



DNA Subcommittee

February 6, 2026

Empire State Development Corporation

655 Third Ave. 2nd Floor New York, NY 10017

Videoconference Locations:

Shapiro Bldg. Rm. 5044 70 Francis Street, Boston, MA 02115

107 College Place LSB 122 Syracuse, NY 13244

9:01 AM – 10:37 AM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

DNA Subcommittee Members in Attendance:

Frederick Bieber, Ph.D.

Kathleen Corrado, Ph.D.

Katherine Gettings, Ph.D.

Jenifer Smith, Ph.D.

DCJS Staff in Attendance:

Taylor Aaron

Dean DeFruscio

Colleen Glavin, Esq.

Katherine Mayberry

Shelley Palmer

Brianna Robinson

Lindsey Rockwell

Matthew Schrantz, Esq.

Elizabeth Suparmanto

Other Attendees:

Kyra McKay – NYC OCME, Department of Forensic Biology

Craig O'Connor – NYC OCME, Department of Forensic Biology

Meredith Rosenberg – NYC OCME, Department of Forensic Biology

Raymond Valerio – Queens District Attorney's Office

Tiffany Vasquez – NYC OCME, Department of Forensic Biology

Ms. Palmer opened the meeting by stating that Dr. Michael Coble was unable to attend and had designated Dr. Katherine Gettings to act as chair in his place. Dr. Gettings stated that the DNA Subcommittee was conducting its meeting in hybrid with members present both in New York City and virtually. Dr. Gettings then conducted a roll call to take attendance, and a quorum was established with four voting members (Bieber, Corrado, Gettings, and Smith).

Approximate
Video Times

00:00:00 -
00:00:32

Dr. Gettings asked for a motion to approve the February 6, 2026, agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Bieber, and approved unanimously.

00:00:33 -
00:01:06

Dr. Gettings then asked Subcommittee members for questions or comments on the minutes of the November 7, 2025, and December 4, 2025, meetings of the Subcommittee. After a brief discussion, the minutes were tabled until the next meeting, as there was no quorum of members present from the November 7, 2025, and December 4, 2025, meetings to approve the minutes.

00:01:09 -
00:02:13

Next, the Subcommittee reviewed Accreditation/Laboratory updates from the Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, New York City OCME Department of Forensic Biology, Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences Laboratory, Suffolk County Crime Laboratory, and New York State Police Crime Laboratory. Representatives from the laboratories were available to answer questions as needed.

00:02:14 -
00:25:33

Dr. Gettings then moved to Old Business. A verbal update was provided by Ms. Palmer on the Partial Match and Familial Search programs. There were no updates regarding CODIS Bulletins. Next, the Subcommittee reviewed a letter from the Commission on Forensic Science to the Biology Technical Working Group. This letter was a request to evaluate the recommendations provided by the Subcommittee regarding the NIST Human Factors Report and DNA Mixture Interpretation Report.

00:25:37 -
00:30:10

The Subcommittee then moved to New Business. Ms. Palmer provided information regarding the 2025 Annual Laboratory Summaries.

00:30:13 -
00:31:30

Next, Ms. Palmer provided a brief history of Rapid DNA in New York State. Members from the New York State Police Crime Laboratory then gave a presentation titled: *ANDE Reference Sample Validation A and I-Chip: Internal Validation*. Following the presentation, the Subcommittee had a discussion with the validation team and requested the full validation and several clarifying updates to the executive summary. The laboratory agreed to provide these items prior to the next meeting.

00:31:40 -
01:27:33

The Subcommittee then reviewed disclosures from Monroe County Crime Laboratory, New York City OCME Department of Forensic Biology, and Westchester County Department of Laboratories & Research Division of Forensic Science. Laboratory representatives were available to answer questions.

01:27:34 -
01:35:20

The Chair then stated that the next meeting of the Subcommittee will take place on May 1, 2026, with the location to be determined. A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Bieber, and approved unanimously.

01:35:22 -
01:36:01

Note: Video of the meeting is available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/nyspublicsafety>



DNA Subcommittee

May 4, 2026

Alfred E Smith Office Building
80 South Swan Street, Albany, NY 12210

Videoconference Locations:
100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899
3262 Rosalind Walkway, Edgewater, MD 21037

2:36 PM – 3:26 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

DNA Subcommittee Members in Attendance:

Michael Coble, Ph.D.
Kathleen Corrado, Ph.D.
Katherine Gettings, Ph.D.
Jenifer Smith, Ph.D.
Amanda Sozer, Ph.D.

DCJS Staff in Attendance:

Dean DeFruscio
Colleen Glavin, Esq.
Katherine Mayberry
Shelley Palmer
Joseph Popcun
Brianna Robinson
Lindsey Rockwell
Matthew Schrantz, Esq.
Kerry Shermer

Other Attendees:

Jill Dooley

*Approximate
Video Times*

The chair, Dr. Coble, opened the meeting by announcing Dr. Kenneth Kidd's resignation from the DNA Subcommittee. A thank you letter will be sent to Dr. Kidd in acknowledgement of his service. The chair stated that the meeting was being conducted in hybrid with members present both in Albany and virtually. Dr. Coble then conducted roll call attendance, and a quorum was established with five voting members (Coble, Corrado, Gettings, Smith, and Sozer).

00:00:00 -
00:03:50

Dr. Coble asked for a motion to approve the May 4, 2026, agenda. Dr. Corrado requested to amend the agenda to add the topic of New York State Department of Health certification of private labs to the New Business section. A motion to approve the agenda with the amendment was made by Dr. Sozer, seconded by Dr. Smith, and approved unanimously (Coble, Corrado, Gettings, Smith, and Sozer).

Dr. Coble then asked Subcommittee members for questions or comments on the minutes for the November 7, 2025, December 4, 2025, and February 6, 2026, meetings of the Subcommittee. A motion to approve the minutes, of November 7, 2025, was made by Dr. Corrado, seconded by Dr. Sozer, and approved with 4 votes (Coble, Corrado, Smith, and Sozer) and 1 abstention (Gettings). Next, a motion was made by Dr. Gettings to approve the minutes, of December 4, 2025, seconded by Dr. Sozer and approved unanimously. Finally, Dr. Corrado made a motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2026, which was seconded by Dr. Gettings. The vote did not establish a majority (3 ayes (Corrado, Gettings, and Smith) and 2 abstentions (Coble and Sozer)) and was tabled until August 7, 2026.

Next, the Subcommittee reviewed Accreditation/Laboratory updates from the Erie County Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory, Monroe County Crime Laboratory, New York City OCME Department of Forensic Biology, and New York State Police Crime Laboratory. Representatives from the laboratories were available to answer questions as needed.

The DNA Subcommittee reviewed the final documentation from the ANAB reaccreditation assessment activity of the Erie County Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory. The Chair called for a motion to issue a binding recommendation to the Commission on Forensic Science to renew the New York State Accreditation of Erie County Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory in the discipline of Biology for the period concurrent with its ANAB accreditation set to expire July 31, 2030. Dr. Sozer made the motion, Dr. Corrado seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Prior to reviewing the ANAB reaccreditation assessment activity documents from the New York State Police Crime Laboratory, the DNA Subcommittee reviewed the laboratory's Rapid DNA Validation found on the agenda under Old Business. After brief discussion, a motion was made to issue a binding recommendation to the Commission on Forensic Science to approve the use of the ANDE Rapid DNA Identification system for Rapid DNA analysis on single source reference samples at the New York State Police Crime Laboratory. Dr. Corrado made the motion, Dr. Gettings seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with 4 votes (Coble, Corrado, Gettings and Smith) and 1 abstention (Sozer).

The Subcommittee then reviewed the final documentation from the ANAB reaccreditation assessment activity of the New York State Police Crime Laboratory. The Chair called for a motion to issue a binding recommendation to the Commission on Forensic Science to renew the New York State Accreditation of the New York State Police Crime Laboratory in the disciplines of Biology and Rapid DNA for the period concurrent with its ANAB accreditation set to expire May 31, 2030. Dr. Corrado made the motion, Dr. Gettings seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Coble then moved to Old Business. A verbal update was provided by Ms. Palmer on the Partial Match and Familial Search programs. There were no updates regarding CODIS Bulletins. The validation of Rapid DNA technology by the New York State Police was discussed during the accreditation section.

The Subcommittee then moved on to New Business. A discussion was held regarding the New York State Department of Health changes in private forensic laboratory testing permits.

00:33:17 -
00:45:49

The Subcommittee then reviewed disclosures from Monroe County Crime Laboratory, New York City OCME Department of Forensic Biology, and New York State Police Crime Laboratory. Laboratory representatives were available to answer questions.

00:45:52 -
00:48:40

The Chair then stated that the next meeting of the Subcommittee will take place on August 7, 2026, with the location to be determined. A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Gettings, seconded by Dr. Sozer, and approved unanimously.

00:48:42 -
00:49:50

Note: Video of the meeting is available at <https://www.youtube.com/user/nyspublicsafety>



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

May 4, 2026

Maria Orsino
Erie County Central Police Services
Forensic Laboratory
45 Elm Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

Dear Maria:

This is in response to the external Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) audit conducted for the Erie County Central Police Services Forensic Laboratory in Buffalo, New York from March 16 to 18, 2026.

A review of your audit documentation found the laboratory to be in compliance with the external audit requirement and the FBI Director's Quality Assurance Standards.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa L. Grossweiler
NDIS Custodian
CODIS Unit
Laboratory Division



Department of Public Safety

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Richard V. Tantalo
Director of Public Safety



May 13, 2026

Director Shelley Palmer
Office of Forensic Services
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
80 South Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210

Director Palmer,

I'm writing to inform your office of my pending retirement from the Monroe County Crime Laboratory. My last day as laboratory administrator will be June 29, 2026. In the next few weeks the laboratory will contact your office to let you know who will be the interim laboratory administrator.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (585) 753-3523. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John R. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John R. Clark
Laboratory Administrator

Cc: ANAB



From: QualityMatters <qualitymatters@anab.org>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 4:29 PM
To: Clark, John R; dcjs.sm.forensiclabs
Cc: Bledsoe, Marcia
Subject: RE: Interim Laboratory Director

Attention: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Thanks John!

