Cannabis Studies: What Traffic Safety Professionals Need to Know
Friday, August 16 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Prosecutor

This presentation is designed to introduce students to the field of cannabis studies. Presenters will share recent and foundational cannabis studies to increase awareness and delve into current data and findings. Attendees will learn how the studies relate to impaired driving detection and enforcement and how they can utilize the information presented to enhance their investigations. Presenters will also introduce some of the technologies being developed and studied as it relates to detection and enforcement of cannabis-impaired driving.

- Scot Mattox - Maine Bureau of Highway Safety
- Joshua Saucier - Maine Bureau of Highway Safety

Criminal Interdiction: Using DRE Knowledge to Get to Founded Suspicion and Beyond
Friday, August 16 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety

This presentation will highlight the experience of a DRE and how these skills can be applied to criminal interdiction, to include drug trafficking, money laundering, human trafficking, criminal impersonation, identity theft, and more. Presenters will focus on restrictions to search and seizure, including challenges following the legalization of cannabis. Strategies utilizing body-worn cameras will illustrate the progression of police-citizen encounters to ultimately ask for a consent search, utilize a K9, or develop probable cause. Report writing and testimony suggestions will be provided to lead towards successful prosecution. Attendees will use the information shared in this presentation to understand how to effectively leverage their skills and knowledge to proactively reduce crime on the highways.

- Mark A. Castiglione, Jr. - New York State Police
- Joseph A. Turoski - New York State Police

Detecting the Impaired Driver in 60 Seconds
Friday, August 16 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Driving While Impaired (DWI) Enforcement

Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) stand as a cornerstone in the identification and apprehension of impaired drivers. However, reliance on these tests risks overlooking potential offenders. This presentation delves into the vital importance of Phase 1 DWI Detection: Vehicle in Motion—empowering law enforcement professionals with statistical insights to solidify probable cause determinations. Furthermore, it emphasizes the augmentation of Phase 2: Personal Contact—through strategic questioning that challenges the driver's divided attention. This session will dissect the anatomy of traditional questioning and reassemble it into a sequenced format, supplemented by potent follow-up queries. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of statistical probabilities that underscore behavioral patterns of impaired drivers, and a transformative questioning framework designed to detect the undetectable.
Leadership Strategies for Re-Engaging Law Enforcement in Traffic Safety  
Friday, August 16 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Leadership

Traffic crashes and the damage, injuries, and fatalities that result continue to occur at an unacceptably high rate across the globe. Significant increases occurred as police engagement in traffic safety and enforcement diminished over the past several years. Strong leadership is essential to refocus on crash prevention strategies. This session will discuss the importance of traffic enforcement as a critical police function with an emphasis on the need for strong leadership from agency executives. The necessity of conducting traffic enforcement the “right” way will be highlighted, including assigning resources appropriately and facilitating proper interactions with the public. Presenters will highlight successful strategies implemented by Fairfax County (VA) Police Department to re-engage in traffic safety in an effective and professional manner.

- Robert A. Blakley - Fairfax County Police Department
- Howard B. Hall - Roanoke County Police Department

NHTSA Updates  
Friday, August 16 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert

Representatives from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will share their latest information on research regarding impaired driving. They will also share updates on training and funding opportunities and highlight other NHTSA program areas pertaining to traffic safety.

- Randolph Atkins - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Christine Frank - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Over-the-Counter Drugs in Drugged-Driving Investigations  
Friday, August 16 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Toxicology

Drug-impaired driving impacts public safety each day. While the impairing effects of ethanol are publicly acknowledged, the hazards of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications are less understood. This presentation will outline the pharmacology and effects of common OTC medications, including first-generation antihistamines and dextromethorphan. Case histories exemplifying OTC medication observations in DRE evaluations will be provided, in addition to drug prevalence and demographic statistics from drugged-driving investigations across the United States.

- Jolene J. Bierly - NMS Labs
- Maggie R. Nunley - Pennsylvania DUI Association

How to Get Cooperation for DRE Evaluations  
Friday, August 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert

This presentation will highlight how to engage and get cooperation from a suspect during a DRE evaluation. Attendees will be able to understand how to utilize these methods after a traumatic scene or basic driving-while-impaired incident. Presenters will share strategies to demonstrate to a judge or jury how a DRE obtains cooperation for the DRE evaluation process.

