

[D.C. Attorney General Calls For New Leadership At Troubled Crime Lab, Discloses New Concerns](#)

“It is now clear that the issues at DFS are deep and broad and require a change in leadership to repair,” wrote Racine to Bowser on Wednesday, referring to director Jenifer Smith and other top leaders at the agency. “I do not believe that DFS can be rehabilitated under its current leadership.”

[‘We are up to speed’: With DC crime lab sidelined, gun evidence goes to ATF truck-turned-laboratory](#)

Within days of the D.C. crime lab having its accreditation to perform forensic testing suspended last month amid an ongoing investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives says it stepped into action, hauling a massive one-of-a-kind mobile lab to D.C. to help process gun evidence in the city.

[DC Attorney General calls for ‘immediate’ change in leadership at troubled crime lab](#)

In recent months, Smith and other senior leaders at the agency have come under intense scrutiny. The lab had its accreditation to perform a wide range of forensic testing revoked last month and remains under criminal investigation over its handling of an error in a ballistics case.

[The Worsening Massachusetts Crime Lab Scandal Is Just the Beginning](#)

Such systemic problems are the entirely predictable result of inadequate resources at crime labs nationwide. Amid a national conversation over where to best allocate law enforcement dollars, we call for a critical look at redirecting funding to other agencies in the criminal justice system that are often forgotten and overlooked—namely, crime labs. Critically, those labs must have sound quality control and adequate resources and must be independent of law enforcement.

[DC lawmaker calls for new leader at embattled District crime lab](#)

In an exclusive interview with WTOP Tuesday morning, Ward 6 D.C. Council member Charles Allen said he no longer has confidence in Dr. Jenifer Smith, a longtime FBI DNA expert, who was appointed by D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser to lead the independent agency in 2015.

[JUSTICE STORY: NYC serial killer ‘Texas Jim’ Baker left a trail of poisoned victims in his wake](#)

A fingerprint on a coffee cup confirmed Baker’s identity, and the New York papers splashed his photo across their pages. The Daily News tabbed it “one of the most fantastical murders in the history of the police department,” and a frantic search for the killer spread across the city.

[Why We Need a National Forensic Science Agency](#)

A bill now in the final stages before it becomes law later this year, the Forensic Science Regulator Act, will put the implementation and enforcement of forensic science standards under the oversight of a single central government official.

[Beware of forensic experts expressing certainty](#)

The history of expert witnesses in miscarriages of justice is well known. The purpose of an expert is to assist the court in understanding specialist matters. If they present their evidence in such a way as to assist their own “side” of the case, they undermine their own position as experts.

[Analysis of autopsy, toxicological and psychiatric reports of Portugal's first major forensic case](#)

Announcing a new article publication for Forensic Sciences Research journal. In this review article the author Ricardo Jorge Dinis-Oliveira of the University Institute of Health Sciences (IUCS)-CESPU, Gandra, Portugal continues a three-part investigation of the "Crime of Flores Street" one of the most famous cases of poisoning which occurred in Portugal in the late 19th century.

[DPS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI FORENSICS LABORATORY](#)

Howell has served the state for over 36 years and has been the Director of the Mississippi Forensics Laboratory since 2005. In 2019, Howell was the recipient of the Award for Excellence in State Government from the Mississippi State Personnel Board.

[Welsh Beef traceability backed by forensic science](#)

With their Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), international premium brands, Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef, are among the most sought-after meats by consumers and top chefs.

['It's been nightmares for everyone': Bheki Cele apologies for backlogs at police forensic science labs](#)

Police minister Bheki Cele has apologised to victims of crime whose cases have been delayed by backlogs at forensic crime labs.

[A sibling-guided strategy to capture the 3D shape of the human face](#)

A new strategy for capturing the 3D shape of the human face draws on data from sibling pairs and leads to identification of novel links between facial shape traits and specific locations within the human genome. Hanne Hoskens of the Department of Human Genetics at Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven, Belgium, and colleagues present these findings in the open-access journal PLOS Genetics.

[Missing Alabama baby found dead, father charged with capital murder](#)

The infant's body was found in a rural area of Lowndes County shortly after his parents gave a news conference Wednesday afternoon. The manner of death was not released. The body was sent to the Alabama Department of Forensic Science to determine an official cause of death.

