

### [New DNA technology at Houston lab can help solve crimes faster](#)

"If we've got an item that is high profile, time is very sensitive to get a result back for investigators, it gives us an option to turn that around faster than we would typically do through the lab," he said.

### [State of Wisconsin prefers near western suburbs for new Milwaukee crime lab development](#)

State of Wisconsin officials are again back in the market to lease a large chunk of office space in the Milwaukee area for a new crime laboratory.

### [North Louisiana Crime Lab celebrating 50 years by looking forward](#)

The North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory is celebrating 50 years in existence. There's a lot of great history over that time period, but the future could see some of the biggest advancements for scientific crime fighting North Louisiana has ever seen.

### [APD: Monolith recovered, taken to crime lab](#)

The Albuquerque Police Department reported Tuesday that it recovered the monolith that was vandalized and torn down.

### [Crime lab budget takes hit with court shutdowns this year](#)

As a result, the crime lab's board of directors is dipping into reserves to meet budget demands in 2021. While it's not an ideal situation, it's what has to be done as the board works toward firmer financial footing by 2022, said Sabine District Attorney Don Burkett, who serves as board chairman.

### [Chicago Police Academy implements 'revolutionary' simulator with realistic weapons, unpredictable situations](#)

The simulator is in response to consent decree reform efforts and is designed to help officers better respond to situations where things aren't so cut and dry.

### [CMPD addresses violent crime with technology that allows them make connections between crime scenes](#)

The department has been using the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) program which helps track guns and make connections between shootings and cases..

### [Crime lab eliminates DNA backlog](#)

The backlog existed for years and at times totaled into the thousands statewide. Washoe County's lab services 13 of the state's 17 counties and an additional jurisdiction in California. So it represented a big share of the problem and it meant thousands of cases waiting on crucial evidence.

### [Expansion of state crime lab will increase capabilities, efficiencies](#)

Governor Mike Parson attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for an expansion of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's main crime lab, which will increase DNA processing capabilities and efficiencies Dec. 2. The 8,000 square-foot expansion will be devoted entirely to DNA processing and house 20 full-time employees, including five new DNA analysts who are currently completing training.

### [Firearms to be Claimed in Michigan Crime Lab by January, 2021](#)

Every month, the Michigan State Police (MSP) are required to publish a list of firearms the state intends to dispose of. These are firearms that have not been claimed.

### [Almost a decade after Annie Dookhan and the state drug lab scandal, the fallout is growing](#)

Three former state prosecutors are facing possible disbarment. Thousands of men and women convicted of drug crimes continue to see their convictions overturned. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is on the hook for an estimated \$10 million to wrongfully convicted defendants.

### [Alaska Requires DNA Be Collected From People Arrested for Violent Crimes. Many Police Have Ignored That.](#)

Law enforcement agencies across Alaska, including in the state capital, are failing to collect DNA from people arrested for violent crimes, violating a state law passed with great fanfare in 2007 that was going to put Alaska at the leading edge of solving rape cases.

### [KSP forensic labs adopt rigorous standards](#)

Kentucky State Police (KSP) Forensic Laboratories were recently recognized by a nationally renowned organization called Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for voluntarily adopting rigorous standards in the analysis of seized drugs. KSP labs are one of the first lab systems in the country to adopt these standards.

### [Serial killer linked to deaths of several Georgia women dies in prison](#)

Little, a Middle Georgia native, had confessed to killing more than 90 women, including several in Georgia. Most recently, Little was linked in October to a North Georgia cold case dating back to 1981, according to the GBI.

### [Investigators now use a high-tech laser device to ID illegal drugs during busts](#)

It's called TruNarc, a laser held next to a bag of drugs, searches its library of hundreds of substances and within seconds, tells investigators what's inside.

### [GBI forms cold case unit as countless homicides, disappearances remain unsolved](#)

The six-person team began quietly meeting earlier this year to revisit cases that haven't been closed but may be solvable, he said. Though the cold case unit has not released specific details on which cases it plans to tackle, some of the GBI's cases have been open for nearly 40 years.

### [Forensic Applications of Fluorescent Microscopy](#)

While several macroscopic observations can be utilized to determine the PMI, microscopy techniques, particularly electron microscopy (EM), can provide more accurate PMI estimates. For example, EM has successfully been used to study morphological alterations in human nerves to assess what stage of myelin degradation has occurred.

### [False Conviction How fingerprint and firearm experts use misleading math to appear infallible.](#)

In simpler terms: They were incentivized to choose "inconclusive" lest they get answers wrong and diminish the reputation of their field in legal proceedings. Paradoxically, the overuse of "inconclusive" on validation tests allows forensic experts to claim in court that their discipline is more conclusive than it really is.