- Tony R. Burnett - Tennessee Highway Safety Office
- John H. Mayes - Tennessee Highway Safety Office

How to Identify, Supervise, and Stop the High-Risk Impaired Driver  
Friday, August 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Driving While Impaired (DWI) Enforcement

Every year, approximately one million individuals in the United States are arrested for impaired driving. Research shows that about two-thirds of first-time DWI offenders never commit a
subsequent impaired driving offense. However, the other third continues to drink/drug and drive despite multiple convictions and accompanying sanctions. In fact, over 73% of impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes are repeat offenders. How can practitioners determine which individuals are most at-risk to reoffend and can they be proactively prevented? This presentation addresses the effective management of high-risk drunk drivers through research-based, DWI-specific screening and assessment. Presenters will address how DWI screening and assessment tools determine appropriate community supervision practices and placement into treatment programs specifically designed for individuals convicted of impaired driving.

- Mark J. Stodola - American Probation and Parole Association

Multitasking and the Fear of Violent Encounters: How Common Misconceptions are Endangering Officers
Friday, August 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety

Practices like multitasking and not wearing seat belts while driving place officers at significantly greater risk, so why do officers continue to do them? Often, these actions are directly related to organizational culture, training, and peer anecdotes, which can override agency training, policies, and procedures. This presentation will highlight common misconceptions in law enforcement and draw upon research and instructor testimonials to provide actionable steps attendees and their agencies can take to improve officer safety on the roadways. Attendees will learn about the Peer Accountability for Law Enforcement Safety (PALS) model and how it can be used to promote safe practices while patrolling the roadways. This presentation is provided by the National Law Enforcement Roadway Safety Program (NLERSP), supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

- Brett Cowell - National Policing Institute
- David Flory - Institute for Intergovernmental Research
- Mark LaShell - Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC)
- Jacob Luna - Texas Department of Public Safety

Negative Impacts of High-Potency THC Marijuana on Community and Victim Safety: This is Not "Medicine"
Friday, August 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert

This presentation will provide an overview of the unintended consequences seen from the use of high-potency THC products, including cognitive impairment, addiction, psychosis, worsening mental health, suicidal ideations, cannabis hyperemesis syndrome, and violence. At the conclusion of this presentation, participants should be able to understand which levels of THC are supported by research for certain medical conditions and which are not. The presenter will also highlight the effect of THC on the developing brain and the endocannabinoid system, as well as how these effects can affect roadway and traffic safety.

- Elizabeth L. Stuyt - IASIC

TRIP to LIVE: A Strategy for Reducing Child Traffic Fatalities and Injuries
Friday, August 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety

This session will provide an overview of an innovative safety initiative in European countries to reduce injuries to infants involved in roadway crashes. TRIP to LIVE is a road safety educational project in which police teach parents the correct use of child restraint systems (CRS). This initiative, organized by the EUROADS International Research Team, boosted by Autostradafacendo, the SINA (ASTM group) road safety campaign, starts with teaching future parents through awareness campaigns and is reinforced through enforcing child restraint laws with a goal of achieving Vision Zero Deaths for children in traffic crashes. The specific initiative incorporates doctors, psychologists, midwives, police officers, and road safety experts to stress the key message: “Respect the rules of the road from the very beginning.”

- Roberto Arditi - SINA s.p.a. Gruppo ASTM
Updates on Vaping and Impairment Investigations: Recent Data and Casework
Friday, August 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Toxicology
Electronic cigarette (e-cig) liquids formulations (e-liquids) have been reported to contain various solvents, such as ethanol and ethyl acetate. Data has shown that use of an ethanol containing e-liquid may result in the detection of ethanol by preliminary breath test (PBT) if no wait period is observed (>5min). Ethyl acetate is a common industrial solvent that is also used as a flavoring chemical. Ethyl acetate converts to ethanol rapidly (< 5min). Casework involving the use of an e-liquid containing ethyl acetate and the subsequent detection of ethanol by PBT (0.019%) will be discussed. An ongoing clinical study is being conducted to determine if vaping ethanol will impact pharmacokinetics (peak blood alcohol concentration, elimination) and the formation of ethanol biomarkers in blood, urine, and oral fluid that are used in clinical and forensic testing.

