



6th LAGOS FORENSIC SYMPOSIUM

Hybrid



Organized by

Lagos State Government, Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Lagos State DNA & Forensic Center & ITSI – Biosciences, Johnstown, PA, USA.



Supported by
GIZ, Germany



Venue

The Providence by Mantis, 12A Oba Akinjobi Street, GRA Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria.

OCTOBER 19 – 20, 2022.
www.laforensic.org



MR. BABAJIDE OLUSOLA SANWO-OLU
GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE





DR KADIRI OBAFEMI HAMZAT
DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE



RT. HON. MUDASHIRU A. OBASA
SPEAKER, LAGOS STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



HON. JUSTICE KAZEEM O. ALOGBA
CHIEF JUDGE OF LAGOS STATE



MR. MOYOSORE ONIGBANJO, SAN
HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL AND COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE,
LAGOS STATE



MS. KHADIJAT TITILAYO SHITTA-BEY
SOLICITOR GENERAL AND PERMANENT SECRETARY,
LAGOS STATE

TABLE OF CONTENT

	PAGE
<i>Cover page</i> -----	00
<i>Blank Page</i> -----	01
<i>Governor of Lagos State</i> -----	02
<i>Lagos State Coat of Arm</i> -----	03
<i>Deputy Governor of Lagos State</i> -----	04
<i>Speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly</i> -----	05
<i>Chief Judge, Lagos State</i> -----	06
<i>Attorney General & Commissioner for Justice, Lagos State</i> ----	07
<i>Solicitor General & Permanent Secretary, Lagos State</i> ----	08
<i>Table of Content</i> -----	09
<i>Organizing Committee</i> -----	10
<i>Speakers</i> -----	11
<i>Welcome Address</i> -----	13
<i>Program Summary</i> -----	14
<i>Abstracts</i> -----	16
<i>Notepad</i> -----	21

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Olamide Ibrahim



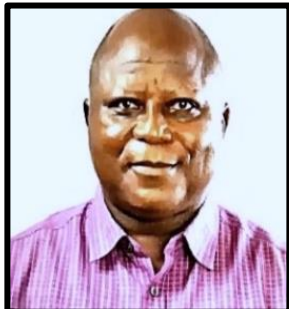
Oluseun Sogbesan



Arthur Young, BSc



Haoma Amadi, MSc



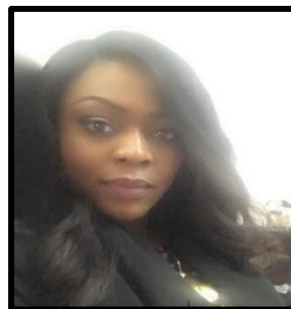
Ishaku Pennap, PhD



Stella Somiari, PhD, MBA



Otonye Dago, MBA



Maureen Dakahap, BS



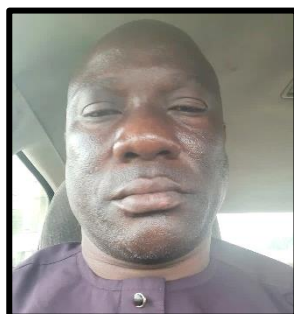
Olamide Adeyemo, BSc



Adetola Giwa, BSc



Olawale Ijabiken



Adebayo Bajulaiye



Adetutu Adeusi

SPEAKERS



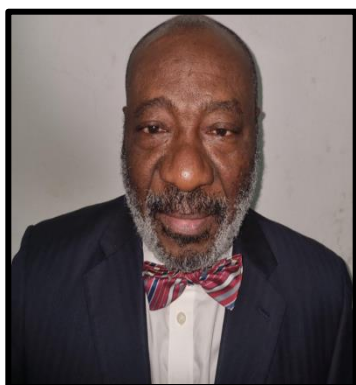
Dr Richard I Somiari,
Center Director,
LSD&FC, Lagos,
Nigeria.



Dr Michael Coble, Professor/Executive
Director, Center for Human
Identification, UNTHSC, Fort Worth, TX,
USA.



CP Yetunde O. Longe
Commissioner of Police,
Railway Command, Lagos.



