

# Continuing Education and Training: Forensic Management Topics



RTI International offers Web-based training courses targeted to forensic managers and practitioners who work at the scene, in the laboratory, and in the courtroom. The standards of practice for forensic professionals go beyond scientific knowledge and require many skills for continued career development. Forensic managers must develop their “human resources” as a means to benefit the organizational operations they lead. These courses provide a training opportunity for professional development for forensic practitioners in many disciplines. The training promotes high-quality work products, professional responsibility, and knowledge of scientific advancements.

## Specimen Validity Testing: The Workplace Experience

This course provides an overview and historical perspective of sample validity testing (SVT) in the United States. The historical overview covers urine specimen tampering practices and identified adulterant and substitution products, the evolution of SVT laboratory procedures, and the implementation of regulatory policies. The National Laboratory Certification Program of the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Division of Workplace Programs is presented as an example. The course also presents the effects of several “model” adulterants as well as current specimen validity evaluation approaches, such as measurement of specimen temperature, physical characteristics, creatinine, specific gravity, pH, and oxidizing adulterants, including chromium, glutaraldehyde, pyridine, and nitrite. The course is approximately 60 minutes. (ACCENT® credit provided.)

## Forensic Science Education Offerings

For more information on current and upcoming educational content, please visit our website or contact us directly.

[www.forensiced.org](http://www.forensiced.org)

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## Introduction to Uncertainty in Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology I, II, and III

Forensic chemistry and toxicology often require calculations of critical quantitative values (e.g., mass, concentration, purity, or volume). Laboratories seeking and maintaining accreditation under an ISO 17025–based accreditation program are required to estimate the uncertainty of a critical measurement. These courses present the concept of uncertainty in the context of

forensic chemistry and toxicology and introduces some of the methods used to estimate measurement uncertainty. Each course is approximately 60 minutes. (ACCENT® credit provided.)

### Expert Testimony Training for the Prosecutor and Scientist I and II

Many toxicologists must provide courtroom testimony in support of analyses conducted in their laboratory. Section I of this curriculum provides a primer on expert testimony issues communicated from a prosecutorial perspective. Material includes a discussion of rules of evidence and the admissibility of scientific evidence according to Frye and Daubert standards. The course also presents discussion on the basic components of testimony, including *voir dire* and direct and cross examinations. Strategies and example testimonies are provided. Section II covers expert testimony for the forensic toxicologist and is lab oriented. Material includes a discussion of rules of evidence, including Frye and Daubert standards; a discussion of the laboratory's role; legal cases; testing; and retrograde blood alcohol content or BAC calculation considerations. Each course is approximately 60 minutes. (ACCENT® credit provided.)

### To Hell and Back: The Ethics of Stewardship and the Stewardship of Ethics

With increased attention focused on forensic laboratories, it is important for lab personnel to adhere to the highest ethical standards. This course provides a historical overview and accompanying case studies of ethics and ethical decision-making, issues to consider with respect to ethics in today's society. This is a recorded, on demand course that may be used to fulfill the ASCLD-LAB ethics training requirement. This training should be referenced in the laboratory's training program as part of fulfilling this requirement. The course is approximately 60 minutes. (ACCENT® credit provided.)

### Answering the NAS: The Ethics of Leadership and the Leadership of Ethics

The intense attention focused on forensic laboratories with the National Academy of Sciences 2009 report, "Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward,"

requires lab personnel to adhere to the highest ethical standards. The course continues the ethics material presented in "To Hell and Back: The Ethics of Stewardship and the Stewardship of Ethics" by discussing leadership styles and how these styles affect ethics in the workplace. It also examines case studies in more detail. The course is approximately 60 minutes. (ACCENT® credit provided.)

### Upcoming Web-based Course Topics for 2011—Delivered Live and On Demand

- ABFT Certification: Introduction, Test Strategies, and Resources
- The Theory and Practice of Forensic Toxicology
- Mass and Non-Mass Selective Detectors
- Laboratory Quality Assurance and Data Integrity
- Role of New Technologies and Forensic Autopsy
- Expert Witness Testimony in Medicolegal Death Investigations
- New Coroner's Roles and Responsibilities
- Analytical Methods for Regulated Forensic Workplace Drug Testing

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#### More Information

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