


# FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION


## Labyrinth – Quarterly Newsletter

September 2023

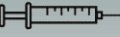


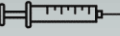
### Biology

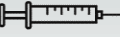
 For sex assault submissions, please only submit a sex kit, underwear, and/or a condom, when applicable. Additional evidence can be submitted after the initial analysis, if needed.

 The biology section no longer analyzes bullet casings or shells for touch-type DNA. We are also not accepting evidence for drug possession cases at this time.


### Chemistry


 At least ten days' notice is required for subpoenas.


 Syringes are only analyzed with a county attorney letter when they are the only item of evidence in a case.

 Please do not use paper bags for packaging drug evidence, especially powders.

### Evidence

 The "please list all drugs" box on DUI forms is not for additional testing requests. If you need testing in addition to alcohol, please email your request to [dojtox@mt.gov](mailto:dojtox@mt.gov).

 Do not send blood test request forms to the lab. That form is to be retained by the requesting officer.


 Evidence is still being sent to the previous Billings lab address. Make sure you are using the correct addresses (see next page).


### Firearms

GSR: Distance Pattern vs Primer Residue Testing:


Requested Exam(s) - REQUIRED


BIO  FA  LP  CHEM  GSR

 Gunshot victims or garments can be chemically/microscopically tested to develop patterns of gunshot residues for determining muzzle-to-target distance or other shooting scene reconstruction patterns. For this analysis, select FA on the submission form.

 GSR test stubs can be examined using SEM to determine if primer residues are present. This can indicate if a suspect was in a gunshot environment. For this Chemistry section test, select GSR on the submission form.


### Latent Prints


 Be aware that swabbing an item of evidence prior to sending it to the laboratory can remove prints. When in doubt, please send the item into the laboratory and request both LP and DNA analyses.


 Always wear gloves when lifting or handling latent print evidence, but in the event that you have handled the lift tape without gloves, please submit officer elimination prints.


### Toxicology

Please use the Intoxilyzer 9000 instead of blood draw, when appropriate, due to the following:


 Toxicology is still experiencing a blood tube shortage.


 For breath cases, no forensic scientist or phlebotomist is needed, making prosecution more streamlined.

 Immediate results are obtained from the Intoxilyzer.

 When blood ethanol is over 0.100g/100mL, drug testing is not typically performed.

### Miscellaneous

 Please join us in welcoming Deland Weyrauch as our new Medical Examiner in the Billings Laboratory!

 Visit our website for info on discoveries & record requests. Please provide current email addresses for the persons to receive the records.

 Previous newsletters are on our website at <https://dojmt.gov.crime>

# Labyrinth - continued

## Intoxilyzer User's Group

This year, the Montana State Crime Lab hosted the 37th Annual Intoxilyzer User's Group. This meeting brings together breath test program managers, forensic scientists, and law enforcement that use the Intoxilyzer instruments. Presentations were given on a variety of topics between August 27th and 31st, including repair, maintenance, and calibration procedures; various types of standards used in the field; and the potential legal aspects of breath testing in forensics. Attendees included people from all over the U.S. (Maine to Texas and New York to Hawaii), as well as Canada.



Ben Vetter and Col. Lavin



Mobile Impaired Driving Assessment Center



Conference attendees at brunch



Assistant Attorney General Ed Hirsch

## DNA Basics Training

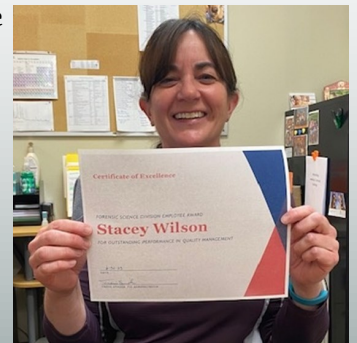
The Crime Lab's Biology Section is offering courses in DNA training via Microsoft Teams. The one hour class will cover:

- DNA testing - how does it work?
- DNA section capabilities.
- What do the results mean?
- Tips for collection/preservation.
- All questions welcome!

Classes will be offered on a quarterly basis, with the next open class being held November 8 at 1pm. More advanced DNA training will be available in the near future. To enroll, contact Jamie Bray at [jbray@mt.gov](mailto:jbray@mt.gov).

## Employee Spotlight

Congratulations to the Crime Lab's employee of the 2nd Quarter - Stacey Wilson! Stacey is currently our Quality Assurance Manager, but has worked 19 years as a forensic scientist in Crime Scene Investigation, Primer Gunshot Residue, Seized Drugs, and Serology. She earned her Bachelor's in Medical Technology and a Masters in New Professionalism with a concentration in Forensics and Bioscience from George Mason University, and is currently working towards a Doctorate in Forensics from Oklahoma State University. In addition to Stacey's hard work in the Crime Lab, she also works part-time as an Associate Professor for the University of Maryland Global Campus. She enjoys watching professional golf or college football with her husband of 23 years, as well as reading. Her current favorite author is Jacqueline Winspear. Stacey epitomizes professionalism and hard work, and we would truly be lost without her!



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Please take the survey on our website.