



# Throwing Back the Curtain on Bureaucracy to Build Strong and Transparent Collaborations between Forensic Science Labs and Universities

## 2023 IACT Workshop

**Location:** Charleston Marriott, Charleston, SC  
**Date:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 (Half Day)  
**Time:** 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Workshop Chairs:** Michelle Peace

**Target Audience:** Forensic practitioners and law enforcement of all levels of experience

### **Abstract:**

The National Academy of Sciences Report “Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward” recommends that foundational and innovative peer-reviewed scientific research is needed to strengthen the forensic sciences. The Technical Working Group for Education (TWGED) laid the foundation for the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) to maintain and enhance the quality of forensic science education, which describes that research “shall be conducted in an environment conducive to research and scholarly inquiry” which shall “contribute to the knowledge base of forensic science.” To this end, collaborative relationships between academia and forensic science practitioners have been proven to be productive and strengthen the confidence in measurements, while highlighting shortcomings in historical practices.

The goals of this workshop are to inspire productive collaborative research projects, understand bureaucratic and budgetary challenges for each agency, and develop effective and efficient strategies to strengthen foundational science. An understanding of the academic requirements for research and independent studies and internships versus the needs and interests of the practitioner laboratory will be discussed. Finally, participants will learn how to encourage and promote partnerships between academia and forensic science practitioners.

### **Course Specifics:**

The course fee includes registration, all course materials, attendance certificate, and breaks. Attendees will be responsible for travel, lodging, and meal expenses.

### **Agenda:**

- 8:00 – 8:15: Introductions and Definitions
- 8:15 – 8:45: The NAS Report and Academic Definitions and Expectations
- 8:45 – 9:30: Research in the Practitioner Laboratory
- 9:30 – 9:45: Break
- 9:45 – 10:05: Driving Simulators: Academic Research Collaborations
- 10:05 – 10:45: Practitioner Laboratory Collaborations Perspectives
- 10:45 – 12:00: Academic Laboratory Collaborations Perspectives + General Q&A