- Alaina Holt - Virginia Commonwealth University
- Michelle R. Peace - Virginia Commonwealth University

Driving Under the Influence of Dissociative Anesthetics: Pharmacology and Case Profiles
Friday, August 16 | 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Track: Toxicology
Dissociative anesthetics are a class of psychedelic drugs that induce a type of anesthesia characterized by catalepsy, amnesia, marked analgesia, minimal respiratory depression, and feeling of detachment from one’s environment. Phencyclidine (PCP), ketamine, and dextromethorphan belong to this class, which induce dissociative anesthetic effects via antagonism of the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor. In this workshop, attendees will learn pharmacology of main dissociative anesthetics, including chemical structures, mechanism of action, metabolism, and other pharmacokinetic parameters to be considered when evaluating the effects of the drugs during impaired driving investigations. This workshop will also cover emergence and prevalence of novel dissociative anesthetics (PCP and ketamine analogs), as well as findings from the extensive case study on PCP-positive drivers in Houston over 10 years. This workshop is supported by the SOFT/AAFS Drugs and Driving Committee.

- Salvador R. Corral - Houston Police Department
- Cassandra L. Duvall - Houston Forensic Science Center
- Dayong Lee - Houston Forensic Science Center

Establishing an In-House Phlebotomy Program for DWI Enforcement
Friday, August 16 | 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Track: Driving While Impaired (DWI) Enforcement
The purpose of this presentation will be to educate other agencies on strategies to establish an in-house phlebotomy program for DWI blood draws, funded by traffic safety grants. Attendees will learn the necessary steps to go through to locate grants through their traffic safety specialists with their local department of transportation, apply for and administer the grants, and manage a phlebotomy program.

- Daryn Briggs - Denton Police Department
- Blake Jackson - Denton Police Department

Recruiting New DREs: Improve Public Safety by Growing Your Program
Friday, August 16 | 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert
Over the last several years, the DRE community has faced a similar challenge to the policing profession as a whole: an increasing demand for services coupled with fewer officers to deliver those services. "The way we've always done it," has stopped working the way it always did. In this session, attendees will learn about talent acquisition strategies that are successful in the current recruiting environment and how to apply them to recruiting new DREs. The presenter will discuss strategies for recruiting specific individuals to become DREs, as well as increasing overall interest in impaired driving enforcement and the DEC program.

- Nathaniel Grimm - Lincoln Police Department

**Shift Work, Sleepy Driving, and the Impact on Road Safety in Policing**  
**Friday, August 16 | 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety**

The National Police Wellbeing Service (NPWS) launched in 2019 to provide support and guidance for police forces across England and Wales to improve and build organisational wellbeing. Through extensive surveys conducted by NPWS, results showed that those working in policing often experience high levels of fatigue due to excessive work hours, shift patterns, undiagnosed sleep disorders, and stress. Presenters will provide an overview of the NPWS, along with a review of survey results and ongoing projects. This workshop will highlight SleepiEst, which is a three-year research project aiming to reduce road crashes caused by sleepiness through monitoring shift-workers who drive either as part of their work, or when commuting—with the data being used to estimate and predict motorists’ fatigue levels. The overall goals are to raise awareness of the dangers of driver fatigue, introduce the audience to simple methods available to mitigate risk, and provide further information on leading strategies in this area.

- Ian Hesketh - National Police Wellbeing Service  
- Yvonne Taylor - National Police Wellbeing Service

**Why Subcategorize CNS Depressants?**  
**Friday, August 16 | 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert | Repeated Session**

The DECP category of CNS Depressants contains a diverse group of drugs with varying pharmacology profiles and distinct toxicities. While classifying these drugs as depressants defensibly encapsulates primary concerns about their effect on driving, adequately recognizing their unique symptomatology requires a more detailed understanding of subclassifications, their mechanisms of action, related toxic syndromes, and interactions with other drugs. This presentation will explore these details from the perspective of the current DECP CNS Depressant subclassifications and further elaborate on additional subclassifications, including muscle relaxers, gabapentinoids, anticonvulsants, antihistamines, and a more granular distinction between subclassifications of antidepressants. This session is intended for intermediate to advanced audiences and will be best received by participants interested in pharmacological mechanisms of action and their relationship to observable symptomatology.

