



DNA Subcommittee

May 2, 2025

Division of Criminal Justice Services

80 South Swan Street, Room 118, Albany, NY 12210

Videoconference Locations:

9040 Town Center Parkway, Lakewood Ranch, FL
Shapiro Building, Room 5044, 70 Francis Street, Boston, MA
107 College Place, LSB 120, Syracuse, NY
100 Bureau Drive, Building 227, Room B230, Gaithersburg, MD
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., CBH-629, Fort Worth, TX

9:05 AM – 10:37 AM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

DNA Subcommittee Members in Attendance:

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

DCJS Staff in Attendance:

Taylor Aaron
Aaron Cagwin
Colleen Glavin, Esq.
Janine Kava
Katherine Mayberry
Shelley Palmer
Brianna Robinson
Lindsey Rockwell
Matthew Schrantz, Esq.
Elizabeth Suparmanto

Other Attendees:

Julia Becker – New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Jamie Belrose – New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Jill Dooley – New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Nichole Hurbanek – New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Jolin Koch – New York State Police Crime Laboratory
Thomas Leach – New York State Police Crime Laboratory

Julie Pizziketti – New York State Police Crime Laboratory
 Anthula Vandoros – New York State Police Crime Laboratory

*Approximate
 Video Times*
 00:00:15 –
 00:01:13

The Chair, Dr. Coble, opened the meeting by stating that the DNA Subcommittee was conducting its meeting in hybrid with members present both in Albany and virtually. Dr. Coble then conducted a roll call to take attendance, and a quorum was established with six voting members (Bieber, Coble, Corrado, Gettings, Smith, and Sozer).

00:01:14 –
 00:02:57

Dr. Coble then asked for a motion to approve the May 2, 2025, agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Corrado, seconded by Dr. Sozer, and approved with 5 votes (Bieber, Coble, Corrado, Gettings, and Sozer) and one abstention (Smith).

00:02:58 –
 00:04:05

The Chair then asked Subcommittee members for questions or comments on the minutes from the February 28, 2025, meeting of the Subcommittee. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Gettings, seconded by Dr. Corrado, and approved with 5 votes (Bieber, Coble, Corrado, Gettings, and Sozer) and one abstention (Smith).

00:04:07 –
 00:06:02

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

00:06:03 –
 00:20:51

The Chair 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. At the February 28, 2025, meeting, a vote was approved to create a subgroup to review the NIST Interagency report *Forensic DNA Interpretation and Human Factors: Improving Practice Through a Systems Approach*. This group is comprised of Dr. Bieber, Dr. Corrado, and Dr. Sozer. Dr. Sozer provided a verbal update regarding the progress of the subgroup. A vote was also approved, at the February 28, 2025, meeting, to create a subgroup to review the *DNA Mixture Interpretation: A NIST Scientific Foundation Review*. This group is comprised of Dr. Coble, Dr. Kidd, and Dr. Smith. Dr. Smith provided a verbal update regarding the status of the subgroups work. Dr. Smith and Dr. Corrado volunteered to meet and discuss overlap between the NIST documents and report back to their respective subgroups.

00:18:31 –
 00:19:58

The Chair then moved to New Business. Members of the New York State Police Crime Laboratory presented information on their validation of Next Generation Sequencing on the MiSeq FGx System with the ForenSeq Kintelligence Kit. Following discussion, a motion to table the approval vote and request additional information be provided by the New York State Police Crime Laboratory was made by Dr. Bieber. The additional information requested includes the procedure for use, interpretation policy, reporting policy, and additional research regarding relatives in mixtures, either performed directly by the laboratory or through supporting literature. The motion was seconded by Dr. Smith and approved unanimously.

00:20:58 –
 01:28:09

01:23:00 –
 01:27:38

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

01:28:10 –
 01:30:47

The Chair then stated that the next meeting of the Subcommittee will take place on August 8, 2025, with the location to be determined. A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Gettings, seconded by Dr. Smith, and approved unanimously.