### [ASPCA® Opens Veterinary Forensic Science Center to Support Animal Cruelty Cases Nationwide](#)

The ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) announced it has opened the ASPCA Veterinary Forensic Science Center, the first-ever forensic laboratory to support law enforcement across the country with suspected companion animal cruelty cases. The 3,000 square-foot facility, based in Gainesville, Fla., is staffed with five veterinary forensic experts equipped to assist law enforcement with animal cruelty investigations and prosecutions through services such as necropsies, live animal forensic exams, and forensic osteology. The Center will also serve as a teaching facility to share learnings with other animal welfare professionals to help prevent and respond to animal cruelty in communities nationwide.

### [Within a hair's breadth -- forensic identification of single dyed hair strand now possible](#)

Their approach involves finding out if two individual strands of hair belong to the same person based on the composition of hair dye products found on them. To do this, they employed two well-known analytical methods: surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS) and X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis.

### [DMU forensic scientists investigate fingerprint detection on biodegradable and compostable bags](#)

Dr Kevin Farrugia, senior lecturer in Forensic Chemistry, is leading a project to determine the most effective and efficient ways to identify fingermarks on the biodegradable plastic bags that are becoming increasingly popular with big-name supermarkets and shops.

### [Researchers turn DNA detectives to aid rhino poaching prosecutions with forensic evidence](#)

By comparing seized rhino horn samples to these specific genetic signals, the researchers could trace the rhino back to its breeding population, thus identifying trade routes and pinpointing poaching hotspots, which are notoriously difficult for traditional law enforcement to track.

### [Scientists ID potential biomarkers to peg time of death for submerged corpses](#)

Co-author Noemi Procopio has been interested in forensic science since she was 14, but initially studied biotechnology because her home country of Italy didn't have forensic science programs. When she moved to the University of Manchester in the UK to complete her PhD, she chose to specialize in the application of proteomics (the large-scale study of proteins) to the field, thanks to the influence of a former supervisor, an archaeologist who applied proteomics to bones.

### [U.S. Senators John Cornyn and Kamala Harris Bill to Help Border Regions Identify Missing Migrants Signed Into Law](#)

Expands eligibility to apply for certain grants to state and local governments, accredited government-funded CODIS forensic laboratories, and medical examiners for entry of data into the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) or the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS)

### [Nevada's backlog of untested sexual assault kits cleared](#)

The initiative resulted in 7,814 tests completed and 64 arrests. There were also 1,083 DNA matches and 121 warrants issued.

### [Forensic's Top 10 News Articles of 2020](#)

This year brought unpreceded challenges that sometimes felt more like a movie than real life. Despite the hardships, individuals rose to the occasion to do what they could. For forensic scientists and law enforcement professionals, that meant continuing to do what they are best at—uncovering the truth and preserving justice.

### [Justice Dept. Charges Bombmaker in 1988 Pan Am Explosion](#)

A breakthrough in the investigation came when U.S. officials in 2017 received a copy of an interview that Masud, a longtime explosives expert for Libya's intelligence service, had given to Libyan law enforcement in 2012 after being taken into custody following the collapse of the regime of the country's leader, Col. Moammar Gadhafi.

### [FaSTR DNA Now Available Commercially to Forensic, Research Community](#)

The wider release of FaSTR DNA to the forensic and education/research community comes six months after its early phase release to select users of STRmix, sophisticated forensic software used to resolve mixed DNA profiles previously thought to be too complex to interpret. FaSTR DNA seamlessly integrates with STRmix (when in use) for even greater speed and efficiency in analysis and interpretation of complex mixed DNA profiles.

### [Man Shot by Philadelphia Police is Exonerated after 19-Year Cover Up](#)

Termaine Hicks walked out of Pennsylvania prison SCI Phoenix last week. He was exonerated after the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office conceded that lead police officers lied under oath to cover up shooting Hicks—who was innocent of any crime—in the back three times.

### [SAKI Grant Offers Tool to Help Identify Sex Offenders in Hiding](#)

The Akron Police Department was awarded its third National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant in the amount of \$150,000. Following City Council approval, the funds will be used over three years specifically for genetic genealogy testing of approximately 20 cases per year.

### [Zodiac Cipher Solved 51 Years After it was Sent to Newspaper](#)

A coded letter mailed to a San Francisco newspaper by the Zodiac serial killer in 1969 has been deciphered by a team of amateur sleuths from the United States, Australia and Belgium, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Friday.

### [Investigators of Online Child Abuse at Risk of Mental Harm](#)

Researchers at the University of Portsmouth and Solent University explored moral injury amongst child exploitation investigators and interviewed police officers from two Constabularies during a year-long study. The CREST (Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats) funded project asked questions relating to motivations for beginning the role, any personality changes, prior trauma, difficulties relating to their current role, coping mechanisms, moral decision making and use of professional support.

### [Genetic Genealogy Helps ID Woman Now Charged With 2003 Murder of Her Newborn Twin Sons](#)

On June 6, 2003, the victims were discovered by a Waste Management employee who was emptying trash bins in an alley in the 4800 block of South Latrobe Avenue in unincorporated Stickney Township and saw the bodies in the front lift bucket of her garbage truck.

