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Blood & Chemical Testing_ What You Need to Know and Why You Need to Know It

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What you Need to Know and Why You Need to Know It

August 24 - 25, 2023

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What you Need to Know and Why You Need to Know It



Agenda – Day 1

8:30 A.M. Registration & Coffee

8:50 A.M. Overview & Welcome

Charles J. Rathburn, Jr & Janine Arvizu - Co-Chairs

9:00 A.M. One Man's Forensic Journey

Frederic W. Whitehurst

10:00 A.M. In the beginning: The information you need on-board to handle DUI forensics

Janine Arvizu & Charles J. Rathburn, Jr

- SFSTs & DREs; Breath, Blood, and Urine
- Case-specific details Intake Checklist
- How to obtain discovery from law enforcement; government labs; commercial labs and hospitals: MTC, SDT, FOIA, Order, Polite Requests and Back-Channels
- What discovery to request

11:00 A.M. Coffee Break

11:15 A.M. The Analytical Process: the sometimes-winding path to a reported result

- Timing
- Risks during each stage
- Special circumstances multiple reports and re-tests
- Special circumstances commercial labs
- Special circumstances hospital assays

11:45 A.M. Lunch and Learn Transition

12:00 P.M. Voire Dire - Lunch and Learn with Robert B. Hirschhorn

nts by RATHBURN

Lunch provided for in-person participants by

1:15 P.M. The Specimen and Discovery

Janine Arvizu & Charles J. Rathburn, Jr

- Demonstration!
- Collection and Storage
- Clinical vs Forensic Practice
- Issue: Syringe vs Evacuated Tube Methods
- Issue: Non-aseptic Collection
- Issue: Wrong Tube (how to tell)
- Issue: Expired Tubes (how to tell)
- Issue: Underfilled Tubes (how to tell)
- Issue: Clotted Blood (how to tell)
- Issue: Unrefrigerated for >48 hours
- Issue: GO SEE THE EVIDENCE

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Agenda – Day 1 Continued

2:15 P.M. Coffee Break

2:30 P.M. Gas Chromatography

- Chromatography Theory

- GC Hardware

- Headspace theory

- Headspace hardware

- Instrument Operation/Control

3:00 P.M. Headspace Sample Prep and Discovery

- Analytical samples

- Handheld Pipettes

- Diluters

3:30 P.M. Batches and Discovery - A Day in the life of a toxicology analyst...

4:30 P.M. Adjourn – Day 1

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Agenda – Day 2



9:00 A.M. Corruption of forensic drug testing: Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC

Frederic W. Whitehurst

10:00 A.M. Method Calibration and Discovery

Janine Arvizu & Charles J. Rathburn, Jr

- CRMs

- Internal standard

- Frequency; dos and don'ts

11:00 A.M. Coffee Break

11:15 A.M. Metrology and Discovery

- Equipment Calibration

- Uncertainty

- Traceability

12:15 P.M. Lunch Break (on your own)

1:15 P.M. Method Validation and Discovery

- Scope

- When to validate/revalidate

2:30 P.M. Coffee Break

2:45 P.M. Quality Assurance and Discovery

- Accreditation - what it does and doesn't mean?

- Audits, Objectivity, and Facility Controls

- Corrective Actions/NCRs

- Personnel Competence

- Meeting Minutes

3:45 P.M. Ethical Considerations working with Blood and Chemical Evidence

4:15 P.M. Adjournment

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Charles James Rathburn Jr. is one of the most highly trained attorneys in the United States and specifically in the State of Indiana in this highly specific area of law. Mr. Rathburn is one of a few attorneys in the United States who is been qualified as an expert on breath testing, the standardized field sobriety tests, and alcohol's effects on the human body. He has countless hours of training in these areas and has been invited to speak nationally on these topics. In addition, Mr. Rathburn trains attorneys and judges about how a breath testing machine accepts a sample, analyzes a sample and provides a result from each breath delivery.

Janine S. Arvizu, Quality Auditor/Independent Consultant, Tijeras, NM



Janine Arvizu is an ASQ Certified Quality Auditor with more than 30 years of experience in laboratory quality assurance. Besides being a trained ISO Lead Auditor, she established and managed a full service analytical laboratory at one of the National Laboratories for the Department of Energy, managed the United States Navy's nationwide laboratory audit program, and audited dozens of government as well as commercial laboratories. For more than 15 years, she has conducted independent quality assessments of forensic results, helped lawyers understand laboratory testing, and testified as a laboratory quality expert about the reliability of forensic results including toxicology, controlled substances, DNA, gunshot residue, trace, firearms and fingerprints in state, federal, and international courts. She holds a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Biochemistry from California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo where she graduated with honors and an ABD (Ph.D. candidate) in Chemistry from the University of New Mexico.

Robert B. Hirschhorn, Cathy E. Bennett & Associates, Highland Village, TX



Robert Hirschhorn of Cathy E. Bennett & Associates, Inc., is an attorney and a nationally recognized expert in jury and trial consultation. He is a co-author of Blue's Guide to Jury Selection, which is currently available from Thompson-West Publishing. A jury consultant since 1985, Robert has selected juries that have returned more than \$35 Billion in verdicts. Those cases include: Johnson & Johnson Talc (\$5 Billion); VirnetX v. Apple (\$502.6 Million); Hopper v. JP Morgan Chase (\$8 Billion); Pinnacle Hip Implant Litigation (\$1.041 Billion and \$505 Million); Lexar v. Toshiba (breach of fiduciary duty; \$461 Million) and Ernst v. Merck (1st Vioxx litigation; \$253 Million). He has also assisted lawyers in many high-profile criminal cases including State of Florida v. William Kennedy Smith (sexual assault charges, not guilty verdict), State of Texas v. U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (ethics charges, not-guilty verdict), and State of Texas v. Robert Durst (acquitted of murder charges). Mr. Hirschhorn has appeared on Good Morning America, MSNBC, Court TV, CNN, HLN, Dateline NBC, 48 Hours, Nightline, and many national radio programs. He lectures nationwide to lawyers and judges on the art of jury selection.

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