**Contamination of Biological Evidence – How to limit, detect, and manage it**

ABSTRACT

Contamination is one of those taboo words in forensic science, particularly as it pertains to biological evidence. However, contamination is inevitable. While it cannot be completely eliminated (especially with the sensitivity of current DNA detection methods), it is critical to be able to recognize how it happens and how to limit it as much as possible. This presentation will provide examples of contamination (crime scene collection, item-to-item, analyst-to-item) and how they can be detected in the laboratory. In addition, some tips and tricks on avoiding potential contamination will be offered.

SPEAKER INFO

Kristy Kadash has worked in forensic DNA laboratories for over 20 years, including the Jefferson County Regional Crime lab for the last seven years. She has participated in numerous forensic organizations, including AAFS, SWGDAM, ANAB, and OSAC. She has examined thousands of items during her career and has observed contamination of all types. She hopes her experiences will benefit the audience.