

Section 4.

Panel Descriptions



The Use of Statistical Methods for Error Management in the Forensic Sciences

The forensic sciences, like all other areas of science, must rely on imperfect analytical methods and metrics to assess, quantify, and interpret evidence to answer questions about important events about which the truth needs to be known. The methods used are potentially subject to both random and systematic sources of error that must be minimized through the use of best practices during analysis and whose typical residual magnitudes must be assessed and accurately presented to judges and juries in court. This panel session will present an overview of how statistical methods can be used for error management in the forensic sciences and invite audience discussion and feedback.



Moot Court

Moot Court Demonstration to include two separate cross-examinations.

- (1) An expert will represent a laboratory that has not adopted adequate error management techniques and procedures.
- (2) An expert will represent a laboratory that has done a better job with error management techniques and procedures.

These demonstrations will illustrate ways in which adopting such procedures can strengthen the evidence a forensic scientist can provide in the courtroom and protect the expert from certain charges of bias, techniques, etc.