

COLD CASE BACKLOG REDUCTION-OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS

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For more than a decade the U.S. has recognized the existence of a backlog of cases with biological evidence that has not been analyzed by crime laboratories. The reasons for this are many, the solutions are few. Examine the evidence, perform DNA, enter suitable DNA profiles into DNA databanks, and provide the criminal investigator with any DNA "hit" information. Realizing the importance of this, NIJ has made funds available to those laboratories willing to tackle the reduction of cold case backlogs. Many laboratories have taken advantage of this funding, yet still a national backlog of cold cases exist. One has to wonder why? This presentation will provide one laboratory's success in reducing its backlog with an emphasis on developing "plans of attack" to identify the number of types of cases suitable for grant funding, evidence analysis in the lab, outsourcing of DNA evidence and databank entry. Discussion of obstacles and roadblocks laboratories can expect along the way and suggestions on how to deal with those that appear overwhelming and beyond your laboratory's control.