Best wishes to you!

Kind regards,

Caprice

Caprice Fowler | ANAB
Manager, Operations
ANSI National Accreditation Board
D.C. | Fort Wayne, IN
414-501-5375 (direct, NC) | cfowler@anab.org
414-501-5494 (main)
www.anab.org
qualitymatters@anab.org
ANAB Training - www.anab.org/training



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From: Clark, John R <JohnClark@monroecounty.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 2:29 PM
To: DCJS Forensic Labs <DCJSForensicLabs@dcjs.ny.gov>; QualityMatters <qualitymatters@anab.org>

Cc: Bledsoe, Marcia <MBledsoe@monroecounty.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Interim Laboratory Director

Good Afternoon!

Monroe County has named Marcia Bledsoe Interim Lab Director. My last day is today (6/29/2026). It has been a pleasure working with you.

Thank you.

John

John R. Clark
Crime Laboratory Director
Monroe County Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory
85 W. Broad Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14614

Office: (585) 753-3523

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Curriculum Vitae

MARCIA E. BLEDSOE

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Monroe County Crime Lab, Rochester, NY

INTERIM PUBLIC SAFETY LABORATORY ADMINISTRATOR

06/30/26 - Present

- Taking on responsibilities of former laboratory administrator.
- Managing day to day activities to ensure continuity.
- Overseeing direct reports.
- Maintaining relationships with laboratory customers
- Overseeing budgets

Monroe County Crime Lab, Rochester, NY

FORENSIC QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR

02/19/11 - Present

- Ensuring laboratory is in compliance with State and Federal regulations.
- Coordinates, schedules and performs audits and oversees safety training programs.
- Performed Forensic biology analysis for approx. 1.3 more years to remain proficient.
- Administers proficiency testing program.
- Performs Evidence Intake duties as needed.
- Testifying in court as needed.
- Schedules and oversees laboratory equipment calibration.
- Maintains laboratory training records.
- Performs Safety Manager duties.
- Updates Crime Laboratory website.
- Frequently stepped in as primary point of contact, guiding 30+ employees during director's absence.
- Creates purchase orders via SAP, Workday (Systems, Applications & Products in Data Processing) software as needed.
- Mentoring and supervising daily operations of seasonal interns (80+), ensuring seamless completion of projects.

Monroe County Crime Lab, Rochester, NY

FORENSIC SEROLOGIST / FORENSIC BIOLOGIST

05/13/00 – 02/19/2011

- Serological analysis on hundreds of cases.
- DNA analysis of cases.
- Trained newly hired biologists.
- Wrote laboratory reports.
- Testified as an expert witness.
- Performed validation studies – (HemaTrace Analysis (assisted), Marijuana Analysis using TLC (assisted), Identifiler (assisted), Fluorescein Analysis.
- Performed laboratory audits (member of Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) committee).
- Performed safety audits (member of the Laboratory Safety Committee).
- Performed DNA FBI QAS audits.

Monroe County Crime Lab, Rochester, NY

FORENSIC CHEMIST

04/18/98 – 05/13/00

- Analyzed controlled substances and also performed Serological analysis (a few hundred cases).
- Wrote laboratory reports.
- Testified as an expert witness.
- Performed validation study (Marijuana Analysis using TLC).
- Troubleshooting and calibration (various instruments).
- Performed laboratory audits (member of Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) committee).
- Performed safety audits (member of the Laboratory Safety Committee).

Monroe County Crime Lab, Rochester, NY**FORENSIC LABORATORY ASSISTANT****10/01/95 - 04/18/98**

- Prepared and performed reliability checks on laboratory reagents and standards.
- Knowledge of procedures utilized in firearm, trace, drug, arson, and serological analyses.
- Organized laboratory quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) system.
- Assisted in the organization of the laboratory safety committee
- Performed periodic QA/QC and safety audits
- Participated in various forensic presentations and career counseling lectures.
- Calibration of various laboratory instruments.
- Cocaine screening and quantitation utilizing instrumental analysis.
- Serological analysis (5/97 - 1/98) - Performed analysis on over 115 cases.

Monroe County Environmental Health Lab, Rochester, NY**LABORATORY TECHNICIAN****12/01/93 – 09/01/95**

- Hired, trained and supervised seasonal laboratory assistants.
- Responsible for the summer Lake Ontario Beach program.
- Revised training manual to assist laboratory personnel in determining beach closure status.
- Performed hundreds of chemical and microbiological analyses on potable and non-potable water samples. Preparation of laboratory reagents and standards.
- Microbiological Analyses performed: Membrane Filtration, Standard Plate Counts, Turbidity, Enterotube, MPN's confirmed using Lauryl Tryptose, BG broth, EC broth, Analytical Profile Index (API) and gram staining.
- Food Analyses performed: Salmonella, Shigella, Camphylobacter, Bacillus and Clostridium analyses.
- Chemical Analyses performed: Fluoride, Total Organic Carbon, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, Chloride, Hardness, Specific Conductance, Ammonia, pH, Alkalinity.
- Member of the Health and Safety Team.

Fisons Pharmaceutical Corporation, Rochester, NY**CHEMICAL ANALYST****04/01/93 – 09/01/93**

- Performed stability testing on hundreds of prescription drugs and pesticides.
- Isolated active drug ingredient and performed instrumental analysis (Infrared and Ultra-Violet spectroscopy) to determine concentration at various intervals following expiration.
- Utilized chemical extraction methods, thin layer chromatography (TLC), dissolution baths, disintegrating baths, pycnometers (specific gravity determination), and acid/base titrations.
- Calculated and reported concentration data according to FDA guidelines.
- Calibrated various instruments.
- Attended several chemical industry safety seminars.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Buffalo, NY

BIOLOGIST

10/01/91 - 10/01/92

- Identified critical biological, chemical and physical trends that affected point and non-point sources of pollution.
- Performed field and laboratory studies and compiled data for a lake-wide habitat inventory study.
- Analyzed information utilizing Statistical Analysis Software (SAS).
- Planned protocols and organized an outline for habitat publications for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Organized and participated in meetings (United States and Canada) and seminars to exchange technical information.
- Organized technical information utilizing various software programs.
- Wrote detailed reports to present habitat information and co-Authored final assessment documents.

EDUCATION:

- Monroe Community College - Latent Fingerprint Processing (Level 1 & 11) (Spring 2016)
- University of Florida
 - Forensic Genetics (Fall, 2005)
 - Molecular Biology (Spring 2006)
- M.A. in Biology, State University College at Buffalo, New York.
 - (including Biochemistry and Statistics courses)
- B.S. in Biology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)
- Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers (AFQAM)
- Toastmaster's International - Former Secretary (Certified Toastmaster, Competent Leader)

FORMAL TRAINING / MEETINGS:

Bleeding Control Basic v. 1.0 Course, Amer. College of Surgeons (MCCL, 05/2023)
Measurement Uncertainty: Practical Applications (ANAB, 12/2022)
Approaches to Risk-based Thinking in Laboratories (ANAB, 2019, 2021)
Monroe County Workplace Violence Training (MC, 5/2019 – 2026)
Advanced Microsoft Excel Macros, PivotTables, Charts and More (Rochester, 4/2019)
Monroe County Ethics Training (MC, 2019 - 2026)
Harassment Prevention Training for Employees (MC, 2019 - 2026)
Navigating ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – Comparison to ISO/IEC 17015:2005 (9/2018)
Security Awareness (MC, 9/2017)
Fentologs: Pharmacology, Toxicology & Analysis – Archival (8/2017)
AAA Driver Improvement Program (Rochester, 5/2017)
DNA Standards and Guidelines (Webinar, 4/2017)
Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED-AHA, (Rochester, NY, 2017, 2019)
The Latent Cause Experience (Albany, DCJS, 03/13/16 – 03/17/17)
Latent Print Processing Course-Level 2, (DCJS, 02/27 – 03/03/17, MCC @ PSTF)
Latent Print Processing Course-Level 1, (DCJS, 02/06 – 02/10/17, MCC @ PSTF)
Certificate of Leadership - Supervisory Training (MC Leadership Academy, 12/2016)
ASCLD Train the Directors Webinar Series: Digital Multimedia (Webinar, 02/2016)
DCJS-Multi-Media for Instructors (Monroe Community College, 11/2015)
ASCLD/LAB International Surveillance Assessor Training (Pensacola, FL, 10/2015)
Critical Competencies for Successful Laboratory Management (Albany, 9/2015)
NYS Criminal Procedure for Lab Analyst (Albany, NY, 6/2015)
DCJS Webinar Series: ASCLD/LAB Guiding Principles, (5/2015)
DCJS Webinar Series: Ethics and Forensic Science (Webinar, 4/2015)
Digital Technology & Investigation Workshop (1/29/15)
Crystal Reports 2008 Advanced (9/18/14)
Crystal Reports 2008 Basic (9/12/14)
DCJS Web Training: Advanced Statistical Process Control (9/23/14)
DCJS Web Training: Basic Statistical Process Control (9/16/14)
DCJS Web Training: Measurement System Analysis (9/13/14)
DCJS Web Training: Root Cause Analysis with Corrective Action (Webinar, 06/14)
Measurement Traceability-ASCLD/LAB Assessor Training (1/28/14)
ASCLD Webinar Series: Case Acceptance Policies and Guidelines (1/22/14)
ASCLD Webinar Series: Managing Customer Expectations and Education (1/18/14)
ASCLD Technical Assessor Refresher Training (Web) (1/7/14)
The Paradox of Backlog Reduction-How Doing Less Can be Doing More (web) (12/13)
ASCLD/LAB Webinar Series: Partnering with your Customers & Stakeholders (12/13)
ASCLD/LAB Measurement Confidence, Level 100 (Syracuse, NY, 10/10/13)
Association of Forensic Quality Assur. Managers Conf. (Syracuse, NY, 10/8 - 10/11/13)
Public Trust: The Key to Gov. Ethics in Monroe County (On-line, 9/25/13)
Instructor Development Course: Certified Instructor (MCC, Rochester, NY, 9/20/13)
ASCLD/Lab-International Root Cause Analysis Course (Albany, NY, 6/17/13)
2013 BEAST Users Group Meeting (Webinar, Rochester, NY, 5/30 - 5/3/13)
ASCLD/Lab-International Assessor Trng. Course (Wh. Plains, NY, 7/30 – 8/3/12)
MCCL Evidence Clerk Training (MCCL, Evidence Intake, 1/26/12 – 06/29/12)
NYS Prosecutor Training (Syracuse, NY, 03/2012)
Forensic Leadership Institute (Westchester, NY, 7/26 – 7/28/11)
ASCLD/Lab- International Internal Auditor Trng. Course (Albany, NY, 6/21 - 6/24/11)
Qualtrax Compliance Training Overview Trng. (Rochester, NY, 7/11/11)