Hon. Justice Olatunde Oshodi
Judge, Lagos State Judiciary,
High Court, Ikeja, Lagos.



Dr Ray Wickenheiser, Director, NYSP
Crime Laboratory System, New York Sta
Police, Forensic Investigation Center,
Albany, New York, USA.



Dr Babajide Martins,
Director Public Prosecution, Lagos State
Ministry of Justice, Lagos, Nigeria.



Judge Ann Williams (Ret.),
Jones Day,
Chicago, IL, USA.



Hon. Judge Marian F. Gaston,
Assistant Presiding Judge, San
Diego Superior Court, CA, USA.



Lola Vivour-Adeniyi
Executive Secretary, Lagos State
Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency
(DSVA), Lagos, Nigeria.

SPEAKERS



Adesola Onabanjo, MS,
Forensic DNA Analyst, LSD&FC,
Lagos, Nigeria.



SP Ibrahim A Yusuf, The Nigeria
Police Force, Homicide Section, State
CID, Yaba, Lagos



Prof SS Soyemi, Acting Chief Medical
Examiner, Professor & Honorary Consultant
Pathologist, Lagos State University
Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, Lagos.



Dr Luchenga "Adam" Mucheleng'anga,
Forensic Pathologist, ZMDIS, Lusaka,
Zambia.



Afeez Akande, BSc
Forensic DNA Analyst,
LSD&FC, Lagos, Nigeria.



Victoria Osidipe, BSc
Forensic DNA Analyst,
LSD&FC, Lagos, Nigeria.



Dan Watsula,
Product Manager, Bode
Technology, Lorton, VA, USA.



Mrs Bisi Ajayi-Kayode, Chief Operating Officer/Lead
Legal and Forensic Interview Department, Cece Yara
Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria.

WELCOME ADDRESS

On behalf of the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and the Organizing Committee, I welcome you to the 6th annual Lagos Forensic Symposium (LFS) organized by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Lagos State DNA & Forensic Centre and ITSI-Biosciences, LLC, Johnstown, PA USA.

As we all know, Forensic Science is a very important part of the Criminal Justice System because it supports investigations, and can facilitate speedy identification and conviction of perpetrators and the exoneration of the innocent.

It was therefore in recognition of the many-sided importance of forensic science, particularly to the administration of criminal justice, that the Lagos State Government established the Lagos State DNA & Forensic Center (LSD&FC) to support the administration of criminal justice, including investigations conducted by the Nigeria Police and other law enforcement agencies among other things. The Center was commissioned in September 2017, and the Forensic Biology/DNA unit and the DNA Database and Matching system attained ISO 17025:2017 accreditation in February 2019.

With the ever evolving crime patterns, the Lagos State Government is committed to upscaling its penchant for innovations in order to make Lagos State a safer place to live, work and visit; and the LSD&FC is positioned to play a significant role in helping to promote and ensure the achievement of this objective.

Since its commissioning, the Lagos State DNA & Forensic Center has assisted in conducting 725 investigations out of which 182 involved investigations about suspicious deaths, identification of exhumed human remains, disaster victim identifications, child trafficking, defilement of children and burglary, whereas 543 cases involved biological relationship disputes associated with child support, inheritance and Chieftaincy disputes.

Given the protests that erupted in October 2020 in respect of which significant and colossal losses were recorded to a sizeable amount of State infrastructures, it is no longer news that the edifice which housed the Lagos State DNA & Forensic Center was badly affected during the protest. This is a major setback but all hands are on deck to ensure that the Centre is up and running again very soon.

Notwithstanding the temporary setback, it is gratifying and heart-warming that the DNA & Forensic Centre Bill has been passed into Law and we are back to interacting in person again; being the first post-covid in-person LFS to be organized. The organizers have again assembled world-renowned faculty with cognate experience in forensic science, judicial issues, medical examination and law enforcement. The target audience remains Judges, Magistrates, Lawyers and Legislators, Police Investigators, Forensic scientists, pathologists, medical practitioners, Emergency responders, investigative journalists, students, NGOs, the press amongst others.

I thank you very much for attending what promises to be another outstanding event that will provide you with an up-to-date information on how forensic science is applied to resolve cases.

