

Using Next-Generation Sequencing to Improve Casework Outcomes

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Description: In the last few years, next-generation sequencing (NGS) has demonstrated that it can extract additional information from DNA samples for investigations when current technology fails. When a CE-based STR profile does not produce a hit in traditional databases, NGS capabilities such as higher-plex marker panels, more discriminatory SNP data, and forensic genetic genealogy can provide insights that lead to identifications. The forensic community is recognizing this technology as a viable option for missing persons and unidentified human remains investigations, sexual assault cases, and other violent crimes and are exploring how it can be integrated as more than just a specialty tool. The questions being asked are now focused on the practical aspects of implementation, such as whether this technology is a good financial investment, whether NGS can benefit everyday investigations, and how do you validate. This workshop seeks to share the journey of adopting NGS into their operational casework, and will provide useful information, arguments, case studies, and soft skills as you prepare for your own.