FORMAL TRAINING / MEETINGS CONTINUED:

Courtroom Presentation of Evidence (Rochester, NY, 3/2011)
Ethics of the Expert Witness (Rochester, NY, 3/21/11)
Public Trust: The Key to Gov. Ethics in Monroe County (On-line, 3/24/11)
AAFS Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL, 2/21 - 2/26/11)
Effective Documentation and Records Control (Albany, NY, 2/8/11)
Conducting Effective Management Reviews (Albany, NY, 2/9/11)
Bloodstain Pattern Analysis for the Forensic Scientist (Rochester, NY, 12/2010)
Supplemental Training for DNA Extraction of Hair (MCCL, 8/3/10)
NIJ Conference (Crystal City, Virginia, 6/14 - 6/16/10)
Quantifiler Duo and AmpFISTR, Yfiler Valid. Lecture and Trng. (Rochester, 12/2009)
DNA Audit Re-training – Promega Meeting (Las Vegas, NV, 10/2009)
Statistics and DNA Mixture Interp. (Carmody, Wickenheiser -9/17- 9/20/09)
Ethics in Forensic Science (West Virginia University – 5/2009)
3130 Genetic Analyzer and GeneMapper ID Software (V3.2) (6/23 - 7/28/08)
Identifiler (4/08-5/08-MCPSL) and GMID Training – (6/08 - 7/08 - MCCL)
DNA Extraction and Quantitation for FS - DOJ (3/08)
DNA Amplification for Forensic Analysts - DOJ (3/08)
Amplified DNA product Separation for Forensic Analyst -DOJ (3/08)
STR Data Analysis and Interpretation for Forensic Analysts - DOJ (3/08)
Population Genetics and Statistics for Forensic Analysts - DOJ (3/08)
Annual American Academy of Science Meeting - (Washington, DC, 2/2008)
Annual Review of DNA Data Accepted at NDIS - DOJ (1/08, 11/08, 1/10)
Bloodstain pattern Analy. For Forensic Scientists (Rochester, NY, 10/2007)
ABI Trng. – GMID, QF7500 (Human and Y-Human DNA), 3130, (Roch, NY, 9/2007)
Gen. DNA Profiles from Difficult Samples - Promega Corp. (Nashville, TN, 10/2006)
Courtroom Testimony Wkshp - Promega Corporation (Nashville, TN, 10/8-10/12/06)
DNA Audit Re-training - FBI (Albany, NY) (10/5 - 10/6/06)
DNA Extrac., Quantific., STR Amplif., Genetic Analysis, STR Interp. (MCCL, 10/25/06)
7500 real-Time PCR Training (MCCL, 6/06 - 8/06)
Photodocumentation of Evidence Using EZDOC Plus Software (MCCL, 1/25 - 3/29/06)
Identifiler Amplific. and Analysis (MCCL, 05-19-06)
Quantifiler - MAFS Meeting (St. Louis, MO) (10/2005)
Gene Mapper ID - MAFS Meeting (St. Louis, MO) (10/2005)
Paternity Statistics - MAFS Meeting (St. Louis, MO) (10/2005)
Court Testimony - MAFS Meeting (St. Louis, MO) (10/2005)
Forensic Mixture Statistics - SUNY Albany (5/2005)
Trends in Forensic Technology – SUNY Albany (11/2004)
Seratec PSA Semiquant Test for Forensic ID of Semen (11/16 – 11/22/01)
On-site visit evaluation - Reliagene Technology (Louisiana, 5/20 - 5/21/04)
Annual American Academy of Science Meeting - (Dallas, TX, 2/2004)
DNA Grantee's Workshop - US Dept. of Justice (6/21 - 6/25/03)
DNA Typing in the Workplace - MAFS Meeting (Milwaukee, WI, 9/18/02)
Fluorescein Workshop - MAFS Meeting (Milwaukee, WI, 9/17/02)
Blood Spatter Workshop - MAFS Meeting (Milwaukee, WI, 9/17/02)
DNA Audit Training - FBI (10/31 - 11/02/01)
CODIS User's Conference – FBI (Washington, DC, 10/29 - 10/31/01)
STR Training - FBI Academy (Washington, DC, 8/27 - 8/31/01)
Human Identification Symposium - Promega Corporation (Biloxi, MS, 10/10 - 10/13/00)

FORMAL TRAINING / MEETINGS CONTINUED:

Forensic DNA 101 (Inman & Rudin) - Knowledge University (9/9 - 11/04/00)
Serology (MCCL, 4/10/00 - 8/14/00)
Forensic DNA Statistics - George Carmody (6/12 - 6/13/00)
Ultra-violet Training - Shimatzu (Monroe County, 4/2000)
DEA Training Course - US Dept. of Justice (Washington, DC, 5/3 - 5/7/99)
Effective Public Speaking - Government Institute (Fall 1999)
Drug Testing and Forensic Analysis - Hewlett Packard (9/1998)
Advanced Infra-red Workshop - Nicolet (9/1098)
Total Quality Management (Monroe County, 12/1998)

PRESENTATIONS GIVEN:

John Marshall High School–1995	Webster High School-2005
Nazareth Academy–1996	Webster High School-2006
Edison Technical High School–1996	University of Rochester–2008
Rush-Henrietta High School–2000	Nazareth College, summer camp–2009
Monroe Middle School–2001	Wilson Magnet High School-2010
East High School–2001	Rochester Institute of Technology-2010
High School of the Arts–2002	Palmyra-Macedon High School-2012
High School of the Arts–2003	Destiny Christian School-2012
Science Fair Presentation–2003	Palmyra-Macedon High School-2015
Benjamin Franklin High School–2003	Honeoye Falls High School-2018
Martin Anderson School Science Fair–2004	Dept of Labor Job Fair/Citizenship-2023
High School, summer camp, U of R–2004	ERASE Career Day Expo-2023
Rochester Institute of Technology–2004	NW Health/Comm. svc Career Fair-2023
Charlotte High School-2004	Police C. Scene & Evid. Special-2024
DNA Seminar for Prosecutors–2005	ROC the Block at Maplewood-2024
Roch. Career Educ. Collaborative-2005	Career Fair at Harvest Church-2024

COURTROOM EXPERIENCE:

Testified as an expert witness in chemistry and serology and DNA analysis approximately 78 times. (Forensic Chemistry 01/99-8/00 - approx. 14 times, Serology 10/00-present - approx. 50 times, DNA approx. 14 times).

PUBLICATIONS:

Bledsoe, M. 1993. The Isolation and Purification of a Chemical Inhibiting Growth and Reproduction of *Bulinus truncatus rohlfsi*, A Snail Host of Schistosoma Haematobium. 1993.

Busch, W.D., Lazeration, Bledsoe.M, Scharf, M. 1992. Development of Aquatic Units Applicable to Lake Ontario. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Publication.

Busch, W.D., Lazeration, Bledsoe.M, Scharf, M. 1993. Inventory of Lake Ontario Aquatic Habitat Information. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Publication.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

QATWG (Quality Assurance Technical Working Group) representative, 2011 to present:

- Co-Chair: 2013, Sp.2014,
- Chair: Fa.2014 - Fa. 2016
- Attend 2 meetings per year

DCJS Designated Administrator for web-based training for MCCL

Public Safety Training Facility – Training Officer/Certified Instructor

- Representative for MCCL.
- Attend 1 meeting per month.

Former Lead Assessor for ASCLD/LAB and ANAB:

- Performed Surveillance visit (MN & LV, Target Lab – 12/2016)

Former Technical Assessor (Forensic Biology) for ASCLD/LAB – ANAB

- Performed Surveillance visit (Canada, Centre of FS, Toronto – 2/2014)

Performing annual QA/QC audits

Performing annual Safety audits

Validation study done (Fluorescein Analysis)

Validation study (assisted) (HemaTrace Analysis)

Validation study (assisted) (Marijuana Analysis utilizing TLC)

Validation (Identifiler) (assisted) – 2005

Performed DNA QAS audit - 2001

Performed DNA QAS audit - 2003

On-site visit to Reliagene Technology – (LA, 2003)

Differential Extraction evaluation (assisted) - 2005



May 19, 2026

John R Clark
Monroe County Crime Laboratory
85 West Broad Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Dear Director Clark,

Congratulations! On May 16, 2026, ANAB made the decision to maintain your organization's accreditation in the Field of Forensic Testing. ANAB is satisfied that your organization meets or exceeds accreditation requirements, including the requirements of your own documented management system.

To retain accredited status until the expiry date on the Certificate of Accreditation, a conformity assessment body (CAB) is expected to continue to meet the Requirements under which it was accredited, as well as the responsibilities and obligations of ANAB's Terms and Conditions for Accreditation. The principal means by which ANAB monitors on-going conformance are Program dependent and may include surveillance activities, CAB and personnel performance in proficiency testing and other monitoring activities, complaints, and CAB self-disclosure of significant events and nonconformities.

The planned assessment schedule is listed below:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| • April 2027 | Surveillance Assessment without Witnessing |
| • April 2028 | Surveillance Assessment with Witnessing |
| • April 2029 | Surveillance Assessment without Witnessing |
| • April 2030 | Reassessment |

The provided ANAB accreditation symbols ([Forensic Testing](#)) may be used to convey your accredited status. An accreditation symbol must not be used in any way which implies accreditation in any area outside of the scope of accreditation. If appropriate, the accreditation symbol may be used on your organization's website, reports, letterhead, business cards, and other official documents. Please refer to [PR 1018 Policy on Use of ANAB Accreditation Symbols and Claims of Accreditation Status](#) for all required information. This policy also provides information on your ability to use a combined mark that contains the ANAB accreditation symbol and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) mark.

