# THE LAB REPORT

VOLUME 3 NO. 1 MARCH 2017


WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE FORENSIC LABORATORY

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- **CODIS**
- **Employee Spotlight**
- **DNA Focus**
- **Prints you do not want to find at a crime scene**

**INSIDE:**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Sheri Lemons**

**WVSP Forensic Laboratory Director**

Greetings from the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory! The laboratory has been undergoing many changes over the last few months with the end goal to provide you more efficient and effective service. We have implemented a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) that has improved our ability to track cases within the laboratory, eliminate redundancies, and expedite the testing process. JusticeTrax LIMS has the potential to benefit our customers (law enforcement officers, prosecuting attorneys, etc.) in the following ways:

By the end of the year, the laboratory plans to implement iResults. iResults is a program that enables our laboratory users to retrieve case reports through a web-based system.

In 2018, the laboratory will introduce iPrelog. This will enable law enforcement officers to document the submission process through the web-based system, ensuring more accurate submission information and providing a record of what the laboratory should be expecting and what has already been submitted to the laboratory.

Also, we have recently implemented a new Drug Identification Case Acceptance Policy to ensure we are testing evidence for possible controlled substances in the most effective and efficient way possible. The policy is designed to test what is necessary and most probative in a case in a financially responsible and timely manner. The Central Evidence Processing/DNA sections are introducing a similar policy with regard to testing evidence for the presence of biological fluids and hairs.

The laboratory recently completed another assessment by our accrediting body under ASCLD/LAB-International standards, and successfully passed with no findings for the third consecutive year. This demonstrates our mission to provide a quality service for the state of West Virginia. While we are proud of our recent accomplishments, we know there is always room for improvement. We will strive in 2017 to not only continue to provide a quality service, but to become more efficient and provide faster turnaround times to our customers. As always, we welcome feedback from our customers. Please complete our Laboratory Feedback Survey http://www.wvsp.gov/about/Documents/CrimeLab/LabSurvey.pdf to offer suggestions or comments on areas of improvement, etc. We appreciate your continued support and assistance to the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory.

**Link:**

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE FORENSIC LABORATORY FIELD MANUAL**

# HOW CAN CODIS HELP THE INVESTIGATOR?

**Brent Myers**
**Codis Administrator—Biochemistry Section**

## What is CODIS?

CODIS stands for the COmbined DNA Index System. The purpose of this system is to provide investigative leads to law enforcement agencies by matching DNA profiles from unsolved cases with the DNA profiles of known individuals or with DNA profiles from other solved/unsolved cases. This system includes offender databases from all fifty states, the FBI (federal offenders), the Dept. of Defense (military offenders) and casework databases from all participating public DNA laboratories. These databases are managed, and linked, using shared software on a dedicated network. In West Virginia these searches currently occur at the state level with offender (27000+ profiles) and casework (forensic) profiles (1300+ profiles). At the national level, each WV casework profile submitted is searched against 15,000,000+ offender profiles and 750,000+ casework profiles.

## How does a DNA profile from my case get into CODIS?

As part of the process followed for every case tested in the Biochemistry Section, all profiles generated from evidentiary samples are evaluated for CODIS eligibility. The FBI, as the administrators of the CODIS network, developed procedures that define profile eligibility. An eligible profile is one that is collected as part of a criminal investigation and is believed to have originated from the perpetrator of the crime. If the profile originated from, or is believed to have originated from, the victim, or an individual other than the perpetrator, then the profile cannot be entered into CODIS, even if the profile is probative to the investigation. The DNA analyst determines the eligibility of a profile by comparing it to any reference samples submitted in the case, and/or using information provided by the investigator or the sexual assault kit paperwork.

## How can the investigator expedite the entry of a profile into CODIS?

If the investigator submits the reference samples of the victim and other possible contributors of DNA, then those individuals can be identified, or excluded, as possible contributors. For those items believed to have the perpetrator's DNA present, the investigator should document on the submission form, or attachment, the reason that each of the submitted items is related to the crime. Examples include collection at point of entry/exit of a crime scene, or details supporting that the item is crime related. If the submitted item(s) were taken directly from the body of the alleged perpetrator, or from a location that would reasonably be expected to have the individual's DNA (their home or car), then the profile is not likely to be eligible.