Mr. Moyosore Onigbanjo SAN,
Hon. Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice,
Lagos State, Nigeria.

ALL TIMES ARE NIGERIAN - WEST AFRICAN TIME, WAT, UTC+1

DAY 1 – WED OCT 19, 2022				
TIME	DURATION	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER	
SESSION 1: MODERATOR - MC				
09.50AM	10 MIN	Welcome, Introductions and Recognitions.	MC	IN PERSON
10.00AM	20 MIN	Welcome Address	Mr. Moyosore Onigbanjo SAN, Hon. Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Lagos State, Nigeria.	IN PERSON
10.20AM	10 MIN	Goodwill Message.	CP Abiodun Sylvester Alabi, fdc, Commissioner of Police, Lagos State, Nigeria	IN PERSON
10.30AM	30 MIN	PA-01: The Lagos DNA & Forensic Center (LSD&FC) – Role in Criminal and Civil Investigations.	Dr Richard I. Somiari, PhD, Center Director, LSD&FC, Lagos, Nigeria.	IN PERSON
11.00AM	40 MIN	PA-02: What's Done Cannot Be Undone: The Power Of Forensic DNA In Criminal Investigations.	Dr Michael Coble, Executive Director & Professor, Center for Human Identification, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX, USA.	IN PERSON
11.40PM	20 MIN	Governor's Remarks.	Mr. Babajide Sanwo-olu, Governor of Lagos State, Nigeria.	IN PERSON
12.00PM	10 MIN	BREAK		
SESSION 2: MODERATOR -				
12.10PM	30 MIN	PA-03: The Importance Of Forensic Science In Police Investigations In Nigeria.	CP Yetunde O. Longe, Commissioner of Police, Railway Command, Lagos, Nigeria.	IN PERSON
12.40PM	30 MIN	PA-04: Admissibility of Forensic Evidence and Report During Criminal Trials in Nigeria.	Hon Justice Olatunde Oshodi, Judge, Lagos State Judiciary, High Court Ikeja, Lagos.	IN PERSON
01.10PM	60 MIN	LUNCH BREAK		
SESSION 3: MODERATOR -				
02.10PM	40 MIN	PA-05: Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy.	Dr Ray Wickenheiser, Director, NYSP Crime Laboratory System, New York State Police, Forensic Investigation Center, Albany, New York, USA.	REMOTE
02.50PM	30 MIN	PA-06: Importance Of Forensic Evidence In Prosecutions.	Dr. Babajide Martins, Director Public Prosecution, Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Lagos, Nigeria.	IN PERSON

03.20PM	40 MIN	PA-07: Impact Of Forensic Evidence In Courts: A Judicial Perspective.	Judge Ann Claire Williams (Ret.), Of Counsel, JONES DAY® - One Firm Worldwide SM , Chicago, IL, USA. Hon. Judge Marian F. Gaston, Assistant Presiding Judge, San Diego Superior Court, Juvenile Division, San Diego, CA, USA.	REMOTE
04.00PM	END OF DAY 1			
DAY 2 – THU OCT 20, 2022				
SESSION 4: MODERATOR -				
09.50AM	10 MIN	Welcome		
10.00AM	30 MIN	PA-08: Role Of The Lagos State Domestic & Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) In Combating Sexual Violence.	Lola Vivour-Adeniyi, Executive Secretary, Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Lagos, Nigeria.	IN PERSON
10.30AM	25 MIN	PA-09: The Use Of DNA In Human Remains Identification In Forensics.	Adesola Onabanjo, MS, Forensic DNA Analyst, LSD&FC, Lagos, Nigeria.	IN PERSON
11.55AM	25 MIN	PA-10: Application Of Forensics In Criminal Investigations In Nigeria.	SP Ibrahim A Yusuf, The Nigeria Police Force, Homicide Section, State CID, Yaba, Lagos.	IN PERSON
11.20AM	10 MIN	BREAK		
SESSION 5: MODERATOR -				
11.30AM	40 MIN	PA-11: Role Of The Pathologist In Suspicious Death Investigations In Lagos State, Nigeria.	Prof SS Soyemi, Acting Chief Medical Examiner, Professor & Honorary Consultant Pathologist, Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, Lagos.	IN PERSON
12.10PM	30 MIN	PA-12: Forensic Pathology And The Administration Of Criminal Justice System In Zambia.	Dr Luchenga “Adam” Mucheleng’anga, Forensic Pathologist, Zambia Medicolegal Death Investigation System, Lusaka, Zambia.	REMOTE
12.40PM	25 MIN	PA-13: Identification Of Victims Of A Building Collapse Using Forensic DNA Methodology.	Afeez Akande, BSc, Forensic DNA Analyst, LSD&FC, Lagos, Nigeria.	IN PERSON
01:05PM	60 MIN	LUNCH BREAK		
SESSION 6: MODERATOR -				
02.05PM	40 MIN	PA-14: The Use Of The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) In Human Identification And Criminal Investigations.	Dr Michael Coble, Executive Director & Professor, Center for Human Identification, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX, USA.	IN PERSON
02.45PM	25 MIN	PA-15: Creating A Nigerian Population Frequency Database Of	Victoria Osidipe, BSc, Forensic DNA Analyst, LSD&FC, Lagos, Nigeria.	IN PERSON