The report was provided to you during the assessment activity and an electronic version of accreditation documents is included with this letter.

Achieving accreditation is the result of an extensive commitment of resources and much preparation by the management and personnel of the entire organization. I commend the efforts of all who were involved in this achievement. On behalf of ANAB, I extend my sincere congratulations to you. If you have any questions or if ANAB might assist you in any way, please feel free to get in touch with us at qualitymatters@anab.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natasha Wheatley', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Natasha Wheatley
Senior Manager of Accreditation
ANSI National Accreditation Board

cc: Marcia Bledsoe, Quality Assurance Coordinator
New York DCJS



CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

The ANSI National Accreditation Board

Hereby attests that

Monroe County Crime Laboratory
85 West Broad Street, Rochester, New York 14614 USA

Fulfills the requirements of

ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration (2023)
FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories:2025

In the field of

Forensic Testing

This certificate is valid only when accompanied by a current scope of accreditation document.
The current scope of accreditation can be verified at www.anab.org.


Pamela L. Sale, Vice President, Forensics

Expiry Date: 31 August 2030
Certificate Number: FT-0312





ANSI National Accreditation Board

**SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION TO:
ISO/IEC 17025:2017**

**Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration (2023)
FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories:2025**

Monroe County Crime Laboratory

85 West Broad Street
Rochester, New York 14614 USA

FORENSIC TESTING

ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation Granted: 29 Augusts 2013

Certificate Number: FT-0312

Certificate Expiry Date: 31 August 2030

Discipline: Biology		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
DNA Profile Determination	Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Y-Short Tandem Repeat (Y-STR)	Capillary Electrophoresis
Individual Characteristic Database	DNA Profile	National DNA Index System (NDIS)
Physical Comparison	DNA Profile	Software Program
Qualitative Determination	Body Fluid	Chemical Fluorescence Spectroscopy General Microscopy Immunoassay

Discipline: Fire Debris and Explosives		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Qualitative Determination	Explosive	Chemical Gas Chromatography General Microscopy Infrared Spectroscopy Mass Spectrometry Microcrystalline X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy
Qualitative Determination	Fire Debris	Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry

This Scope of Accreditation, version 009 was last updated on: 16 May 2026 and is valid only when accompanied by the Certificate.

Page 1 of 3

Discipline: Firearms and Toolmarks		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Distance Determination	Firearm Physical Item	Chemical General Microscopy Measuring Equipment
Function Evaluation	Air Gun Firearm Silencer	Dead Weight Measuring Equipment Visual
Individual Characteristic Database	Ammunition	National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN)
Physical Comparison	Ammunition Tool/Toolmark	General Microscopy Measuring Equipment Visual
Qualitative Determination	Ammunition Firearm Metal Nitrate/Nitrite Tool	Chemical General Microscopy Measuring Equipment Reference Collection
Serial Number Restoration	Physical Item	Chemical General Microscopy Magnetic Visual

Discipline: Impressions		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Enhancement	Footwear Physical Item Tire	Chemical Software Program
Physical Comparison	Footwear Physical Item Tire	Software Program Visual
Qualitative Determination	Footwear Tire	Reference Collection

Discipline: Materials (Trace)		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Chemical/Physical Comparison	Coating Fiber/Textile Fractured Item General Unknown Glass Hair Tape	Chemical Gas Chromatography General Microscopy Infrared Spectroscopy Mass Spectrometry Microspectrophotometry Refractometry Thin-Layer Chromatography Visual X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy

Qualitative Determination	Coating Fiber/Textile Filament General Unknown Glass Hair Tape	Chemical Gas Chromatography General Microscopy Infrared Spectroscopy Mass Spectrometry Microspectrophotometry Reference Collection Refractometry Thin-Layer Chromatography Visual X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy
---------------------------	--	---

Discipline: Seized Drugs		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Qualitative Determination	Botanical Liquid Solid	Chemical Gas Chromatography General Microscopy Infrared Spectroscopy Mass Spectrometry Microcrystalline Visual
Quantitative Measurement	Solid	Gas Chromatography
Weight Measurement	Botanical Liquid Solid	Balance

When published on a forensic service provider's Scope of Accreditation, ANAB has confirmed the competence required to develop and validate methods and perform on-going quality assurance for accredited activities. For a listed component/parameter, the forensic service provider may add or modify methods for activities without formal notice to ANAB for items and key equipment/technology listed. Contact the forensic service provider for information on the method utilized for accredited work.



Pamela L. Sale
Vice President, Forensics



**Division of Criminal
Justice Services**

RECEIVED

6/10/2026

Office of Forensic Services



Monroe County Crime Laboratory

2026 - 17025 - Y4 - Reassessment

Prepared by Mike Healy

Data collected on 2026-04-13

ANSI National Accreditation Board

United States

Description

This assessment report summarizes the outcome of the recent accreditation activity. A separate document, the assessment plan, provides information on the type of activity (*e.g.*, reassessment, surveillance activity, scope extension), the date(s) of the activity, the assessment team members, the requirement documents and refers to the scope of the discipline(s) assessed for each location. The assessment plan, together with this report, provide a complete picture of the accreditation activity.

The ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) evaluated the competence of the laboratory and conformance with all applicable accreditation requirements for the scope of accreditation referenced in the assessment plan. Objective evidence of implementation was assessed. The results of an assessment activity are based on a sample of records, locations, and personnel that were available at the time of the activity. Witnessing is an additional technique used in most activities.

REQUIREMENTS:

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories & ANAB Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration (AR 3125) evaluated over the accreditation cycle are summarized in the following broad categories:

General requirements related to the laboratory's commitment to impartiality and confidentiality in its activities.

Structural requirements related to the range of activities, management structure, the authority, roles and responsibilities of personnel. Documented procedures which ensure a consistent application of activities and the validity of results.

Resource requirements related to the impartiality of personnel. Requirements for a training program, competency testing, authorizations, and ongoing monitoring to ensure the competence of personnel. Facility and security suitability for activities. Records and procedures for equipment to ensure proper functioning and where applicable, establishment of metrological traceability. Requirements for externally provided products and services.

Process requirements related to the handling of test and calibration items in a manner to maintain the integrity of the item. Requirements for chain-of-custody of items to be tested and appropriate methods and procedures. Ensuring the required performance of the methods along with monitoring the validity of the results. Requirements to ensure results are supported by sufficient technical records and are reported accurately, clearly, unambiguously, and objectively. Procedures for nonconforming work and a documented process for handling complaints. Requirements related to the laboratory information management system protection and integrity of data and information.

Management system requirements related to policies and objectives appropriate for the scope of activities. Requirements to control internal and external documents and records. Requirements to address risks and opportunities and timely, well-documented corrective actions. Requirements for an internal audit program and management reviews.

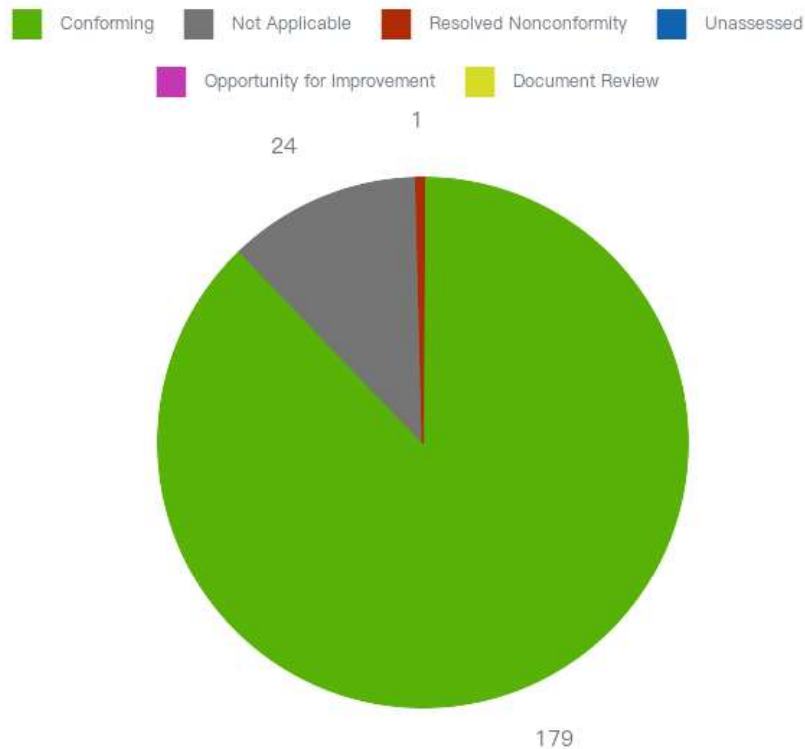
The accreditation activity also evaluates the laboratory's conformance with their own management system requirements.

ASSESSMENT RESULT:

Based on the assessment techniques and a sample of the objective evidence reviewed during the assessment activity, the assessment team found that the laboratory demonstrated competence to operate a management system that fulfills all applicable accreditation requirements, including those specified within their management system.

Any opportunities for improvement or nonconformities identified during this assessment activity are noted below. All nonconformities will be resolved prior to an accreditation decision by ANAB and a summary provided in a subsequent assessment activity report.

Summary of Objective Evidence



Audit Objective Evidence

5. Structural requirements

5.4 ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Resolved Nonconformity

Requirement

Are laboratory activities carried out in such a way as to meet the requirements of this document, the laboratory's customers, regulatory authorities and organizations providing recognition? Does this include laboratory activities performed in all its permanent facilities, at sites away from its permanent facilities, in associated temporary or mobile facilities or at a customer's facility?

ANAB NOTE: Example of regulatory authorities are the Federal Bureau of Investigation for laboratories participating in the National DNA Index System (NDIS) and state forensic science commissions providing accreditation.

Nonconformity Resolution

2024 External QAS Audit was not reported to the FBI within the required timeframe.

Corrective Action Closure Note: Reviewed documentation on the incident and see that it was addressed with FBI and NY DCJS. The cause analysis was conducted and there was no impact on casework. This nonconformity has been resolved.