- Matthew Myers - Peachtree City Police Department

**In Pursuit of Traffic Safety**  
**Saturday, August 17 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety**

The goal of this session is to unite traffic safety professionals and facilitate the exchange of knowledge regarding effective approaches to enhance road safety. This informative presentation will dive deep into the multifaceted world of traffic safety, with a focus on the intersection of impairment, drug use, and enforcement strategies.

- Jennifer Knudsen - Colorado District Attorneys’ Council  
- Bill Lindsey - Office of Prosecution Services

**Vehicle System Forensics Applications and Legal Considerations**  
**Saturday, August 17 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety**
Vehicle system forensics is the intricate process of extracting, preserving, and analyzing electronic data stored within a vehicle. In the realm of vehicle-related crimes, such as vehicular homicides, fatal hit-and-runs, and street racing offenses, investigators can find valuable information through a forensic examination of these systems. The systems most likely to be accessible, beneficial, and contain relevant data include the vehicle’s event data recorders and the infotainment and telematics systems. Modern vehicles are equipped with sophisticated computer systems that record a wealth of information. The data presents police and prosecutors with insights into a wide range of criminal offenses. Harnessing this data, however, raises significant legal and privacy concerns. This presentation will provide an overview of some of the systems investigators can explore and utilize, along with potential legal considerations.

- Linda D. Sharer - Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference
- James Williams - Metropolitan Nashville Police Department

Brazilian Police Procedures and Legislation when Handling DWI Cases
Saturday, August 17 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Driving While Impaired (DWI) Enforcement

During this session, the presenter will demonstrate how planning, training, and policing of urban traffic and highway patrol is carried out by the Military Police of Federal District (PDMF) in the Capital of Brazil, Brasília. The presenter will also discuss the implications and serious risks of motorists driving while intoxicated with alcohol and drugs.

- Olavo F. Mendonca - Military Police of Federal District

Drug Recognition Expert Testimony: Linking Investigation Clues and Cues to Driving Impairment
Saturday, August 17 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Prosecutor

During a driving under the influence (DUI) case, jury instruction typically includes: the driver was under the influence of alcohol or a drug to the extent that their normal faculties were impaired. The phrase “under the influence” means that as a result of taking a substance into the body, a person’s ability to safely operate a motor vehicle has been diminished. During the jury trial it is critical to testify not just to the facts of the case and the results of the standardized field sobriety tests, but to also articulate how those results show that a person’s ability to safely operate a motor vehicle has been diminished. This session will instruct officers, prosecutors, and toxicologists in the various techniques that have been successfully used during trials to prove this key component of any DUI case.

- Devin Chase - Orange County District Attorney's Office
- Jessica Le - Orange County District Attorney's Office

What Will the Face Sheet Look Like? A Review of Medical Impairment Cases
Saturday, August 17 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert

In this presentation, speakers will review several cases where the cause of impairment was determined to be a medical condition, many of which will highlight conditions that are not often seen in the driving population. Examples of the face sheets and notes from the evaluation for these cases will be shown and discussed. Attendees will be able to see the similarities and differences in the information recorded in the DRE report. After participating in this session, attendees will be able to take what they have learned about medical impairment to help increase confidence in determining if a case should be a medical rule-out or a drug impairment opinion.

- Frank E. Enko - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Thomas J. Morehouse, Sr. - Baltimore County Police Department

Sovereign Citizens: Dealing with them Roadside and in Court
The purpose of this presentation is to assist police and court personnel to identify different sovereign citizen groups and understand the ideology, terminology, tactics, and schemes of sovereign citizens. Presenters will review safety strategies when dealing with sovereign citizens roadside, as well as considerations for addressing the tactics of sovereign citizens in the courtroom. Lastly, the presentation will cover current trends with sovereign citizens and those who share similar ideology, including first amendment auditors and other domestic terrorist groups.