[Unsolved murder of Tammy Alexander, aka Cali-Doe, investigated by On The Case With Paula Zahn](#)

On November 10, 1979, a farmer came across the remains of an unidentified young woman lying in a cornfield near New York State Route 20 in Caledonia, NY. The police determined that she had been shot once in the head before being dragged into the cornfield, where she was shot a second time in the back.

['We Can't Rule This Person Out': New Breakthrough Made In JonBenét Ramsey Case](#)

The suspect was identified by the founder of the JonBenét Investigations group, Roscoe J. Clark, and co-investigator Derek Brommerich. The pair reportedly traveled to Colorado and took a DNA sample from a discarded cigarette after they stalked out the male suspect.

[DOJ Grant Brings in Forensic Genealogists to Help Solve 2005 Connecticut Homicide](#)

Edward Bell was shot multiple times on the night of May 6, 2005 and died at a hospital. A \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for killing the 34-year-old father of three has remained unclaimed.

[Philly Health Official Forced to Resign Over MOVE Cremations](#)

Philadelphia's top health official was compelled to resign Thursday after the city's mayor learned partial human remains from the 1985 bombing of the headquarters of a Black organization had been cremated and disposed of without notifying family members.

[Palm Print Evidence Sets Jonathan Smith Free After 21 Years of Wrongful Imprisonment](#)

Just under a year ago, the Maryland Court of Appeals unanimously reversed the 2001 murder convictions of Smith and his co-defendant David Faulkner and granted both men Writs of Actual Innocence. The court's decision was based on new palm print evidence found at the crime scene identifying an alternative suspect, and exculpatory evidence that the prosecution improperly withheld from the defense regarding the reliability of informant testimony. Despite this overwhelming evidence of innocence, Smith—up until April 21, 2021—was facing a retrial in the Circuit Court for Talbot County.

[Philly has a new mobile unit to help combat surge in gun violence](#)

Authorities say the \$250,000 vehicle, paired with a trailer dedicated to test-firing crime guns, will help reduce the amount of time it takes for experts to process ballistics evidence — evidence that could prove critical to clearing one or more open shooting cases.

[Fingerprint, DNA led officials to suspect in 1983 slaying of UNO student](#)

Doty said he thought that items that had been collected in 1983 as evidence — a bra, underwear, a blouse, notebooks, shoes, prescription glasses, a beer can, two pens, computer printouts, a pair of pants and a work glove — could now be tested again using advanced technology. Doty sent 11 items to the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation laboratory.

[DA: Former Chadbourn police chief accused of selling guns stolen from evidence locker](#)

Former Chadbourn police chief Anthony Spivey is accused of stealing numerous guns from the department's evidence locker and then selling them, according to the District Attorney's Office.

[Bogus cocaine charge led to exoneration and now, a lawsuit against Buffalo](#)

Morgan T. Eaton had obtained body camera video showing Buffalo Officers Andrew T. Moffett and John M. Davidson guessing during a traffic stop about what the powder could be. But even though it came up negative for cocaine, and Eaton insisted he did not sell drugs, the police charged him with criminal possession of a controlled substance, a felony that could have led to at least a year in prison.

[Former North Carolina police chief indicted on 88 felony counts](#)

Spivey, 35, was arrested last month and charged with stealing drugs, cash and firearms from the evidence locker. He was jailed with bond set at \$665,000. He had been placed on paid administrative leave on March 5 after David recommended that the town suspend him because of issues with the police department's evidence locker.

[eDNAir: proof of concept that animal DNA can be collected from air sampling](#)

Environmental DNA (eDNA) is one of the fastest developing tools for species biomonitoring and ecological research. However, despite substantial interest from research, commercial and regulatory sectors, it has remained primarily a tool for aquatic systems with a small amount of work in substances such as soil, snow and rain. Here we demonstrate that eDNA can be collected from air and used to identify mammals. Our proof of concept successfully demonstrated that eDNA sampled from air contained mixed templates which reflect the species known to be present within a confined space and that this material can be accessed using existing sampling methods. We anticipate this demonstration will initiate a much larger research programme in terrestrial airDNA sampling and that this may rapidly advance biomonitoring approaches. Lastly, we outline these and potential related applications we expect to benefit from this development.