# CONT: CODIS



If documentation supporting the CODIS eligibility of a sample is NOT provided, the analyst will be required to contact the investigator to obtain the required information, delaying the release of the case report.

**How does a CODIS match occur?**

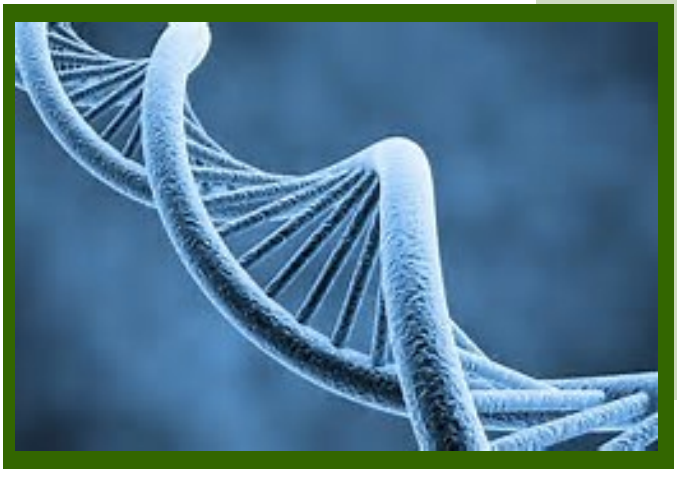
Once a DNA profile has been entered into CODIS, it is searched against the WV DNA database. Periodically, new profiles are then uploaded to the National DNA Database (NDIS) and searched at the national level. Searches of all profiles at the NDIS are conducted twice a week. If a possible match occurs, there is a confirmation process that must be followed before the match information can be released to the investigator.

Offender Match – casework profile with unknown contributor matches an offender profile. Usually the investigator is called to determine if the case is still active. If the case is still active the match process proceeds including confirming the offender DNA sample, the print on the offender information card and the qualifying offense. After a review, a letter is sent to the investigator providing the personal information of the identified offender and requesting a DNA sample be submitted for comparison purposes. If the case has been adjudicated, then no further work is required.

Forensic Match – casework profile with unknown contributor matches another solved or unsolved casework profile. In this case, each investigator is provided with the contact information of the other investigator. The Laboratory is also required to communicate to investigators that two solved cases are linked, even though it is not recorded as a match.

**If the suspect's DNA is already in CODIS, why do I need to submit another DNA sample?**

Offender samples submitted by correctional facilities and sheriff's offices are kept secure; however a chain of custody is not maintained. If a report is required for court proceedings, then a new reference sample must be submitted.



# CONT: CODIS

**How many CODIS matches have occurred in West Virginia?**

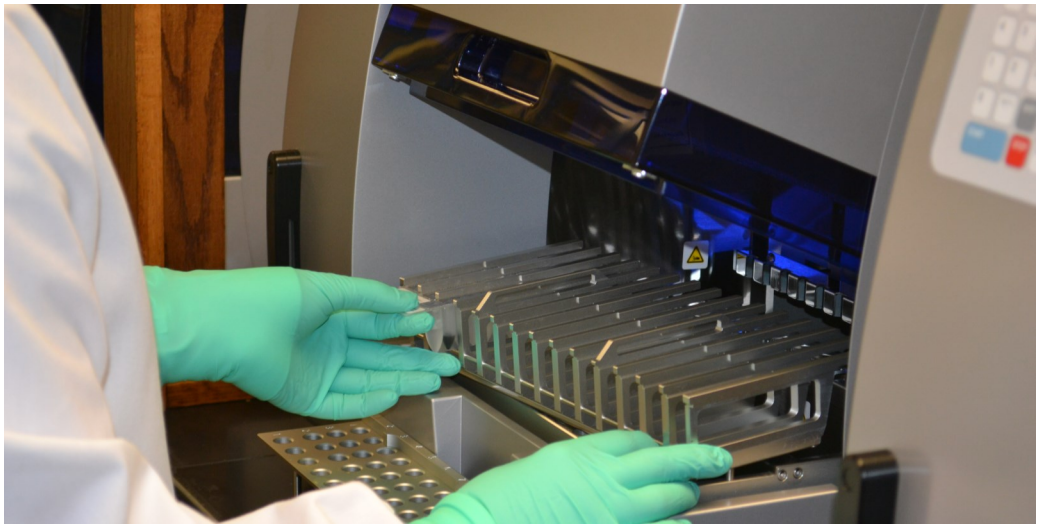
West Virginia is approaching the 500th match since the participation in CODIS began. Investigative leads have been provided in homicides, sexual assaults and a large number of property crimes. Because CODIS involves the national database, matches have occurred with law enforcement agencies from over half the states, the FBI and ATF.