- Jon Guenberg - FBI Toledo RA-Cleveland/JTTF
- Holly Reese - Ohio Traffic Safety Office
- Elizabeth Tran - FBI Toledo RA-Cleveland/JTTF
- Sierra M. Williams - Ohio Traffic Safety Office

**You're an Expert, Why Are You So Scared?**

All experts must be qualified and tendered in court—it involves a series of questions to which you already know the answers. Why is the process so intimidating to officers? This presentation will give an overview of what should be asked, how the questions should be answered, and a demonstration of how it is done.

- Sarah Garner - NC Conference of District Attorneys
- Kyle Van Althius - NC Wildlife

**Crime and Crash Reduction through Traffic Safety: Innovative Approach Using Partnerships and Data**

The Colorado State Patrol and the Utah Highway Patrol have experienced a significant rise in traffic fatalities and crime across local communities while police staffing has diminished. This safety crisis forced leadership to take a renewed approach to allocating resources based on data and examine the collective ability to partner with one another. Agency leaders combined available data, which helped ensure troopers were in the right place at the right time to have the greatest impact on saving lives. The results have been impactful in Colorado and Utah—both states experienced historical reductions in traffic fatalities and crime from 2022 to 2023. Join leaders from Colorado and Utah to discuss these successful crime and crash reduction strategies.

- Joshua B. Downing - Colorado State Patrol
- Jeff Nigbur - Utah Highway Patrol
- Matt Ozanic - Colorado State Patrol
- Ian Whittington - Colorado State Patrol

**Decoding DRE and SFST Illusory Correlations: Refining Our Expertise**

Like mirages seen on a highway during a hot summer day, illusory correlations are beliefs and assumptions without supporting facts. Fasten your seatbelts for this rousing exploration of how to uncloud imaginary relationships that result in half-truths being spun in the halls of justice. Attendees will absorb a better understanding of how recognizing and documenting underrealized clues, cues, and indicators of impairment are essential in forming and testifying about conclusions made during impaired driving investigations.

- Chuck J. Matson - South Dakota DECP Training

**Huffing and Driving: A Bad Road Trip**

Like mirages seen on a highway during a hot summer day, illusory correlations are beliefs and assumptions without supporting facts. Fasten your seatbelts for this rousing exploration of how to uncloud imaginary relationships that result in half-truths being spun in the halls of justice. Attendees will absorb a better understanding of how recognizing and documenting underrealized clues, cues, and indicators of impairment are essential in forming and testifying about conclusions made during impaired driving investigations.
Inhalant abuse, often referred to as "huffing," involves the intentional inhalation of volatile substances to achieve a euphoric high. While the harmful effects of inhalant abuse on physical and mental health are well-documented, its impact on driving performance remains an under-reported area and is one of the least encountered DRE drug categories. This workshop will review the most common inhalants abused by drivers, potential consequences of inhalant abuse on an individual's ability to operate a motor vehicle, and the signs commonly reported by DRE's and investigating officers. These substances also present challenges to laboratories supporting the DRE program, as they rapidly enter the bloodstream and then the brain where they cause central nervous system depressant effects. The presentation will review the substances and their pharmacology, expected effects from the DRE matrix, examples of cases reported by DRE officers, and the importance of communication between the lab and investigators to ensure appropriate tests are performed.

- Barry K. Logan - NMS Labs
- Kari M. Midthun - NMS Labs
- Maggie R. Nunley - PA DUI Association

**Media and Science: Debunked Drug Myths, Untold Truths, and Data-Driven Community Responses**

Saturday, August 17 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM | Track: Toxicology

