will also cover what victims need from law enforcement in general, as well as in specific types of cases (sexual assault, homicide, cold cases).

*Sarah Chaikin, Cold Case Coordinator, Denver Police Department Victim Assistance Unit*

### **A Prosecutor's Perspective: Making the Most of DNA Evidence**

Hear from a prosecutor regarding innovative uses of DNA evidence in criminal cases, including the use of John Doe Warrants and the use of cold hit information in sex predator proceedings. Also learn how to respond to the CSI effect in the courtroom, challenge the defense expert, and notify victims, and discuss constitutional concerns related to DNA collection.

*Norm Gahn, Assistant District Attorney, Milwaukee District Attorney's Office*

### **DNA Legislative Issues and Advocacy Opportunities**

Learn about current and proposed laws (at both the state and federal levels) affecting the collection, storage, and testing of DNA forensic evidence, as well as innovative state laws concerning missing persons and DNA. The presenter will discuss how participants can help improve their state's laws related to DNA evidence.

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