**Can the DNA Database assist the investigator if there is not a DNA match?**

If the investigator has received a report in an unsolved case where there is a person(s) of interest but insufficient evidence to obtain a reference sample for comparison, then the investigator can inquire if the person(s) of interest is in the DNA database. Submit the request on agency letterhead, with the individual's name, DOB and SSN, requesting information regarding whether or not the individual is currently in CODIS. A written response will be returned stating whether or not the individual has submitted a sample, and if they are in CODIS at the time of the check. The value of this check is to eliminate a person of interest, whose profile is in CODIS, as the source of the DNA identified on the submitted item(s), since a CODIS match did not occur. The Laboratory is currently working to update the criminal histories to include whether an individual has submitted a DNA sample and if that profile is in CODIS.

**How are missing person and unidentified human remains cases handled in CODIS?**

If an investigator has a missing person case, first collect any items from the person's home that would likely contain only the missing person's DNA; for example a toothbrush, razor, or an unwashed piece of clothing that would come in direct contact with the individual's skin. If a single source profile is obtained from one or more of these items, then a profile can be entered into CODIS as a Deduced Missing Person.



**A Quiagen EZ1 instrument used to extract DNA samples.**

# CONT: CODIS

It is best practice to collect several items, in case a DNA profile cannot be developed from one item, or the profile identified is a mixture. If a complete single source profile cannot be obtained from these items, then the next step would be to collect reference samples from close relatives for comparison purposes in case unidentified human remains are submitted by another agency. Biological parents provide the most informative profiles, followed by children (with biological mother), siblings, etc. The more distantly related the collected relatives are, the more of them are needed to develop the most complete "genetic picture" possible. These Relatives of Missing Person samples can also be used to verify the Deduced Missing Person profile as being from the person of interest. Samples submitted by relatives are NOT searched against any profiles except unidentified human remains. It is best practice to get a signed consent from the relatives stating that the DNA samples were given voluntarily.

If an investigator has an Unidentified Human Remains case, and if tissue is still available, the State Police Laboratory will attempt testing. If only skeletal remains are available, then it is recommended that a laboratory capable of mitochondrial DNA testing be used for both the nuclear DNA testing and the mitochondrial DNA testing. The laboratories currently providing this testing, free of charge, are the FBI laboratory and the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center (UNTHSC). The website untfsu.com provides information for submission of samples to the North Texas laboratory. The FBI Laboratory can be contacted at (703) 632-8446. UNTHSC can be contacted at 800-626-7600 or by email at MissingPersons@unthsc.edu.

UNTHSC requires that a file be opened on NamUs (National Missing and Unidentified Persons System) before submission to their laboratory. The NamUs site provides a central location for all interested parties to share information on cases involving missing persons and unidentified human remains.


**A 3130 Genetic Analyzer used to generate profiles for entires into CODIS.**

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: BRENT MYERS

**Hometown:** Richmond, VA

**Education:** B.S. with majors in Zoology and Chemistry, M.S. in Forensic Science - Marshall University

**Work Experience:** WVSP Forensic Laboratory, Serology/Biochemistry Sections since 1986

**Role at the WVSP Forensic Laboratory:** As the State CODIS Administrator, Brent is responsible for the operations of the State DNA Database program including participating in CODIS (COmbined DNA Index System). Brent acts as the liaison for DNA Database related matters between the State Police Forensic Laboratory and other agencies such as the FBI (responsible for management of the entire CODIS network), the Division of Corrections and local agencies (offender collections). Brent is also a casework analyst.