 Amid the opioid epidemic and drug overdose crisis, mainstream media broadcast headlines that elicit negative or fearful reactions and responses, accompanied by increased re-broadcast and internet sharing rates. The breaking headlines reported within 24 hours of an incident are often propagated before the results of a thorough investigation are completed. The forensic laboratory analysis and interpretation takes weeks to months to complete, depending on the complexity of the case, samples collected, and nature of the substances involved. Defensible results of an investigation are oftentimes not reported, allowing rumors and speculation to persist. Public safety and public health are jeopardized with premature and incomplete reporting. Specific cases will be analyzed from the initial headline, nature of ingestion and potential exposure, drug involved, and analytical results. Presenters will discuss responding to a toxidrome (clinical presentation), the use and limitations of drug testing equipment, best and most appropriate terminology to use, and the role of the laboratory and scientist, as well as the threat of fentanyl exposures and managing the media. The session will provide leading practices of responding to a community poisoning event, including the onsite response and investigation, evaluation of information from mainstream media and social media, and tools for critical thinking in questionable scenarios.

- Alex J. Krotulski - Center for Forensic Science Research and Education
- Amy Miles - Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
- Amanda L. Mohr - CFSRE
- Michelle R. Peace - Virginia Commonwealth University

**Navigating the High-Ways of Poly-Drugged Driving: A Growing Challenge to Roadway Safety**

Saturday, August 17 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert | Repeated Session

Driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) is not identical to "drunk driving," and can be more challenging to detect and prosecute. Impairment indicators can vary from drug to drug and driver to driver. However, DUI due to the impairing effects of drug use is just as dangerous as alcohol, if not more so. Experts agree that the DUID landscape has changed dramatically, and drivers impaired by one single drug are not as prevalent today as in the past. Today's DUID "norm" is poly-drug or poly-substance use, with drivers often impaired by two or more drugs, or drugs used in combination with alcohol. This alarming trend is making roadside detection, arrests, toxicology analyses, and prosecution difficult, and has a dangerous impact on roadways. This workshop will address the current and evolving trends of poly-drugged driving and focus on how police can use their training to identify and take appropriate action when encountering a suspected poly-drug driver.

- Chuck Hayes - International Association of Chiefs of Police (Retired)
The Klawitter Decision 30 Years Later: How Minnesota has Kept its North Star
Saturday, August 17 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM | Track: Prosecutor

On June 30, 2024, State of Minnesota v. Klawitter turned 30-years old. The Klawitter decision was the first state supreme court case to address the admissibility of the DRE program, holding that DRE testimony was not subject to the Frye/Daubert standard and is admissible as expert testimony subject to proper foundation. This presentation will provide a brief overview of how the Klawitter decision came to be, its holding and significance to the field. This presentation will further provide an overview of what the State of Minnesota has done to keep the North Star of the DEC program in the years since by discussing training, education, legislation, and subsequent court decisions, as well as collaborations between prosecutors, police, and the toxicology lab in drugged driving prosecutions.

- David Bernstein - Minneapolis City Attorney's Office
- Michael J. Hanson - Minnesota DPS Office of Traffic Safety
- Karen S. Mara - City of Minneapolis
- Tyler J. Milless - Minnesota State Patrol

Why Subcategorize CNS Depressants?
Saturday, August 17 | 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert | Repeated Session

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- Matthew Myers - Peachtree City Police Department

Grabbing at Smoke: Proving Cannabis-Impaired Driving
Saturday, August 17 | 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM | Track: Prosecutor

Cannabis cases are among the most difficult to try in court. Judges are familiar with horizontal gaze nystagmus tests and blood alcohol content measurements; however, it is difficult to convey the same information regarding cannabis-impaired driving cases. This presentation will offer strategies on how to boost an investigation and prosecution to succeed in court with a cannabis-impaired driving case.

- Sarah Garner - NC Conference of District Attorneys
- Kyle Van Althius - NC Wildlife

Instructor Development: Understanding Knowledge Acquisition
Saturday, August 17 | 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert | Repeated Session

Knowledge retention is critical when training police in skills such as impaired driving identification. This presentation uses mind, brain, and education (MBE) science principles to walk participants through cutting-edge research on adult learning and how this translates to the classroom using evidence-based learning concepts. Participants will learn effective ways to engage learners, such as utilizing scaffolded learning and multi modal strategies. Recent advancements in understanding the brain’s role in learning allow for evolution in instruction, especially as comprehension continues to
change later in life. Based on these new findings, examples of ways to enhance learning will be shared with participants. Using the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework, participants will be shown how to teach to all students most effectively.