Department of Public Safety
Monroe County, New York



Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Richard V. Tantalo
Director

John R. Clark
Laboratory Administrator

Lisa Grossweiler, NDIS Custodian
Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory
CODIS Unit, Room 1120
2501 Investigation Parkway
Quantico, VA 22135

May 1, 2026

Dear Ms. Grossweiler:

This correspondence is a notification of an external FBI QAS audit conducted of the Monroe County Crime Laboratory April 13-16 2026. The audit was conducted by ANAB, as represented by Briana Smalling.

A copy of the audit report is included for your review. The laboratory had one finding of No for standard 15.5.2. This finding has been investigated in a Corrective Action and was closed by the laboratory in 2024. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at gconklin@monroecounty.gov or 585-753-3510.

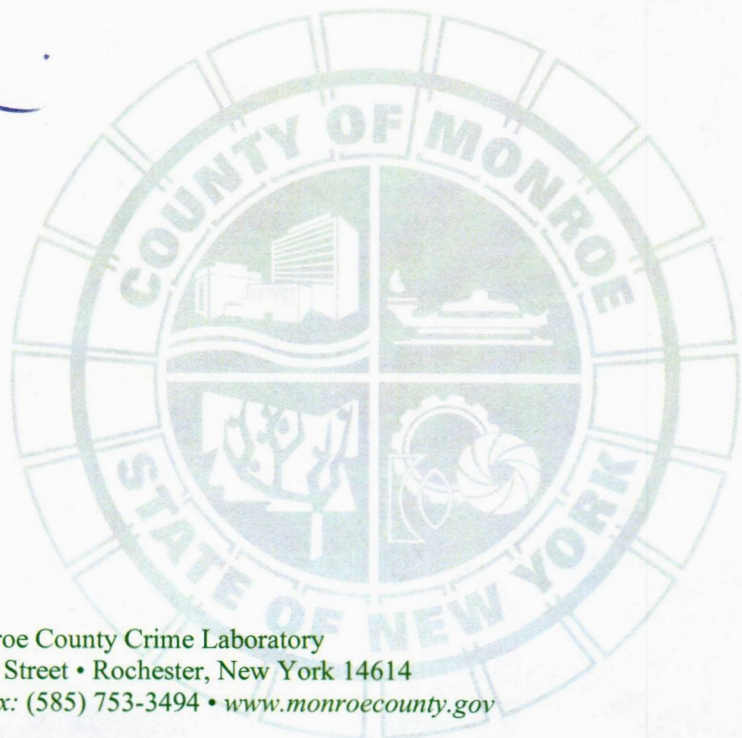
Additionally, you may reach the Laboratory Administrator, John Clark, at johnclark@monroecounty.gov or 585-753-3523.

Sincerely,

Gail M. Conklin
DNA Technical Leader

cc: NYS Office of Forensic Services

Attachments





U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

May 4, 2026

Kyra McKay
New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner
Department of Forensic Biology
421 East 26th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Kyra:

This is in response to the external Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) audit conducted for the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner – Department of Forensic Biology in New York, New York, from November 17 to 20, 2025.

A review of your audit documentation found the laboratory to be in compliance with the external audit requirement and the FBI Director's Quality Assurance Standards.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa L. Grossweiler
NDIS Custodian
CODIS Unit
Laboratory Division

1 – Allison Sage (information only)



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

May 20, 2026

Jamie Belrose, Ph.D.
New York State Police
Forensic Investigation Center
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 30
Albany, NY 12226

Dear Dr. Belrose:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your DNA Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) Audit Report for the New York State Police Crime Laboratory (Forensic) in Albany, New York, dated March 23 to 25, 2026, for the 2026 external audit. The audit documentation was received on May 15, 2026.

Upon completion of this review, the committee's copies of the audit document and any electronic audit submissions will be destroyed by the FBI.

For tracking purposes, the audit has been assigned number 2026032. Please refer to this number if you have any inquiries concerning this particular audit document.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact QAS@FBI.GOV.

Sincerely,



Lisa L. Grossweiler
NDIS Custodian
CODIS Unit
Laboratory Division



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

May 20, 2026

Michelle Adams
New York State Police
Forensic Investigation Center
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 30
Albany, NY 12226

Dear Michelle:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your DNA Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) Audit Report for the New York State Police Crime Laboratory (Database) in Albany, New York, dated March 23 to 25, 2026, for the 2026 external audit. The audit documentation was received on May 15, 2026.

Upon completion of this review, the committee's copies of the audit document and any electronic audit submissions will be destroyed by the FBI.

For tracking purposes, the audit has been assigned number 2026031. Please refer to this number if you have any inquiries concerning this particular audit document.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact QAS@FBI.GOV.

Sincerely,

Lisa L. Grossweiler
NDIS Custodian
CODIS Unit
Laboratory Division



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

June 15, 2026

Jamie Belrose, Ph.D.
New York State Police
Forensic Investigation Center
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 30
Albany, NY 12226

Dear Dr. Belrose:

This is in response to the external Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) audit conducted for the New York State Police Crime Laboratory (Forensic) in Albany, New York from March 23 to 25, 2026.

A review of your audit documentation found the laboratory to be in compliance with the external audit requirement and the FBI Director's Quality Assurance Standards.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa L. Grossweiler
NDIS Custodian
CODIS Unit
Laboratory Division

1 – Cassandra Nelson (information only)



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

June 15, 2026

Michelle Adams
New York State Police
Forensic Investigation Center
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 30
Albany, NY 12226

Dear Michelle:

This is in response to the external Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) audit conducted for the New York State Police Crime Laboratory (Database) in Albany, New York from March 23 to 25, 2026.

A review of your audit documentation found the laboratory to be in compliance with the external audit requirement and the FBI Director's Quality Assurance Standards.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa L. Grossweiler
NDIS Custodian
CODIS Unit
Laboratory Division

1 – Cassandra Nelson (information only)

From: BECKER, JULIA (TROOPERS)
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2026 10:24 AM
To: dcjs.sm.forensiclabs
Cc: troopers.sm.q.assure; PIZZIKETTI, JULIE (TROOPERS); HURBANЕК, NICHOLE (TROOPERS); LEACH, THOMAS (TROOPERS)
Subject: NYSP Crime Lab - Change to State CODIS Administrator
Attachments: Cassandra E. Nelson_2026.pdf

Good morning,

Please note that effective 6/5/2026, Cassandra Nelson replaced Allison Sage as the State CODIS Administrator.

Thank you,
Julia

JULIA BECKER
Director of Quality Assurance

New York State Police
Forensic Investigation Center
1220 Washington Ave, Bldg 30, Albany, NY 12226
(518) 457-6406 | julia.becker@troopers.ny.gov
www.troopers.ny.gov

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Cassandra E. Nelson
Forensic Scientist IV (DNA) - CODIS Administrator
Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION:

Master of Science in Forensic Molecular Biology
12/2008
State University of New York at Albany
Albany, NY

Bachelor of Science in Biology with a Minor in
Business Studies
05/2005
State University of New York College at Geneseo
Geneseo, NY

EXPERIENCE:

Forensic Scientist IV (DNA) – State CODIS
Administrator
06/2026 – Current
New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Forensic Investigation Center Albany, NY

Forensic Scientist IV (DNA) – Alternate State
CODIS Administrator
10/2018 – 06/2026
New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Forensic Investigation Center Albany, NY

Forensic Scientist (DNA)
10/2012 - 10/2018
New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Forensic Investigation Center Albany, NY

Senior Laboratory Technician
04/2008 - 10/2012
New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Forensic Investigation Center Albany, NY

SPECIALIZED TRAINING:

04/2026- Federal Bureau of Investigation CODIS
Software Training CODIS 12.0

10/2025- Federal Bureau of Investigation Quality
Assurance Standards (QAS) and Auditor Training

02/2023- Federal Bureau of Investigation CODIS
Software Training CODIS 11.0

05/2020- Federal Bureau of Investigation Quality
Assurance Standards (QAS) and Auditor Training

02/2020- Federal Bureau of Investigation CODIS
Software Training CODIS 9.0

10/2019- Federal Bureau of Investigation Quality
Assurance Standards (QAS) and Auditor Training

03/2019- Federal Bureau of Investigation CODIS
Software Training CODIS 8.0

12/2017- Automated Sample Punch

12/2013 - NYSP Biological Sciences (Databank)
Manual Sample Punch, Manual Extraction,
Manual PCR Setup, Amplification, Manual
Capillary Electrophoresis Set Up, Genetic
Analyzer Operation, STR Analysis and
Interpretation, Y-STR Analysis and Interpretation

03/2012 - NYSP Biological Science (Casework)
DNA Limited- Y-STR

05/2011 - NYSP Biological Sciences (Casework)
DNA Limited, Post-Amplification Plate
Preparation

06/2008 - NYSP Biological Sciences (Databank)
Sample Opening and Sealing, Sample
Accessioning

06/2008 - NYSP Biological Sciences (Databank)
Plate Pulling, Sample Validation

From: Ranee Ho <RaneeHo@onondaga.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2026 1:42 PM
To: dcjs.sm.forensiclabs; QualityMatters
Cc: Kathleen Hum; Daniel Cowen; Schmitz, Michelli (ERIE)
Subject: Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences Notice of Director of Labs Out of Office for 1 month

Attention: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Good afternoon,

Please be advised that Ranee Ho, Director of Laboratories for the Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences Laboratory, will be out of the office starting July 8, 2026, for approximately one month for medical reasons. During this time period, any questions, issues, or concerns should be addressed to either Daniel Cowen (Acting Director) or Kathleen Hum (Quality Assurance Manager).

Both are CC'd above. Please continue to CC me on correspondences so that my records are complete.

Thank you.