**Favorite part of the job:** Brent enjoys working with CODIS because it allows the Laboratory to provide investigative leads to investigators on unsolved cases. Brent also enjoys learning about new technologies and applying those technologies to either the DNA Database and/or casework.

# DNA: CASE ACCEPTANCE POLICY CHANGE COMING SOON

**Cristalle Workman**
**Biochemistry Section**

The Biochemistry Section will soon be rolling out a new case acceptance policy in order to streamline testing and provide a faster turnaround. The laboratory analytical process is lengthy and expensive and our efficiency can be improved by only testing the most probative evidence. We will rely on the submitting officer to guide us in selecting the best evidence for testing by requiring more case specific details and encouraging officers to only submit what is necessary. Our intention is not to discourage evidence collection at the scene but only to reduce unnecessary testing at the laboratory and focus on providing you with a more timely result. Let us know if you have any suggestions or questions!

# DNA SECTION UPDATE

**Melissa Runyan**
**Section Supervisor—Biochemistry Section**

Exciting things are happening in the DNA section. In the past year, three new analysts completed training and new technology was implemented.

By the beginning of 2015, the section had an almost 50% reduction of staff, leaving four analysts working cases. Due to this decrease in staff, the DNA section's backlog and turnaround time has experienced an increase. By the end of 2016, all new analysts have completed training and are now working cases. The DNA section realizes the importance of reporting results in a timely manner and strives to meet all court trial dates and assist with investigations to the best of our ability.

In 2015, the FBI announced the new expanded DNA locations required for CODIS with an effective date of January 1, 2017. Due to this change, the laboratory performed extensive validation work and training on the following:

- New quantification kit which evaluates sample quality and quantity, has a faster reaction time and provides more accurate results

- New testing kit and instrumentation. The laboratory's legacy kit, PowerPlex®16, tested 15 locations and one sex determining location. The new kit, Globalfiler™, tests 21 locations and three sex determining locations providing more sample information.

- New analysis software for analysis of the new testing kit.

- New interpretation guidelines for samples containing more than one contributor.

- Implementation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) population databases. The laboratory will now be reporting statistical values for Caucasian, African American and Hispanic racial groups.

The DNA section is dedicated to reducing our backlog and decreasing turnaround time for our customers. Some of the measures include using grant funds to outsource casework, hire additional analysts, and purchase equipment as well as streamline our case acceptance and testing policies. The DNA section is also committed to providing quality service. We meet all the quality standards put forth by the FBI and ASCLD/LAB-International for DNA testing laboratories which was demonstrated during a successful assessment by two external accrediting bodies this past year.

As always, if the DNA section can be of any assistance, please contact us at biochemistry@wvsp.gov or 304-746-2270.

**Bailey Hill**

**Hannah Foreman**

**Joshua Haynes**

**See page 8 for information regarding the newest DNA analysts.**

# MEET YOUR NEW DNA ANALYSTS

Bailey is from Bridgton, Maine and attended the University of Maine-Orono where, in 2009, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology. After graduating from UMaine, she moved to Morgantown, WV to attend the Forensic Science program at WVU, where she taught in the Biology department as a graduate assistant, and earned a Master of Science in Forensic and Investigative Science, in 2012. After graduating from WVU, she worked in healthcare, and continues to work in Emergency Medical Services, as a hobby. Bailey was hired into the Biochemistry Section as an evidence technician in 2013, and was qualified as a Forensic DNA Analyst in 2016. In addition to testing evidence, writing reports, and testifying in court when necessary, her role in the Biochemistry Section has been to assist the CODIS administrator with processes involving the convicted offender database, training a new CODIS technician, and assisting the technical leader with instrument maintenance, reagent preparation, and, most recently, the validation of amplification technology moving to a new instrument.