		Autosomal STR Loci For Forensic Applications.		
03.20PM	25 MIN	PA-16: DNA Collection Products – Driving Forensic Laboratory Success.	Dan Watsula, Sr, Product Manager, BODE Technology, Lorton, VA, USA.	REMOTE
03.45PM	20 MIN	PA-17: Forensic Interview As The Best Practice of Quicker And More Effective Investigation and Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse Cases.	Mrs Bisi Ajayi-Kayode, Chief Operating Officer/Lead Legal and Forensic Interview Department, Cece Yara Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria.	
04.05PM	15 MIN	VOTE OF THANKS	Ms Titilayo Shitta-Bey, Solicitor General & Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Lagos, Nigeria.	IN PERSON
04.20PM	END OF PROGRAM			

ABSTRACTS

PA 01 - THE LAGOS STATE DNA & FORENSIC CENTER: ROLE IN CRIMINAL AND CIVIL INVESTIGATIONS

Dr Richard I. Somiari, PhD, Center Director & Managing Consultant, Lagos State DNA & Forensic Center, Lagos, Nigeria.

Commissioned in September 2017 and ISO 17025 accredited in February 2019, the Lagos State DNA & Forensic Center (LSD&FC) was established to provide forensic science support to law enforcement, judiciary, investigators, lawyers, and medical examiners, to help resolve cases faster and unequivocally. LSD&FC has provided forensic science support to Lagos and other State governments, the Nigeria Police, Nigerian Army, Nigerian Airforce, and the public. It has supported 725 investigations involving ~4000 unique DNA tests, out of which 182 (~25%) are forensic caseworks. The top six forensic investigations supported are alleged rape/sexual assault (41%), alleged homicide (25%), disaster victim identification (8%), alleged burglary (7%), human remains identification (5%) and suspected poisoning (5%). A total of 543 cases (~75%) concern biological relationship dispute, including public request (67%), court order to resolve paternity, inheritance or chieftaincy issues (25%), request by attorneys handling family disputes (5%), request from agencies/NGO's dealing with child/spousal support cases (2%) and police request (1%). Notably, LSD&FC staff used DNA techniques to help identify victims of the Otedola bridge fire incident in 2018 and the Ikoyi 21-storey building collapse incident in 2021. LSD&FC staff present reports and testify as expert witnesses in courts within and outside Lagos State. One alleged rape incident in which LSD&FC provided DNA evidence is undergoing trial, and a double homicide case in which LSD&FC provided crime scene investigation support and DNA evidence in court led to a conviction. Although, vandalized during the 2020 "EndSars" demonstrations, the center is resilient and continues to provide services under its disaster management/continuity plan. Despite the vandalization, it has supported 177 investigations (15% forensic casework) between December 2020 and September 2022. The outlook for LSD&FC is bright and recently buttressed by the landmark passing of the "DNA Forensic Center" Bill by the Lagos State House of Assembly in September 2022.