Ranee Ho, MS, MBA, ABC-MB, CFM-III
Director of Laboratories
Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences
100 Elizabeth Blackwell Street, Syracuse, NY 13210
Tel: (315) 435-1486 | Fax: (315) 435-5048

Email: raneeho@onondaga.gov

[Relator](#) | [Learner](#) | [Belief](#) | [Consistency](#) | [Achiever](#) | [Activator](#) | [Responsibility](#) | [Significance](#) | [Arranger](#) | [Analytical](#)

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From: QualityMatters <qualitymatters@anab.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 4:13 PM
To: Rane Ho; dcjs.sm.forensiclabs
Cc: Kathleen Hum; Daniel Cowen; Schmitz, Michelli (ERIE)
Subject: RE: Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences Notice of Director of Labs Return to Office

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Welcome back Rane!

Thank you for the notification. I am sorry to hear that Daniel Cowen may be relieved of his Acting position. I can certainly understand why his direct involvement with DCJS-related matters will be greatly missed.

For any changes to contacts, scope, or other accreditation-related information, please complete the [Change Request Form](#). Upon receipt our records will be updated accordingly. This form helps ANAB ensure that our records remain accurate and up to date.

This form can also be found in [Audeee](#) on the Accreditation Client screen (toward the bottom of the page) or on the [ANAB website](#) under Resources. Once completed, please submit the form via email to changenotice@anab.org.

Thank you, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Tara

ANAB

 anab.org

 qualitymatters@anab.org

 414-501-5494



All information contained in this transmission is confidential. Any disclosure, copying or further distribution is not permitted without the express written permission of ANAB.

From: Ranee Ho <RaneeHo@onondaga.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 11:01 AM
To: dcjs.sm.forensiclabs <dcjsforensiclabs@dcjs.ny.gov>; QualityMatters <qualitymatters@anab.org>
Cc: Kathleen Hum <KathleenHum@onondaga.gov>; Daniel Cowen <DanielCowen@onondaga.gov>; Schmitz, Michelli (ERIE) <michelli.schmitz@erie.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences Notice of Director of Labs Return to Office

Good afternoon,

Please be advised that Ranee Ho, Director of Laboratories for the Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences Laboratory, has returned to the office effective today.

I am very sad to say that Daniel Cowen may be relieved of this Acting position. He has done marvelously and I shall miss his direct involvement with DCJS etc. matters.

Thank you for keeping him informed and me in the loop.

Thank you.

Ranee Ho, MS, MBA, ABC-MB, CFM-III
Director of Laboratories
Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences
100 Elizabeth Blackwell Street, Syracuse, NY 13210
Tel: (315) 435-1486 | Fax: (315) 435-5048
Email: raneeho@onondaga.gov
[Relator](#) | [Learner](#) | [Belief](#) | [Consistency](#) | [Achiever](#) | [Activator](#) | [Responsibility](#) | [Significance](#) | [Arranger](#) | [Analytical](#)

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ONONDAGA COUNTY CENTER FOR FORENSIC SCIENCES – LABORATORIES

100 Elizabeth Blackwell Street, Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 435-3800



CURRICULUM VITAE

Name	Daniel Cowen	Date	06/22/2026
Job Title	Senior DNA Scientist		
Discipline(s)	Biology		

Education:

Institution	Dates Attended	Major	Degree Completed
George Washington University	09/2005 - 05/2007	Forensic Science	Masters of Forensic Science
Rochester Institute of Technology	09/2001 - 05/2005	Biology	Bachelor of Science

Scientific or Technical Positions Held:

Job Title	Forensic Scientist I	Tenure	June 2007- June 2008
	Forensic Scientist II		June 2008 - June 2011
	Forensic Scientist III		June 2011 - November 2020
	Forensic Scientist III / Technical Leader		November 2020 - March 2021
	Senior DNA Scientist / Technical Leader		March 2021- Present
Employer	Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences - Laboratories		
Performing scientific testing and analysis of unknown biological substances and evidentiary material. Perform and ensure routing prevention maintenance and calibration of laboratory equipment. Appear in Court litigation as an expert witness regarding forensic analysis. Review work of peers. Manage the day to day operations of the Forensic Biology/DNA section.			

Job Title	Adjunct Professor	Tenure	August 2016- December 2022
Employer	Syracuse University		
Instructor for course "Forensic Analysis of Biological Evidence".			

Job Title	Forensic Research Assistant	Tenure	January 2007 - May 2007
Employer	George Washington University Forensic Laboratory		
Conduct research on Y-STR analysis. Add two additional loci to the current Y-STR kit used by the University. Create an allelic ladder of the most common variants for the included loci.			

Continuing Education, Workshops & Other External Training Courses:

- 12th Annual Workshop on STRmix Implementation and Casework Approach, CA DOJ / San Diego Police Department, Online, June 2026 - New York State Forensic Lab DNA Sequencing Training, Syracuse University/DCJS. Syracuse, NY, May 18th-22nd, 2026 - 31st Annual CODIS Conference, 2025 Technical Leader Summit, DOJ/FBI, September 22nd, 2025 - 11th Annual Workshop on STRmix Implementation and Casework Approach, CA DOJ / San Diego Police Department, Online, June 2025 - Rapid DNA Nationwide Webinar, GTH DNA and Go Rapid DNA, January 13th, 2025 - 30th Annual CODIS Conference, 2024 Technical Leader Summit, DOJ/FBI, October 7, 2024 - New York Rapid DNA Webinar, July 17th 2024 - 10th Annual Workshop on STRmix Implementation and Casework Approach, CA DOJ / San Diego Police Department, Online, June 2024			
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- Verification and Validation of Analytical Methods, ANAB, Online March 2022
- 34th International Symposium on Human Identification, Promega, Denver, CO, September 2023
 - The Other NGS: Next Generation Scientists and How to Prepare Them for the Workforce
- QIAcube Connect and EZ2 Connect Fx Applications Training, May 2023
- 8th Annual Workshop on STRmix Implementation and Casework Approach, CA DOJ / San Diego Police Department, Online, June 2022
- New DNA Technologies Workshop, NIST Applied Genetics Group, Online, March 2022
- QIAcube Connect and EZ2 Connect Fx Applications training, Qiagen, Syracuse, NY, February 2022
- 7th Annual Workshop on STRmix Implementation and Casework Approach, CA DOJ / San Diego Police Department
 - Probabilistic Genotyping of Evidentiary DNA Typing Results, NIJ, Online
 - Module 1: The Elements of DNA Profile Interpretation and Probabilistic Genotyping, April 2020
 - Module 3: Probabilistic Genotyping Software and Output, April 2020
 - Module 4: Validation of Probabilistic Genotyping Systems for Casework Usage, April 2020
- 2020 QAS Quality Assurance Standards Auditor Assessment, FBI, Online, April 2020
- 2nd Annual Northeast Forensic Laboratory Probabilistic Genotyping Users Group Workshop, NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner Department of Forensic Biology, New York City, NY, October 2019
- ANAB Guiding Principles, NYS DCJS, Internet, September 2019
- Statistical Genetics and the Mechanisms of Probabilistic Genotyping, Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, Internet, May 2019
- STRmix 2-day Advanced Training Course, Institute of Environmental Science and Research, Syracuse, NY, December 2018
- Quality Assurance Standards and Auditor Training Curriculum, FBI Laboratory Division, Internet, February 2018
- Pipette Technique Training, Calibrate, Inc., Syracuse, NY, June 2017
- 3500 & GMID-X v. 1.5 Training, Thermo Fisher, Syracuse, NY, May & June 2017
- PowerQuant Webinar, Promega, Internet, April 2017
- Probabilistic DNA Interpretation Workshop, NIST, New York, NY, March 2017
- 27th International Symposium on Human Identification: Promega, Minneapolis, MN, September 2016
- M-Vac Training, M-Vac Systems, Inc., Syracuse, NY, August 2016
- STRmix User's Group Meeting, CA DOJ, Richmond, CA, June 2015
- STRmix Training Workshop, Institute of Environmental Science and Research, Syracuse, NY, May 2015
- ASCLD/LAB Guiding Principles, NYS DCJS, Internet, December 2014
- STRmix Training Workshop, The Institute of Environmental Science and Research, Syracuse, NY, November 2014
- How TruAllele Works, Cybergenetics, Internet, October 2014
- 25th International Symposium on Human Identification, Promega, Phoenix, AZ, September - October 2014
- Overview of DNA Likelihood Ratio, NYS DCJS, Internet, September 2014
- Overview of Root Cause Analysis, NYS DCJS, Internet, July 2014
- ArmedXpert Installation and Training, Erie County Central Police Services and Crime Lab/Niche Vision, Buffalo, NY, March 2014
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting, AAFS, Washington, DC, February 2013
- Evidence Handling Refresher Training, Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences, Syracuse, NY - November 2012
- Criminal Procedure for Lab Analysts - What do I need to know?, Onondaga County District Attorney's Office, Syracuse, NY, September 2012
- Green Mountain DNA Conference, Vermont Forensic Laboratory, Burlington, VT, August 2012
- Forensic Laboratory & Trial Practice for the Scientist and Prosecutor, NYPTI, Syracuse, NY, March 2012
- 22nd International Symposium on Human Identification, Promega, National Harbor, MD, October 2011
 - Mixture Interpretation: Using Scientific Analysis Workshop
 - Troubleshooting Laboratory Problems Workshop
- PlexorHY/Identifiler Plus Set-up and Analysis, Genemapper ID-X Software, Sorenson Forensics, Syracuse, NY, March 2011
- Y-STR Workshop, Sorenson Forensics, Syracuse, NY, April 2010
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting, AAFS, Seattle, WA, February 2010
 - Advances in Forensic DNA Analysis Workshop
 - Putting Our Forensic House in Order: The Best Path Forward
- Mixture Interpretation Workshop, Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory, Rochester, NY, August 2009
- NIJ Conference, NIJ, Arlington, VA, June 2009
- Ethics, RTI International, Internet, April 2009

- Forensic Scientist Criminal Trial Training, NYPTI, Rochester NY, March 2009
- 19th International Symposium on Human Identification, Promega, Los Angeles, CA, October 2008
- Courtroom Testimony Workshop, Stephen McKasson, Syracuse, NY, September 2007
- Forensic Statistics, Northeast Regional Forensic Institute, Albany, NY, August 2007
- Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences Forensic Scientist (Biology/DNA) Training Program, Syracuse, NY, 2007 – 2010
- Body Fluid Identification – 2007 – 2008
- DNA Analysis – 2008 - 201

Professional Affiliations:

American Academy of Forensic Sciences – 2008 - Present
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July 24, 2026

Lydia De Castro
Westchester County Department of Laboratories & Research
Division of Forensic Science
10 Dana Road
Valhalla, New York 10595

Dear Director De Castro,

Congratulations! On July 23, 2026, ANAB made the decision to maintain your organization's accreditation in the Field of Forensic Testing. ANAB is satisfied that your organization meets or exceeds accreditation requirements, including the requirements of your own documented management system.