Hannah is a native West Virginian who grew up in New Haven and moved to Huntington in 2010 to attend Marshall University. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Chemistry with minors in Biology and Integrated Science and Technology in 2014, and a Master of Science in Environmental Science in 2016. While in graduate school, she taught Chemistry for the College of Science at Marshall's Mid-Ohio Valley Center. Hannah was hired as an analyst for the Biochemistry Section of the WVSP Forensic Lab in May of 2015. In November of 2016, upon completion of her training, she was qualified as a Forensic DNA Analyst. In this position, her responsibilities include receiving evidence for possible testing, performing DNA testing using extraction, quantitation, amplification, and analysis procedures, evaluating results and reporting conclusions and statistics back to investigators and/or attorneys, and testifying to results if necessary in WV courts. Other duties include performing instrument/kit performance check procedures, weekly maintenance tasks, reagent preparation, and assisting with validations.

Josh is from Williamstown, New Jersey and attended West Virginia University from 2007-2011, obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic and Investigative Science. Josh was hired as a Forensic Analyst for the Central Evidence Processing Section of the laboratory in January of 2013, where he processed evidence for the presence of biological evidence and performed biological sample collection. In January 2015, he transferred to the Biochemistry Section to start his training as a DNA analyst, which was completed in June of 2016. Currently, Josh continues to work on cases for both the Central Evidence Processing and Biochemistry Sections as a qualified analyst while attending West Virginia State University's graduate program for Biotechnology. In addition to performing casework analysis, his role in the Biochemistry Section has included assisting with the validation of new technologies, equipment maintenance, performing kit QC procedures, reagent preparation, and data collection for future studies.

# SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES

**Melissa Runyan**
**Section Supervisor—Biochemistry Section**

Over the last few years, the laboratory has seen a steady increase in the number of sexual assault kits submitted. This increase can be attributed to the national move for all un-submitted sexual assault kits to be DNA tested. West Virginia has been awarded $3 million in grant funds to assist with the testing of all kits that have never been submitted to the laboratory or were submitted but did not have DNA testing performed. Any sexual assault kit with a crime date after January 1, 2015 needs to be submitted to the West Virginia State Police Forensic Lab unless the victim has recanted or there is concrete evidence to prove a crime has not occurred.

# Laboratory Information Management System Update

**Staci Taylor**
**LIMS Administrator**

The Laboratory has recently acquired and implemented a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) to maintain record of evidence, chain of custody, and reporting. This system can track more information regarding an evidence submission than our previous outdated software. It allows the different Sections of the Laboratory to be more aware of where evidence is in the analysis process regardless of which Section it is currently in. It also allows for auto report generation, which permits the analysts to spend more time focused on analysis and less time on administrative duties.

Even though the new system is live, we still have to use the old system in conjunction with the new system for chain of custody queries and other functions. As time progresses we will be able to rely less on the old system, but until then case status queries and other information requests will likely take a little longer to process. We appreciate your patience as we adjust to the new system.

In addition to new LIMS software, the West Virginia State Police has also updated the Forensic Laboratory Case Submission Form (WVSP Form 53). Updates include a field to enter the Sex Crime Kit Tracking No. for sexual assault cases, a field for the submitting officer's email address, a field for an additional contact phone number, a field for the county of the offense (if different from the agency's address), and the omission of the prosecutor's signature block for drug cases as this is no longer required. The updated form is available at the WVSP website at www.wvsp.gov. Please remember to clearly list the items being submitted and the examination types required for each item. It is also helpful that items going to different Sections of the Laboratory be separately packaged for faster routing within the lab.

# THE PRINTS YOU **DO NOT** WANT TO FIND AT A CRIME SCENE

**Stephen C. King**
**Section Supervisor—Latent Prints Section**

After more than a century, the recovery of a latent print from a crime scene can provide an investigator with a valuable clue as to the perpetrator of the crime and lend powerful assistance to a jury in getting to the truth at trial. There is, however, a latent print that an investigator should never find at a crime scene: his or her own. Unfortunately, this occurs with a frequency that still surprises the experienced examiners of the Latent Print Section of the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory who have seen much over long careers.