PA 02 - What's done cannot be undone: The power of forensic DNA in criminal investigations

Dr Michael Coble – Associate Professor & Executive Director, Center for Human Identification, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX, USA.

Forensic DNA testing is often referred to as the "gold standard" of all of the various disciplines in forensics. The use of widely accepted techniques in molecular biology (the Polymerase Chain Reaction and Capillary Electrophoresis) and statistical methods based on 100 years of population genetics, forensic DNA testing is often a critical tool to evaluate evidence from sexual assaults and crime scene stains. Unlike many other disciplines, DNA profiles from an unknown individual from the crime scene can be used to search for an association in a database of convicted offender DNA samples to provide law enforcement of investigative leads. This presentation will highlight the power of DNA testing to associate individuals to unknown contributor(s) in crime scene stains, and, often more importantly, to exclude individuals as a contributor to

the evidence. I will also present some of the beneficial returns on investment from forensic DNA testing to society and crime prevention.

PA 03 - THE IMPORTANCE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE IN POLICE INVESTIGATIONS IN NIGERIA

CP Yetunde O. Longe, Commissioner of Police, Railway Command, Lagos, Nigeria.

Gathering of evidence is a significant and vital stage in criminal investigation. The process is a very long and tedious exercise that involves meticulous documentation of the crime scene leading to collection and recovery of evidence in order to deduce the events of a crime. Doing this, requires the application of some scientific or forensic tools which enables the prosecution to produce credible evidence with which to get justice for the victim. However, this has not been the case in Nigeria, as the Police seemingly rely on victims or eyewitness accounts and confessions made by suspects, sometimes forced out of them to prosecute cases. The result is an increasing number of muffled and bungled investigations, acquittals due to poor and/or lack of evidence from the investigators, tampering of crime scene, failed prosecutions, unpunished offenders and wrongful convictions, among other reasons. It is obvious from the above, that forensic science has not thrived in Nigeria compared to other countries such as Britain, Canada, the United States of America even in South Africa. The Nigeria Police still preferred the traditional eyewitness account and confessions for crime investigations to induce evidence. Without the aid of forensic science, the investigation of crimes falls back to relying on witness testimony, circumstantial evidence and more commonly confessions. It is not claimed that, with forensic science, all cases, shall be solved. No, some criminals will still get away. The point however is that a greater percentage of cases shall be resolved if forensic science is employed. Therefore, it becomes harder and more difficult for criminals to get away with the use of forensic science as a tool for investigation. Conclusively, therefore, it is recommended that specialized forensic units be established for criminal investigations which should be adequately funded and devoid of political interference.

PA 04 - Admissibility of Forensic Evidence and Report During Criminal Trials in Nigeria

Hon. Justice Olatunde Oshodi, Judge, Lagos State Judiciary, High Court, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria.

The Paper seeks to define forensic evidence, and the type of forensic evidence available. It also seeks to identify the standards applied by the Courts for its admissibility. The Evidence Act is looked into and the most applicable provisions of the Act to the admission of forensic evidence are identified, reproduced and noted. Some case law are referred to. Lastly, the paper seeks to state some protocols necessary for the taking and storing of the forensic evidence gathered.

PA 05 - Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy

Dr Ray Wickenheiser, PhD, Director, NYSP Crime Laboratory System, New York State Police, Forensic Investigation Center, Albany, New York, USA.

Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG) is an indirect DNA matching technique utilizing Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) and direct-to-consumer genealogy databases to develop investigative leads. Unsolved cases with DNA deposited by a perpetrator at a crime scene (forensic DNA), where no DNA database hit has occurred are candidates for FIGG. In this presentation the current status of DNA comparison through direct matching will be discussed, including its high return on investment, as well as strategies to further improve DNA database efficiency. Discussion will include indirect matching techniques, including partial matching, familial searching, Expanded DNA Indirect Matching (EDIM), and FIGG. Direct matching involves comparing forensic DNA to known samples where all areas of DNA are in common, where matching profiles are the same. Indirect matching uses the known inheritance patterns of biologically related individuals to compare profiles that only share part of their profiles in common. These known inheritance patterns permit searching for relatives to theoretically increase the size of databases, attempting to establish the identity of the contributor of the forensic sample. A specific example of EDIM uses Short Tandem Repeats from the Y chromosome (YSTRs). As the Y chromosome is inherited paternally, a YSTR profile can be used to locate male relatives, which can be further compared through kinship analysis of autosomal STRs. In this manner, expanding the DNA profile from autosomal STRs to include YSTRs provides an opportunity for indirect matching of male relatives to develop investigative leads. Bioethical discussion will center on forensic DNA and the use of known samples to search for relatives. Forensic profiles originate from discarded DNA, which was deposited during the commission of a crime. The bioethical concept of autonomy governs direct to consumer databases, where an individual's right to utilize their own DNA within informed consent governs use for solving crimes.