The report was provided to you during the assessment activity.

The provided ANAB accreditation symbols ([Forensic Testing](#)) may be used to convey your accredited status. An accreditation symbol must not be used in any way which implies accreditation in any area outside of the scope of accreditation. If appropriate, the accreditation symbol may be used on your organization's website, reports, letterhead, business cards, and other official documents. Please refer to [PR 1018 Policy on Use of ANAB Accreditation Symbols and Claims of Accreditation Status](#) for all required information. This policy also provides information on your ability to use a combined mark that contains the ANAB accreditation symbol and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) mark.

The next assessment activity is a Surveillance Assessment without Witnessing scheduled for June 2027.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to quality and the accreditation process. On behalf of ANAB, I extend my sincere congratulations to you. If you have any questions or if ANAB might assist you in any way, please feel free to get in touch with us at qualitymatters@anab.org.

Sincerely,

Jami StClair
Senior Manager of Accreditation, Forensics
ANSI National Accreditation Board

cc: Jennifer Reilly, Quality Manager
NY DCJS



CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

The ANSI National Accreditation Board

Hereby attests that

**Westchester County Department of
Laboratories & Research
Division of Forensic Science
10 Dana Road, Valhalla, New York 10595 USA**

Fulfills the requirements of

ISO/IEC 17025:2017

**Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration (2023)
FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories:2025**

In the field of

Forensic Testing

This certificate is valid only when accompanied by a current scope of accreditation document.
The current scope of accreditation can be verified at www.anab.org.


Pamela L. Sale, Vice President, Forensics

Expiry Date: 31 October 2028
Certificate Number: FT-0155





SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION TO:
ISO/IEC 17025:2017
Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration (2023)
FBI Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories: 2025

Westchester County Department of Laboratories & Research
Division of Forensic Science

10 Dana Road
Valhalla, New York 10595 USA

FORENSIC TESTING

ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation Granted: 30 September 2006

Certificate Number: FT-0155

Certificate Expiry Date: 31 October 2028

Discipline: Biology		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
DNA Profile Determination	Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Y-Short Tandem Repeat (Y-STR)	Capillary Electrophoresis
Individual Characteristic Database	DNA Profile	National DNA Index System (NDIS)
Physical Comparison	DNA Profile	Software Program
Qualitative Determination	Body Fluid	Chemical General Microscopy Immunoassay

Discipline: Digital and Video/Imaging Technology and Analysis		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Field Sampling	Physical Item	Not Applicable
Acquisition/Extraction	Image Multimedia Recording Video	Software Program
Authentication	Image Multimedia Recording Video	Software Program

Content Analysis	Image Multimedia Recording Video	Software Program Visual
Enhancement	Image Multimedia Recording Video	Software Program
Physical Comparison	Image Multimedia Recording Video	Software Program Visual
Reconstruction	Inspection/Test Result Other Information Physical Item	Software Program
Transcoding	Image Multimedia Recording Video	Software Program

Discipline: Fire Debris and Explosives		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Qualitative Determination	Fire Debris	Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry

Discipline: Firearms and Toolmarks		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Distance Determination	Physical Item	Chemical General Microscopy Measuring Equipment
Qualitative Determination	Metal Nitrate/Nitrite	Chemical General Microscopy

Discipline: Impressions		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Field Sampling	Physical Item	Not Applicable
Enhancement	Footwear Physical Item Tire	Chemical Physical Software Program
Physical Comparison	Footwear Physical Item Tire	General Microscopy Software Program Visual
Qualitative Determination	Footwear Physical Item Tire	Reference Collection

Discipline: Materials (Trace)		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Field Sampling	Physical Item	Not Applicable
Chemical/ Physical Comparison	Adhesive Coating Fiber/Textile Fractured Item Polymer Tape	Chemical Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy Fluorescence Spectroscopy Gas Chromatography General Microscopy Infrared Spectroscopy Mass Spectrometry Microspectrophotometry Scanning Electron Microscopy Visual
Qualitative Determination	Adhesive Coating Fiber/Textile Glass Gunshot Residue Hair Polymer Tape	Chemical Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy Fluorescence Spectroscopy Gas Chromatography General Microscopy Infrared Spectroscopy Mass Spectrometry Microspectrophotometry Reference Collection Scanning Electron Microscopy Visual

Discipline: Seized Drugs		
Component/Parameter	Item	Key Equipment/Technology
Qualitative Determination	Botanical Liquid Solid	Chemical Gas Chromatography General Microscopy Mass Spectrometry Thin-Layer Chromatography Visual
Quantitative Measurement	Botanical Liquid Solid	Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry
Weight Measurement	Botanical Liquid Solid	Balance

When published on a forensic service provider's Scope of Accreditation, ANAB has confirmed the competence required to develop and validate methods and perform on-going quality assurance for accredited activities. For a listed component/parameter, the forensic service provider may add or modify methods for activities without formal notice to ANAB for items and key equipment/technology listed. Contact the forensic service provider for information on the method utilized for accredited work.



Pamela L. Sale
Vice President, Forensics



Westchester County Department of Laboratories & Research
Division of Forensic Science

2026 - 17025 - Y2 - Surveillance Assessment With Witnessing
Prepared by Deedra Hughes

Data collected on 2026-06-22

ANSI National Accreditation Board

United States

Description

This assessment report summarizes the outcome of the recent accreditation activity. A separate document, the assessment plan, provides information on the type of activity (e.g., reassessment, surveillance activity, scope extension), the date(s) of the activity, the assessment team members, the requirement documents and refers to the scope of the discipline(s) assessed for each location. The assessment plan, together with this report, provide a complete picture of the accreditation activity.

The ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) evaluated the competence of the laboratory and conformance with all applicable accreditation requirements for the scope of accreditation referenced in the assessment plan. Objective evidence of implementation was assessed. The results of an assessment activity are based on a sample of records, locations, and personnel that were available at the time of the activity. Witnessing is an additional technique used in most activities.

REQUIREMENTS:

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories & ANAB Accreditation Requirements for Forensic Testing and Calibration (AR 3125) evaluated over the accreditation cycle are summarized in the following broad categories:

General requirements related to the laboratory's commitment to impartiality and confidentiality in its activities.

Structural requirements related to the range of activities, management structure, the authority, roles and responsibilities of personnel. Documented procedures which ensure a consistent application of activities and the validity of results.

Resource requirements related to the impartiality of personnel. Requirements for a training program, competency testing, authorizations, and ongoing monitoring to ensure the competence of personnel. Facility and security suitability for activities. Records and procedures for equipment to ensure proper functioning and where applicable, establishment of metrological traceability. Requirements for externally provided products and services.

Process requirements related to the handling of test and calibration items in a manner to maintain the integrity of the item. Requirements for chain-of-custody of items to be tested and appropriate methods and procedures. Ensuring the required performance of the methods along with monitoring the validity of the results. Requirements to ensure results are supported by sufficient technical records and are reported accurately, clearly, unambiguously, and objectively. Procedures for nonconforming work and a documented process for handling complaints. Requirements related to the laboratory information management system protection and integrity of data and information.

Management system requirements related to policies and objectives appropriate for the scope of activities. Requirements to control internal and external documents and records. Requirements to address risks and opportunities and timely, well-documented corrective actions. Requirements for an internal audit program and management reviews.

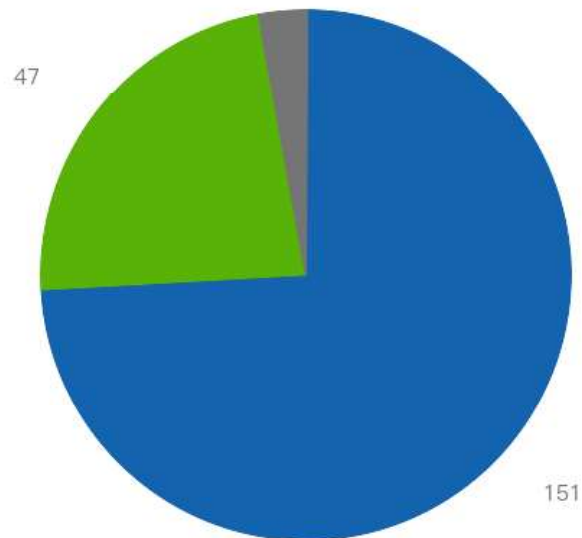
The accreditation activity also evaluates the laboratory's conformance with their own management system requirements.

ASSESSMENT RESULT:

Based on the assessment techniques and a sample of the objective evidence reviewed during the assessment activity, the assessment team found that the laboratory demonstrated competence to operate a management system that fulfills all applicable accreditation requirements, including those specified within their management system.

Any opportunities for improvement or nonconformities identified during this assessment activity are noted below. All nonconformities will be resolved prior to an accreditation decision by ANAB and a summary provided in a subsequent assessment activity report.

Summary of Objective Evidence



Audit Objective Evidence



DNA Subcommittee

Partial Match

A verbal update regarding partial match will be given.



DNA Subcommittee

Familial Search

A verbal update regarding familial search will be given.



DNA Subcommittee

CODIS Bulletins

A verbal update regarding CODIS Bulletins will be given.



Proficiency Test Disclosure Form

Directions: Please fill out with as much information as possible. If there are multiple Test Participant Identifiers please select the box next to multiple, then list the specific participant IDs in the narrative box, along with participant specific unexpected results.

Laboratory :

Status: Discipline:

Test Identifier: Participant Identifier:
(CTS-23-XXXXX) (i.e.: 3FJXM2)

Corrective Action Identifier (if applicable): Multiple: ☐

Date Provider Results were Received:

Were the PT results consistent with the provider: Yes ☐ No ☒

Were the laboratory's policies and procedures adhered to: Yes ☒ No ☐

Please provide any updated information in the narrative box on page two.

