

Education Panel

NIJ/FBI Trace Evidence Symposium

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Clearwater, FL

Thomas A. Kubic, John Jay College, CUNY

Peter D. Barnett, Forensic Science Associates

Michael Cole, Anglia Ruskin University

Claude Roux, University of Technology, Sydney

Jose Almirall, Florida International University

Peter R. De Forest, John Jay College, CUNY

Trace Evidence – What are the Problems?

- Misunderstood and Underappreciated by Attorneys
- Overshadowed by DNA
- Raised Expectations
- Not as Straightforward as DNA
- Difficult to Understand Applications
- Difficult to Explain – Need Sophistication in Testimony
- “Tyranny of Numbers” – Houck
- Others . . . ?

The Future of Trace Evidence – What can be done?

- Informal Interactions with Lab Colleagues and Supervisors
- Breakdown virtual walls between areas of activity and thought.
- Encourage development of weekly or monthly In-house seminars for ALL laboratory colleagues.
- Online Newsletters for Laboratory Colleagues
- Advisory Input into Nascent Academic Programs
- Lectures to Police Investigators
- Online Newsletters for Police Investigators

The Future of Trace Evidence – What can be done?

- Informal Interactions with lawyers and judges
- Lectures to Prosecutors and Bar Associations.
- Online Newsletters for Attorneys
- Articulate and Demonstrate Potentials
- Show Added Value of Scientific Involvement
- Regular Case review sessions and “Post Mortems”
- Presentations to Legislators.
- Present and publish case examples
- Mentor Younger Scientists in the Laboratory
- Develop Demonstration Projects
- Seek and Attract Research Support