*Approximate
Video Times*
01:30:55 –
01:32:00

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



June 24, 2025

John R. Clark
Monroe County Crime Laboratory
85 West Broad Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Dear Director Clark,

Congratulations! On May 16, 2025, 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.

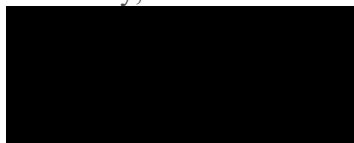
The report was provided to you during the assessment activity.

The provided ANAB accreditation symbol ([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 Reassessment scheduled to occur the week of April 12, 2026.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to quality and the accreditation process.

Sincerely,



Brad Putnam
Director of Accreditation
ANSI National Accreditation Board

cc: Marcia Bledsoe, Quality Assurance Coordinator
New York DCJS
ANAB Office



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:2020

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 2026

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 008 was last updated on: 16 May 2025 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

This Scope of Accreditation, version 008 was last updated on: 16 May 2025 and is valid only when accompanied by the Certificate.

Page 2 of 3

		Visual X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy
Qualitative Determination	Coating Fiber/Textile 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 Thin-Layer Chromatography 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



Monroe County Crime Laboratory

2025 - 17025 Y3 - Surveillance Assessment without Witnessing

Prepared by Lori Nix

Data collected on 2025-04-01

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.

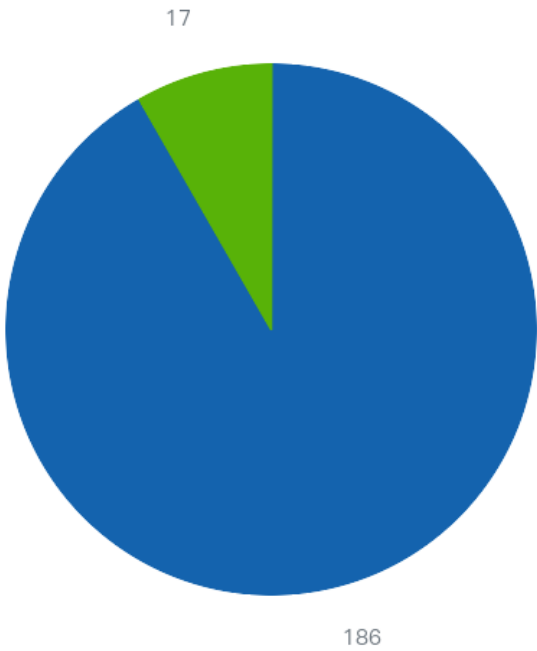
The accreditation activity also evaluates the laboratory's conformance with their own management system requirements.

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 Comments



Audit Comments



NYC
**Office of Chief
Medical Examiner**

Nicholas W. Schultz
First Deputy Commissioner

421 East 26th Street, New York, NY 10016
Telephone: (212) 323-1893
Email: nschultz@ocme.nyc.gov
Official Website: www.nyc.gov/ocme

May 16, 2025

Rossana Rosado, Commissioner
Division of Criminal Justice Services
Alfred E. Smith Office Building
80 South Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210
Via Rossana.Rosado@dcjs.ny.gov

Dear Commissioner Rosado:

I am writing to inform the New York State Commission on Forensic Science that Dr. Craig O'Connor has been appointed as the Forensic Biology Director Designate to replace interim Director First Deputy Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Michele Slone.

Dr. O'Connor will be the permanent replacement for former Director Timothy Kupferschmid.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Nicholas W. Schultz.

Nicholas W. Schultz
First Deputy Commissioner

cc. Shelley Palmer, Director, DCJS Office of Forensic Services
forensiclabs@dcjs.ny.gov
Jill Spriggs, ANAB Senior Accreditation Manager
jspriggs@anab.org
[anab@anab.org](http://anab.org), ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

From: BECKER, JULIA (TROOPERS)
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:37 PM
To: dcjs.sm.forensiclabs
Cc: troopers.sm.q.assure; DOOLEY, JILL M (TROOPERS); PIZZIKETTI, JULIE (TROOPERS); HURBANEK, NICHOLE (TROOPERS); LEACH, THOMAS (TROOPERS)
Subject: NYSP Crime Lab - changes to staff responsibilities

Good afternoon,

Please note that effective 5/6/2025, Michelle Adams will replace Thomas Leach as the Bioscience – Databank Technical Leader.