Please provide narrative description and/or additional information of unexpected result:

CTS-25-5705

A typographical error was made on the CTS portal for Item 4; however, the correct results were obtained in the case notes.

A 31.2 allele was entered instead of a 32.2 at the D21S11 locus. Two potential causes for the error were identified.

- The allele was entered incorrectly because of a typographical error. The result for Item 4 should have been entered as 27, 32.2 but was entered as 27, 31.2.
- The allele was entered incorrectly because the result was transferred from an incorrect column. (The adjacent sample in the allele table had the result 27, 31.2 which was what was incorrectly entered for Item 4.)

To prevent recurrence, a new view was created within the GeneMapper ID-X software so that the DNA profiles could be exported and imported directly into the vendor results forms. The laboratory uses two vendors for proficiency tests, and this export file works for both vendors.

Further investigation and resolution is pending regarding this disclosure: Yes ☐ No ☒

Supporting documents attached: Yes ☐ No ☒

Date: 06/02/26

Signature of Laboratory Director/ QA Manager/
Designee:

Marcia Bledsoe Digitally signed by Marcia Bledsoe
Date: 2026.06.02 14:04:06 -04'00'

Click to Submit to OFS



Quality Event Reporting Form

Directions: Please fill in the form with as much detail as possible. Page 2 is for *brief* summaries; for more detailed information please provide additional supporting documentation.

Laboratory: Nassau County Office of the Medical Examiner, Division of Forensic Services

Status of Incident: Initial Notification Discipline: Multi
Item (Tape, Body Fluid, etc.):

Identifier (2X-XXXX): 2026-01

Event Type: Quality Incident

Date of Discovery: 05/05/26

Impact on Casework: Yes ☐ No ☒ Unknown ☐

Notification to customers: Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

What level of risk was assigned to the event?

Low ☐ Low-Medium ☐ Medium ☒ Medium-High ☐ High ☐
Undetermined ☐

Explanation of Laboratory Risk Determination:

This is the first event of it's kind historically in the laboratory and the data was recoverable. Although this is an isolated event, the level of risk is designated as a medium as this event could have impacted casework if the data was unrecoverable.



Quality Event Reporting Form

Brief summary of the event:

See attached notification letter.

Date: 06/23/26

Signature of Laboratory Director/ QA Manager/
Designee:

Click to Submit to OFS



Office of the Medical Examiner - Division of Forensic Services

Public Safety Center ▪ 1194 Prospect Avenue ▪ Westbury, NY 11590 ▪ 516-571-9700

<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/1687/Division-of-Forensic-Services>

TO: Qualitymatters@anab.org
Michelle Lewisohn, Bureau Chief Major Offense - Nassau County District Attorney's Office
Chief Christopher Ferro, Chief of Detectives Office – Nassau County Police Department

FROM: Pasquale Buffolino, Ph.D., Laboratory Director

DATE: 06/05/26

RE: Corrective Action Notification (2026-01) – NCOME Division of Forensic Sciences

During a recent physical to virtual conversion of the BEAST server on 5/3/2026 a Nassau County IT server engineer was trying to resolve some issues that appeared on the new system. While the server was being fixed during the day, laboratory users were processing data on 5/4/2026. The server engineer worked into the night to resolve the issues, but at 11pm reverted to a snapshot that was taken previously on 5/3/2026, effectively overwriting all the data processed that day. The laboratory became aware of the issue on 5/5/2026.

Fortunately, a Commvault enterprise backup was captured at 9pm on 5/4/2026. This backup captured all the work during the day and was restored to a temporary server. With the vendor's assistance (Porter Lee), a Nassau County database administrator restored all the data that was conducted during the day on 5/4/2026 to a backup database and individual file directories were recovered. Laboratory staff cross referenced the backup database to transcribe the information into the production database server, noting in the BEAST case contacts the information that was restored.

At this time, the laboratory determined this nonconformity to be significant as described in the ANAB Accreditation Manual for Forensic Service Providers. All significant nonconformities are reportable.

Additional actions may be implemented to prevent future reoccurrence if necessary upon completion of corrective action.

Cc: Tamara Bloom, M.D, Chief Medical Examiner
Tatum Fox, Deputy County Executive for Public Safety



Department of Forensic Biology
Charles S. Hirsch Center for Forensic Sciences
421 East 26th Street, New York, New York 10016
Telephone: 212.323.1200 Fax: 212.323.1590
Email: dnalab@ocme.nyc.gov
Official Website: <http://www.nyc.gov/ocme>



To: Hon. Adam Silvera, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge, NYC Court
Steven Banks, Corporation Counsel, NYC Law Department
Tracy Sabbah, NYC Law Department
Steven Costigliacci, NYC Law Department
Thea Davis, NYC Law Department
Ann Heo, Special Narcotics DNA Coordinator
Erik Aho, Special Narcotics DNA Coordinator
Melissa Mourges, Special Narcotics Consultant
Dominic Gentile, United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of NY
Alexandra Messiter, United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of NY
Andy Palacios, United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of NY
Adam Birnbaum, District Attorney's Office, New York County
Coleen Balbert, District Attorney's Office, New York County
Raymond Valerio, District Attorney's Office, Queens County
Rachel Singer, District Attorney's Office, Kings County
David Slott, District Attorney's Office, Bronx County
Gabrielle Martin-Klein, District Attorney's Office, Bronx County
Thomas Ridges, District Attorney's Office, Richmond County
Deputy Chief Carlos Ortiz, NYPD
Melissa Centeno, NYPD
Daniel Chu, NYC Assigned Counsel Plan (18B)
Jenny Cheung, The Legal Aid Society
Clinton Hughes, Brooklyn Defender Services
The Bronx Defenders
Julie Fry, Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem
Gina Mitchell, Queens Defender Services
Mariah Martinez, New York County Defender Services
Steven Epstein, NYS Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Jessica Horani, NYS Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

CC: Drew Skinner, Deputy Commissioner/General Counsel

From: Craig O'Connor, PhD. 
Director, Department of Forensic Biology

Date: April 30, 2026

Subject: Department of Forensic Biology Quality System Notification – Interim Update

This memo provides an interim update regarding the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner's ("OCME") ongoing internal review of previously disclosed instances of case-to case contamination ("the event") within the Office of Chief Medical Examiner's Department of Forensic Biology ("the Laboratory"). This event was identified by the Laboratory and determined by the agency's Quality Assurance Director to be a "significant event" in accordance with Title 17, Chapter

2, Section 17-207 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York (the Root Cause Analysis (“RCA”) Law) in August 2024. The Root Cause Analysis process as outlined in the Administrative Code (including the convening of a Root Cause Analysis Committee) has been completed and a Root Cause Analysis Final Report was issued on November 4, 2024.

To date, the Laboratory’s ongoing internal review has included assessments of the following with the number of contamination events identified during each step listed below.

- Phase 1 (complete): All cases processed between May 1, 2024, and August 8, 2024
 - o Over 12,800 samples
 - o More than 3,900 cases
 - o 30 samples affected by contamination were identified
- Phase 2 (complete): All cases processed between March 1, 2024, and May 1, 2024
 - o Over 7,200 samples
 - o More than 2,200 cases
 - o 2 samples affected by contamination were identified
- Phase 3 (complete): All cases processed by the nine criminalists identified in Phase 1 and 2 who had more than two contamination events (four of the nine criminalists) underwent a QC evaluation. This included cases from the date the four Criminalists were authorized to perform evidence examination through March 2024, in accordance with RCA recommendation #7.
 - o Over 3,900 samples
 - o More than 1,100 cases
 - o 13 samples affected by contamination were identified
- Phase 4 (in progress): The Laboratory has established a built-in, ongoing lookback and monitoring model. To ensure this model is scientifically rigorous, we continue to engage an expert statistical consultant to aid in the design and implementation of advanced statistical methods for continuous evaluation of contamination risk. This approach moves beyond one-time reviews and creates a sustainable framework for proactive monitoring and early detection of potential issues.

A QC evaluation will continue to be employed for specific cases upon request by prosecution and/or defense. Due to the initiation of routine QC monitoring performed on cases examined on and after August 15, 2024, requests for QC monitoring are only accepted for cases examined prior to this date. The request form for QC monitoring to be applied to a specific case is available on the agency’s website.

- Case specific QC monitoring requests
 - o 84 requests accepted
 - o 1 sample affected by contamination was identified (2021 case)

Total contamination events identified:

- 56 samples affected
- 49 cases affected
- 15 Criminalists processed evidence which resulted in contamination
- No new contamination events have been identified since the January 2026 update letter.

Another aspect of this investigation is the effect that contamination events have had on DNA profiles uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database. This includes evaluating exemplar profiles from known individuals against database profiles to ensure their integrity and that they were not the result of contamination, as well as further scrutinizing previously issued local DNA HITS (case-to-case, or case-to-known individuals). Profiles uploaded to the CODIS database must meet criteria set by the FBI National DNA Index System (NDIS) Operating Procedures, the New York

State CODIS Custodian, and OCME criteria for DNA profiles. 24 DNA profiles have been expunged from CODIS since they were identified as resulting from contamination. One of these profiles from an item of evidence hit to a previously Convicted Offender. We are not aware of any adverse law enforcement actions stemming from these uploaded profiles.

While the review continues, the Laboratory is confident that the measures put in place in August 2024 in order to address the case-to-case contamination issues are working as intended. No instances of contamination have been identified in cases processed since August 15, 2024 following the implementation of those improvements as evidenced through the Laboratory's QC monitoring program. Moving forward, we will continue to strengthen this process by implementing a more stringent, statistically driven model with the guidance of an external consultant, ensuring that our contamination monitoring becomes even more sensitive, comprehensive, and proactive. We will provide the next quarterly update in July 2026.

The Laboratory is committed to producing the highest quality of work each day for its partners in the criminal justice system of the City of New York. Integrity in the Laboratory's work product is of utmost importance and as such, the Laboratory will ensure that the ongoing review proceeds in such a way as to assure confidence in its work.