

# Training of Forensic DNA Scientists — A Commentary

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**REFERENCE:** Turnbough M, Eisenberg A, Schade L, Shewale JG: Training of forensic DNA scientists — A commentary; *Forensic Sci Rev* 24:143; 2012.

**ABSTRACT:** For the past two decades, forensic DNA analysis has rapidly expanded in both utility and value to criminal investigations. As the number of crime scene and convict/arrestee samples has continued to grow, many forensic DNA laboratories find themselves struggling to test samples in a timely fashion. Agencies employ various methods for calculating their sample intake and processing capacity, yet database and casework sample backlogs continue to present a major challenge. One issue many forensic laboratories face is limited availability of resources for training new analysts. High-quality training enables analysts to effectively perform various aspects of DNA profiling, and as such, it is essential to ensuring consistent, high-quality results. This is well documented in the guidelines established in the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories in the United States as well as internationally by agencies like INTERPOL. A facility dedicated to training analysts on both theoretical and practical aspects of automated sample processing accelerates the establishment and expansion of high-throughput forensic DNA laboratories. The present article will discuss various aspects of training and agencies that provide such training programs.

**KEY WORDS:** Automation, DNA database, forensic DNA analysis, forensic laboratory, STR, training, workflow integration.

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