

CAROLINE CRAWFORD Bsc (Hons)
Technical Lead

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Professional Profile

An experienced Reporting Scientist working for prosecution, defence and private customers, I strive for continual personal development and to stay up to date with developments in an ever-changing forensic marketplace. I have a strong motivation to succeed, coupled with an ability to work under pressure and a willingness to embrace new challenges. I hold the technical knowledge and personal attributes to be a success and a key asset to any team.

Specialising in examinations for body fluids, interpretation of complex DNA results and blood pattern analysis, I have led numerous high-profile cases and given evidence in Coroner, Crown and High Courts as well as courts abroad. I report a range of case types from possession of weapons, sexual assault, murders terrorism investigations and many more in between. I am experienced running cases involving multiple evidence types as well as working in conjunction with other forensic disciplines.

Academic Qualifications

1997-2001 BSc (Hons) Genetics 2:1
University of Glasgow

Forensic Science Career

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|------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 01/09 - present | Forensic Access | Technical Lead |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporting prosecution and defence forensic biology casework, producing written and oral findings to customers• Preparation and presentation of written and oral evidence as an expert witness to Courts of Law• Assessment of cases to determine optimal strategy and approach• Cold case and appeal case reviews• Item examination, including body fluid identification, blood enhancement, blood pattern analysis and interpretation of complex DNA results• Crime scene attendance• Assessment of significance of scientific findings within the context of specific case circumstances• Peer review other reporting scientist's work, to ensure high quality standards and integrity maintained• Technical lead ensuring quality standards are met and sufficient training and CPD within the team• CPD for police, crime scene investigators and lawyers | |
| 11/01- 01/09 | Forensic Alliance (latterly LGC Forensics and currently (Eurofins Forensic Services) | Principal scientist |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forensic reporting scientist – initially volume crime, latterly following training and CPD running murder and cold case investigations• Team leader• Preparation and presentation of written and oral evidence as an expert witness to Courts of Law• Assessment of cases to determine optimal strategy and approach• Cold case reviews• Item examination, including body fluid identification, blood enhancement, blood pattern analysis and interpretation of complex DNA results | |

- Crime scene attendance
- Assessment of significance of scientific findings within the context of specific case circumstances
- Peer review other reporting scientist's work, to ensure high quality standards and integrity maintained

Other relevant information

Communication

- Effective communication has been a backbone of my development. Within my current role, clear, concise and effective communication is essential for delivering evidence in the court room to a lay audience, liaising with customers and working with colleagues, sometimes under extreme pressure.

Quality Standards

- I have a strong grasp and understanding of the importance of laboratory standards with relation to accuracy, reliability and repetition of results and the challenges of forensic interpretation. I realise the vital nature of quality control, and the serious consequences of any potential error.
- In my role as technical lead I am responsible for ensuring the team adhere to ISO17025, Forensic Regulator and Lab13 standards.
- I am an internal auditor qualified to investigate and assess the current procedures within the company.
- I am heavily involved in continuous improvement processes at Forensic Access.

Workload planning

- In my current I am able to dynamically manage my time, being proactive where possible, but reacting to situations as they arise
- The nature of our business means every request has a deadline; either a contractual turnaround time, or an expected date of response. In addition, due to the nature of police work and court deadlines I am often required to undertake urgent work.

IT

- Experience with a large range of software, both general (MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint) and specialised DNA interpretation software systems.

Relevant Training

November 2001	Forensic Alliance Examination of items, preservation of evidence, continuity and integrity of items
November 2001	Forensic Alliance STR profiling
12-14 July 2002	Forensic Science Society Meeting Crime Scene Workshop
January 2002	Forensic Alliance Courts and How to Appear in Them
Various dates 2002	Forensic Alliance Body fluid training (semen, saliva, fecal material, urine etc) Damage training
31 January 2003	Forensic Alliance Assault Simulation Workshop
January 2003	Forensic Alliance

	SGM+ Complex mixtures reporting
August 2003	Forensic Alliance Expert Witness Course
22 September 2003	Forensic Alliance COSHH & Risk Assessment
9-13 February 2004	Forensic Alliance Blood pattern analysis course
7-11 June 2004	University College London Introduction to Diatom Analysis
July 2005	Metropolitan Police Institute, Miami-Dade County, Florida 40 hour Crime Scenes Investigation 11 Course
2003 to October 2005	LGC Forensics 'On the job' scene examination and interpretation training at scenes culminating in a written test, 5 assessed scenes and a mock BPA scene
10 January 2006	Forensic Alliance Luminol and LCV reporter training, including enhancement of blood patterns and recovery of footwear marks
May 2007	LGC Forensics 34 Cycle (LCN) and Enhancement (3100e and DNA SenCE) DNA training
June 2007	LGC Forensics Further Marks Enhancement training, including enhancement of blood patterns and recovery of footwear marks
July 2008	LGC Forensics Hair identification and comparison - examination
October 2008	LGC Forensics Media training
October 2008	IABPA Conference Blood pattern analysis conference and workshops
January/February 2010	Footwear mark comparison Forensic Access
January 2021	Cellmark Forensic Services Sexual assault refresher training
November 2021	Cellmark Forensic Services CAI refresher training
April 2022	Cellmark Forensic Services Y-STR training

November 2021	Forensic Access Objective criteria in BPA refresher training
July 2022	Forensic Access Understanding ISO 17025 and audit training
July 2022	Eurofins Forensic Services Updates in relation to number of contributors to DNA mixtures
September 2022	IABPA Europe virtual conference

Additional courses and conferences have been attended, run and presented at.