Thank you,

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

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail, including any attachments, may contain highly sensitive and confidential information. It is intended only for the individual(s) named. If you received this e-mail in error or from someone who was not authorized to send it to you, do not disseminate, copy or otherwise use this e-mail or its attachments. Please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and delete the e-mail from your system.



July 10, 2025

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

Dear Director De Castro,

Congratulations! On July 09, 2025, 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.

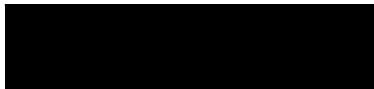
The report was provided to you during the assessment activity.

The provided ANAB accreditation symbol ([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 with Witnessing scheduled for the week of June 21, 2026.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to quality and the accreditation process.

Sincerely,



Jami St Clair
Senior Manager of Accreditation
ANSI National Accreditation Board

cc: Jennifer Reilly, Quality Manager
ANAB Office



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: 2020**

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	Firearm 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**

2025 -17025 - Y1 Surveillance Assessment Without Witnessing

Prepared by Elissa Mayo

Data collected on 2025-06-01

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.

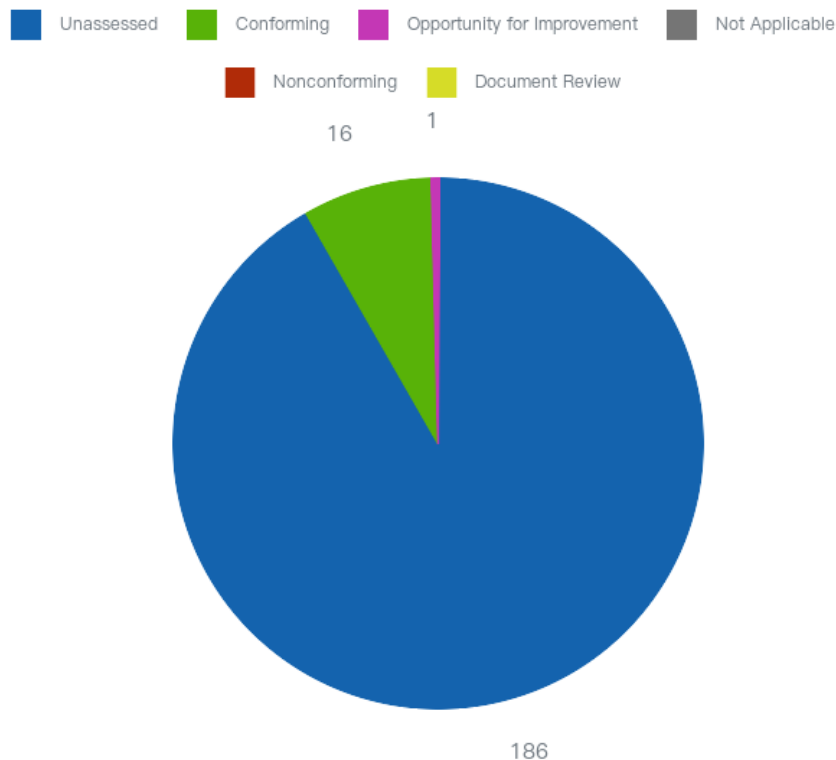
The accreditation activity also evaluates the laboratory's conformance with their own management system requirements.

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 Comments



Audit Comments

7.8.8 Amendments to reports

7.8.8.1 ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Opportunity for Improvement : 0

Requirement

When an issued report needs to be changed, amended or re-issued, is any change of information clearly identified and, where appropriate, is the reason for the change included in the report?