In dozens of cases, examiners will develop latent prints of comparison value on submitted evidence only to identify them, usually after an AFIS search, to the officer who submitted the evidence, or an officer who assisted in collecting the evidence. In other cases, officers will process the scenes themselves and submit latent prints for evaluation on lifts and in photographs. Here too, examiners have determined prints to be of value, but ended up identifying them to police officers.

This actually may be a worse scenario because the officer touched a surface, forgot about touching it, and developed his or her own print. While this should not happen at any crime scene, many of the instances that have occurred have been at major crime scenes, including homicides. In several of the cases, the officers' prints were the only ones developed.

These frequent occurrences waste the time of the latent print examiners and the time of the officer investigating the crime. It could also lead to embarrassment for the officer since we have to document the occurrence in the official report that is released to the investigator, and eventually, to the prosecuting and defense attorneys. Even accusations of negligence or incompetence could be hurled at the officer at trial. But most importantly it does a disservice to the victim of the crime, especially since it is 100% preventable.

Latex gloves are inexpensive, easy to transport, and should be a part of every police officer's equipment. While exceptions can be found for any potential situation, if an officer is responding to a known crime scene, the gloves should be put on as he or she is exiting the vehicle. Not only will the gloves provide a barrier between the officer's fingers and hands and whatever surface is touched, they will provide a barrier between an unpleasant or dangerous substance and the officer.

Wearing gloves at a crime scene is simply the smart thing to do.

# UPDATE: CRIME LAB ROAD SHOW

**Blake Reta**
**Technical Leader—Firearm/Toolmark Section**

The Crime Lab Road Show's latest training session was hosted by the Parkersburg Police Department in January.

One of the participants in the training, Detective K. S. Barnette, was generous enough to provide an evaluation of the training they received:

***'As a member of the Parkersburg Police Department's Detective Bureau I recently attended a training course that was conducted by the WV State Police Crime Lab's Latent Print Division. After attending this course, I feel comfortable with the set of skills that I have developed and I believe that they will assist in my current cases as well as ones to come. Before attending this course I felt intimidated by processing possible evidence in fear that I may have destroyed it. I now feel that I have a comfortable working knowledge on the proper sequence and procedures of processing latent and patent prints. While taking a part in this course I was instructed on the proper way to process the evidence and discovered that our past procedures were out dated. I was also shown updated technology that assists in developing evidence and believe that these devices and procedures will assist with solving investigations. As an Investigator I believe that this course would greatly benefit a new investigator as well as a seasoned detective.'***

Please remember that this training takes time to schedule and to please contact the laboratory in advance so that all details can be worked out. We are grateful to those who are wanting to participate and host our laboratory in an effort to provide training to judges, attorneys, and law enforcement.

Any questions or comments are welcome. Depending upon the requested areas of training, training may only be offered every 1-2 months. Contact: blake.n.reta@wvsp.gov; 304-746-2171

# BACKLOG CORNER

We wanted to provide a friendly reminder to all our submitting agencies that when cases are submitted the analyst does not typically know the details of the investigation. Often the case can sit unworked in our backlog and said case has been dismissed for one reason or another without the knowledge of the lab. These cases that no longer need analysis can greatly reduce our backlog number, if that information is reported to us. We ask you be mindful of those with active cases who are waiting to be worked behind cases that may be inactive. Please notify the laboratory when a case no longer needs analysis!

**INCOMPLETE CASES PER SECTION:**

Biochemistry: 780

Central Evidence Processing: 548

Drug Identification: 2194

Firearm/Toolmark Identification: 62

Latent Prints: 94

Questioned Documents: 3

Toxicology: 960

Trace Evidence: 30

**Total: 4671**

# DISCOVERY REQUESTS PROCESS

**Meredith Chambers**
**Quality Assurance Manager—WVSP Forensic Laboratory**

**Reports** generated by the laboratory will be released to investigating officers upon completion and to officers of the court upon request.

A **case file** may be released upon completion if one of the following guidelines are met: a court order from a verified officer of the court, a written request on official letterhead from a prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction over the case, defense counsel may also request in written form to the applicable prosecutor at which point the prosecutor will make a request on their behalf to the laboratory.