PA 06 – Importance of Forensic Evidence in Prosecutions

Dr. Babajide Martins, Director Public Prosecution, Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Lagos, Nigeria

The paradigm shift in investigation and prosecution of criminal offences in Nigeria must be rooted in intelligence and scientific based approach. The days of reliance on confessional statements as sole attributes of criminal prosecutions are over. This paper identifies various forensic evidence in Nigeria and articulate the capacity and inadequate logistic that contributes to its ineffectiveness and suggest how to overcome such constraints. It identifies some cases in which forensic evidence are presented and Judicial attitudes in elucidation of such cases.

PA 07 - The Crucial Role of Forensic Evidence: A Judicial Perspective

Judge Ann Claire Williams, Of Counsel, JONES DAY® - One Firm WorldwideSM, Chicago, IL, USA.

Hon. Judge Marian F. Gaston, Assistant Presiding Judge, San Diego Superior Court, Juvenile Division, San Diego, CA, USA.

This presentation explores the effectiveness of DNA and other forms of forensic evidence in convicting the guilty and exonerating the innocent. Judges Williams and Gaston will discuss common problems with forensic evidence and potential solutions, the importance of well-trained law enforcement and scientific experts, and the need for efficient, reliable labs.

PA 08 - Role of the Lagos State Domestic & Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) in Combating Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Lola Vivour-Adeniyi, Coordinator, Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Lagos, Nigeria.

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team, which metamorphosed into the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), which is a creation of Law, was established to provide a coordinated response to incidents of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), ensure victim safety and increase offender responsibility. Section 5 of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency Law, 2021, enumerates the statutory mandate of the Agency, which include, but not limited to co-ordinate immediate response to SGBV including, a) Reporting incidences of sexual and domestic assaults, b) Making initial contact with survivors of SGBV offences, c) Providing medical evaluation and care, d) Collection and documentation of forensic and crime scene evidence and, e) Conducting preliminary investigation. This is achieved by leveraging on a multi-disciplinary approach; working with relevant responder agencies including law enforcement, health workers, legal practitioners, clinical psychologists, NGOs, forensic scientists, etc, to provide holistic care and support to survivors. DSVA has been able to propose various policies geared at ensuring enhanced coordination of response, some of which include, the development of a Sexual Assault Standing Order, which makes clinical management of sexual assault survivors, an emergency, the development of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits (also known as Rape Kits), to allow for the collection of evidentiary DNA samples, post trauma. The Agency, in collaboration with the Lagos State Police Command has upgraded 17 police divisions to the status of Family Support Units, to increase the number of skilled and specialized officers available to investigate SGBV crimes. These different initiatives have resulted in an increase in formal and informal reporting of cases, as well as increase in prosecution and conviction rates in Lagos State. The Agency's statutory mandate also includes the management of the Sex Offenders Register, and in 2022, the Agency began publication of details of sex convicts.

PA 09 - The Use of DNA in Human Remain Identification in Forensics

Adesola Onabanjo, MSc, Forensic DNA Analyst, Lagos State DNA & Forensic Center, Lagos, Nigeria.

Human Remain Identification is a method used to identify missing persons or casualties of events such as accident or disaster. The use of DNA in the identification of human remains is a very important aspect of forensics. DNA analysis is the most common method for identifying human remains especially in the absence of other methods, such as dental records or fingerprints. This aspect of forensics provides legal support to formally state the death of an individual and humanitarian support to bring closure to the affected families. This presentation will provide an overview of the steps utilized at LSD&FC to identify human remains submitted for identification.