Comments

The laboratory procedure for amended reports specifies that amendments are clearly identified (highlighted) and where appropriate, the reason for the change is included in the report. When corrections are made to information (e.g. corrected case number) that does not change the conclusion of the report, the reason for the change is not required. The laboratory may benefit from requiring all amended reports to state the reason for the change to ensure the highlighted information is clearly understood by the reader to be the change made to the report.



DNA Subcommittee

May 12, 2025

MICHAEL COBLE, PH.D.
CHAIR
Center for Human Identification

FREDERICK BIEBER, PH.D.
Harvard Medical School

KATHLEEN CORRADO, PH.D.
Syracuse University

KATHERINE GETTINGS, PH.D.
National Institute of Standards and Technology

KENNETH KIDD, PH.D.
Yale University School of Medicine

JENIFER SMITH, PH.D.
PRINCIPAL, BIOFORENSIC CONSULTING LLC

AMANDA C. SOZER, PH.D.
SNA International

*Director Jill Dooley, Ph.D.
Forensic Investigation Center
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226*

Dear Director Dooley,

At the May 2, 2025, meeting of the DNA Subcommittee, the members voted to request additional information regarding the New York State Police Crime Laboratory's validation of Next Generation Sequencing using the MiSeq FGx System. This additional information includes the procedure for use, interpretation policy, reporting policy, and additional research regarding relatives in mixtures. The research regarding relatives in mixtures can be provided either as additional studies performed by the laboratory itself or as supporting literature.

The DNA Subcommittee is requesting this information be provided for review at the August 1, 2025, meeting. Please submit your documentation by July 15, 2025, to the Division of Criminal Justice Services' Office of Forensic Services.

Very Truly Yours,

Michael Coble, Ph.D.
Chair, DNA Subcommittee



Commission on Forensic Science

June 30, 2025

ROSSANA ROSADO

Chair

New York State Division of Criminal
Justice Services

PASQUALE BUFFOLINO, PH.D.

Nassau County Office of the Medical
Examiner Division of Forensic Services

LYDIA DE CASTRO

Westchester County Department of
Laboratories and Research Division of
Forensic Sciences

WILLIAM J. FITZPATRICK, ESQ.

Onondaga County District Attorney

JESSICA GOLDTHWAITE, ESQ.

Legal Aid Society

MICHAEL MARCIANO, PH.D.

Syracuse University

BEVERLY RAUCH

New York State Department of Health

MICHELLI SCHMITZ

Erie County Central Police Services

ANN WILLEY, J.D., PH.D.

STEVEN EPSTEIN, ESQ.

Barket Epstein Kearon Aldea and
LoTurco, LLP

ERIN MURPHY, ESQ.

NYU Law School

JAMES CHITHALEN, PH.D.

New York State Department of Health

NICHOLAS BANBURY, LT. COL.

New York State Police

Michael Coble, Ph.D.
3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard
CBH-629
University of North Texas
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Craig O'Connor, Ph.D.
New York City OCME
Department of Forensic Biology
42 East 26th Street
New York, New York 10016

Victoria Williamson
Niagara County Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory
5526 Niagara Street Extension
Lockport, New York 14094

Dear Dr. Coble and Biology TWG Co-Chairs O'Connor and Williamson,

At the June 13, 2025, meeting of the Commission on Forensic Science (Commission), a recent disclosure from Qiagen regarding EZ1 and EZ2 extraction kits producing lower than expected DNA yields was discussed. The Commission voted to request the Biology Technical Working Group (TWG) and DNA Subcommittee review all of the publicly available and privately issued disclosures related to the Qiagen issue. The Biology TWG is tasked with assessing affected New York State laboratories, the status of their reviews, and the steps being taken to address any findings. The Biology TWG is being asked to provide a status update to the DNA Subcommittee prior to its August 1, 2025, meeting.

Further, the Commission asked that if any issues are identified, the Subcommittee work with affected labs to determine what may need to be done to remediate the issues. The Commission will further discuss the impact on New York State labs at its September 26, 2025, meeting.

Sincerely,

Rossana Rosado
Chair, New York State Commission on Forensic Science