If **materials**, other than the case file, are requested (protocols and procedures, PT records, training records, etc) a court order must be obtained by any party (prosecution or defense) clearly specifying the documents requested.

The laboratory allows for 10 working days to complete the discovery request at which point, CDs containing the appropriate information will be mailed to the requesting party.

Any further questions regarding discovery requests, please contact Meredith A. Chambers, Quality Assurance Manager, 304-746-2274, meredith.a.chambers@wvsp.gov.

# WHAT'S NEW AT THE LAB?

**Blake Reta**
**Technical Leader—Firearm / Tool Mark Section**

- Sheri Lemons has been appointed to the Laboratory Director position, and due to Sheri's advancement, Meredith Chambers is now the newly appointed Quality Assurance Manager for the Laboratory.
- The Central Evidence Receiving Section has hired an additional evidence technician, Stephanie Simms.
- The Toxicology Section is getting ready to implement 2 new confirmatory instruments that will increase the number of drugs that can be detected through blood samples to approximately 90 drugs.
- The Toxicology Section will also have 1 additional trained analyst once the new instruments are validated.
- The Firearm and Tool Mark Identification Section won the bid to host the 49th Annual Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners, this conference will bring approximately 500 people from a number of different countries to Charleston, WV in June of 2018. The analysts in the section have already begun preparations to make this conference a great success.

# The Crime Lab Road Show

The West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory is providing training opportunities for law enforcement, attorneys, and judges! To help us do this we need volunteer agencies to host a one day training opportunity. If you are an interested party please contact Blake N. Reta. (contact information below)

- One day training opportunity for any law enforcement agencies, attorneys, and judges.
- Maximum of 30 attendees.
- Training will feature 1 to 2 sections of the forensic laboratory for lecture and hands on experience with evidence collection.
- The sections that will be providing training will be agreed upon by the forensic laboratory and the volunteer host.

**Note: Law enforcement officers are eligible to obtain in-service hours for attending this training.**

**Note: The training provided will be free to the attendees!**

**What we are asking of the host agency:**

- **Provide an area (local school, department complex, etc) for training to occur**
- **Provide material needed for the training**

**West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory**

Blake N. Reta
Email: blake.n.reta@wvsp.gov
Phone: 304-746-2171

**Sections of the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory that can provide lecture / training include:**

- **Biochemistry**
- **Drug Identification**
- **Evidence Processing**
- **Firearm/Toolmark**
- **Footwear/Tire Track**
- **Latent Prints**
- **Questioned Documents**
- **Toxicology**
- **Trace Evidence**

# LABORATORY STAFF:

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725 Jefferson Road
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Phone: 304-746-2100

**Section Contacts:**

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**Central Evidence Processing: cep@wvsp.gov**

**Central Evidence Receiving: cer@wvsp.gov**

**Drug Identification: drugs@wvsp.gov**

**Firearms/Toolmarks: firearms@wvsp.gov**

**Latent Prints: latent.prints@wvsp.gov**

**Questioned Documents: documents@wvsp.gov**

**Toxicology: toxicology@wvsp.gov**

**Trace Evidence: trace@wvsp.gov**

# FEEDBACK

We always welcome feedback for the upcoming newsletter!

Have comments or suggestion?

Want to know how we do something?

Need to know how we recommend to collect a specific type of evidence?

Feel free to contact the editors and suggest topics and provide us with any comments or feedback.

Your Editors,

Blake N. Reta — blake.n.reta@wvsp.gov
Stephen C. King — stephen.c.king@wvsp.gov

## Laboratory Mission and Goal

**Mission:**

It is the mission of the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory to provide accurate and impartial scientific support services to all criminal justice agencies operating in the State of West Virginia.

**Goal:**

The goal of the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory is to generate accurate, impartial, and timely scientific examinations and opinions for the criminal justice system of the State in the interest of public safety. Establish and maintain a database of convicted felons, sex offenders, case work profiles, and missing persons.

# LABORATORY STAFF:

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