PA 10 – Application of Forensics in criminal investigations in Nigeria

SP Ibrahim A Yusuf, The Nigeria Police Force, Homicide Section, State CID, Yaba, Lagos.

The scientific aspects of criminology have advanced tremendously, drawing insights from techniques and expertise utilized in the cutting edge of science because crime investigation always involves complicated processes, and it is sometimes very difficult to resolve through confessional statements only. This symposium, is timely, coming at a time when the incidence of crime in Nigeria has reached an alarming peak

and terribly frightening dimensions. It is evident that deployment of Science and Technology in Criminal Investigations has made it less cumbersome to unravel high profile crimes. Criminals now know that there is nothing like a "perfect crime". Crime investigation has become part and parcel of forensic science, therefore it is very important that awareness is created among Police investigators and prosecutors as to the assistance the crime laboratory offers. The sophisticated and modus of committing crime has equally led to the deployment and application of forensic science in investigation. It is very important that investigators know how to apply Forensic science principles at crime scenes. For the crime laboratory to be of assistance, an investigator needs to know how to identify and collect physical evidence(s) (exhibit) as well as proper packaging, which will in turn be forwarded to the laboratory for analysis and report. No amount of equipment and expertise will salvage any problem that develops if the collection and forwarding of the exhibits have not been properly done. All tools and expertise that are necessary for a successful investigation must be available. Nobody should be found guilty based on an imperfect system and suspects should not be freed for lack of evidence, outside a confession, especially since many suspects deny their confessions on the ground that it was made under duress or because of torture. This presentation describes some of the cases we have resolved using forensic science methodologies.

PA 11 - Role of the Pathologist in Suspicious Death Investigations in Lagos State, Nigeria

Prof Sunday S. Soyemi, Acting Chief Medical Examiner, Professor & Honorary Consultant Pathologist, Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, Ikeja, Lagos.

In investigating a suspicious death, the Coroner in charge of the jurisdiction where death has occurred must be informed. This is best approached by a visit to the scene by the pathologist where certain findings are documented. The environment, position and condition of the body and the local circumstances all play an important role in determining the cause of death. Even retrieval of the body and transfer to the morgue should be professionally handled. In certain circumstances, the hands of the decedent should be "bagged". This is to avoid tampering with evidentiary materials. It is also worthy of note that clothing and other items found on the decedent must never be removed in the morgue. Once the appropriate documents have been served on the pathologist, the postmortem examination should be conducted as early as possible. In some cases, identity of the decedent must be established using the DNA studies while other ancillary studies such as toxicology might assist in determining cases of suspected chemical poisoning, substance or drugs of abuse overdosage and in rare instances, overdosage of prescribed medications. It is essential that death certification and issuance of postmortem report should not be unnecessarily delayed. This is to assist in the administration of the criminal justice system particularly where a case of homicide has been established.

PA 12 - Role of Forensic Pathology in the Administration of Criminal Justice System in Zambia

Dr Luchenga "Adam" Mucheleng'anga, Forensic Pathologist, Zambia Medicolegal Death Investigation System, Lusaka, Zambia.

Dr. Mucheleng'anga will share the experiences of the evolution of the coroner system to the current medicolegal death investigation (MLDI) legal framework in Zambia and describe the role of the forensic pathologist in the administration of of criminal justice system in Zambia. Dr Mucheng'anga is the State Forensic Pathologist in Zambia and has been instrumental in advocating for improvements to the medicolegal death investigation (MLDI) system laws that were passed in Parliament in 2020, which transforms the colonial coroner system into a hybrid system.

PA 13 - Identification of Victims of a Building Collapse using Forensic DNA methodology

Afeez Akande, Forensic DNA Analyst, Lagos State DNA & Forensic Center, Lagos, Nigeria.

DNA Profiling is one of the most reliable methods of identification utilized in disaster victim identification. The Lagos State DNA & Forensic Center over the years has been providing forensic DNA services using standardized procedures. The laboratory played a significant role in the identification of bodies recovered from the multistorey building collapse. The support provided includes recommendation of the type of sample from the decedent that is suitable for DNA analysis, collection of reference samples from alleged family members, analysis of samples, matching of unknown profiles to the known profiles from alleged families using SmallPond™ software, manually verifying the matches and preparing a report for the medical examiner. Most of the "questioned" samples received were successfully matched to reference samples which allowed release of bodies to families. This presentation will provide an overview of the process used by the team involved in the project, the limitation of DNA profiling, the challenges encountered, and the methodology used to successfully match victims of the building collapse to their respective family members

PA 14 - The use of the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) in human identification and criminal investigations

Dr Michael Coble – Associate Professor & Executive Director, Center for Human Identification, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX, USA.

Forensic DNA testing has become an integral component of police investigations and court proceedings around the world. The process is rather simple and straightforward: obtain a DNA profile from the crime scene evidence, then compare to a profile from the person of interest. If the profiles are concordant, then the person of interest cannot be excluded as a contributor to the evidence profile. A statistical strength of this association can be generated. What if there is no person of interest available for comparison? For example, if the perpetrator of a sexual assault is unknown to the victim, there can be no comparison to the unknown profile from the evidence. In these cases, a search of a national DNA database could be a critical component for solving the case. In the United States, the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) is a series of DNA databases that are used to create investigative leads in criminal and missing persons cases. This presentation will focus on the benefits of using national DNA databases for human remains identification and criminal casework. I will also present on methods that go beyond traditional questioned to known comparisons such as familial DNA testing.

PA 15 – Creating a Nigerian Population Frequency Database of Autosomal STR loci for forensic applications

Victoria Osidipe, BSc, Forensic DNA Analyst, Lagos State DNA & Forensic Center, Lagos, Nigeria.

Autosomal short tandem repeats (STR) loci are locations on chromosomes utilised in forensic DNA profiling to establish identity of missing persons, confirm familial relationships and link/exclude persons of interest to crime scenes. With a population of about 211 million, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the 7th largest country in the world by population. Lagos State is the most populated and cosmopolitan state in Nigeria with a population of about 21 million people. This project was initiated because there is paucity in data on the population frequencies of commonly used STR markers in the Nigerian population. To create a Nigerian population frequency database of the common STR markers used in forensic DNA analyses, consented, and anonymized STR data generated by LSD&FC from 500 unrelated individuals residing in Lagos and self-reporting as Nigerians were collated and the frequencies of 23 autosomal STR loci, including the extended core Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), were determined. This presentation will provide information on the methodology used at LSD&FC and the frequencies of commonly used STR alleles in the Nigerian population studied.

PA 16 – DNA Collection Products – Driving Forensic Laboratory Success

Dan Watsula, Sr – Product Manager, BODE Technology, Lorton, VA, USA.

Success rates play a key role in the efficiency and quality of DNA Forensic workflows. In this presentation we will look at how DNA collection devices for reference and crime scene samples drive forensic DNA laboratory throughout. In order to leverage the power of DNA databases to solve crimes, both reference and crime scene samples must be processed as quickly and economically as possible, collection devices play a critical role in this process.

PA-17- Forensic Interview As The Best Practice of Quicker And More Effective Investigation and Prosecution of Child Sexual Abuse Cases

Mrs Bisi Ajayi-Kayode, Chief Operating Officer/Lead Legal and Forensic Interview Department, Cece Yara Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria.

Child forensic interview is a structural process of eliciting evidential information in an age appropriate and developmentally sensitive manner about a crime or event a child might have witnessed or experienced as part of the larger investigative process. It is the best practice of obtaining a child's testimony to corroborate other evidence.



The Lagos Forensic Symposium (LFS, www.laforensic.org) is an international event open to everyone interested in forensics, criminal investigations, scientific evidence and law enforcement...

LFS is held annually in Lagos, the most populated city in Africa, and one of the fastest growing cities in the world...

LFS provides an opportunity for Forensic Scientists, Judges, Attorneys, Police, Investigators, Military, Emergency Responders, Academia, Students and Medical Examiners to meet annually in Africa to discuss local, regional and global trends, as well as interact and exchange knowledge and experience.