- Christine Frank - National Highway Traffic Safety Association

**Leadership in the Modern Era of Policing**
Saturday, August 17 | 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM | Track: Leadership

Lack of supportive leadership in the police profession has led to turnover, staffing shortages, and low job satisfaction. The staffing crisis will not last forever, and police must position themselves to build sustainable leadership strategies by focusing on why officers joined the profession. Inspirational leaders inspire more leaders. Attendees will learn how to identify leadership at every level of the organization and support agency culture. The presenter will share characteristics of organizations which attract quality applicants and strategies to help retain personnel.

- Don Shepard - Peculiar Police Department

**Officer Down: Examining Officer-Involved Collisions Resulting from the Downside of Stimulants**
Saturday, August 17 | 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert

During this course attendees will be presented with case studies involving collisions where a police officer was injured or killed by a driver experiencing impairment from the downside of a CNS stimulant. Attendees will gain a better understanding of what to expect when presented by a driver who is impaired from the downside effect of a CNS stimulant. A comparison using the drug influence matrix will highlight the signs and symptoms found when a subject is on the downside of a CNS stimulant, with the expected signs and symptoms of a CNS stimulant and a narcotic analgesic.

- Nickolas G. OBryant - Oklahoma City Police Department

**Street Racing: Plan, Enforce, Investigate**
Saturday, August 17 | 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety

Learn how one police agency is combating the increasing dangers of street racing through intelligence gathering, effective enforcement tactics, and thorough post-enforcement investigative methods to give prosecutors a solid case. Attendees will learn how to conduct safe and effective enforcement related to street racing and other associated crimes throughout a jurisdiction. The presenter will identify trends in the street racing culture and prepare attendees to use this information during prosecution.

- Matt Barker - City of Tempe Police Department

**A Wild Ride: Psychedelics and Impaired Driving**
Sunday, August 18 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM | Track: Toxicology

Hallucinogens such as psilocybin, LSD, and MDMA have recently garnered research and media attention as potential therapies for depression, PTSD, and other psychological disorders. Some jurisdictions in the United States, including Oregon and Colorado, have decriminalized psilocybin and other natural hallucinogens, such as mescaline and dimethyltryptamine (DMT). In 2021 and 2022, crime laboratories observed significant increases in psilocybin/psilocin drug seizure submissions. However, due to historically low prevalence and challenges in toxicology testing, involvement of psychedelics in impaired driving may be difficult to identify. The relevance, pharmacology, and potential impact of hallucinogens on traffic safety will be presented and explored. This workshop is supported by the SOFT-AAFS Drugs and Driving Committee.

- Nick B. Tiscione - Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office
- H. Chip Walls - Forensic Analytical and Clinical Toxicology
Decoding DRE and SFST Illusory Correlations: Refining Our Expertise
Sunday, August 18 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert | Repeated Session

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- Chuck J. Matson - South Dakota DECP Training

Huffing and Driving: A Bad Road Trip
Sunday, August 18 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM | Track: Toxicology | Repeated Session

Inhalant abuse, often referred to as "huffing," involves the intentional inhalation of volatile substances to achieve a euphoric high. While the harmful effects of inhalant abuse on physical and mental health are well-documented, its impact on driving performance remains an under-reported area and is one of the least encountered DRE drug categories. This workshop will review the most common inhalants abused by drivers, potential consequences of inhalant abuse on an individual's ability to operate a motor vehicle, and the signs commonly reported by DRE's and investigating officers. These substances also present challenges to laboratories supporting the DRE program, as they rapidly enter the bloodstream and then the brain where they cause central nervous system depressant effects. The presentation will review the substances and their pharmacology, expected effects from the DRE matrix, examples of cases reported by DRE officers, and the importance of communication between the lab and investigators to ensure appropriate tests are performed.

- Barry K. Logan - NMS Labs
- Kari M. Midthun - NMS Labs
- Maggie R. Nunley - PA DUI Association

Managing an Epidemic of Wrong-Way Drivers
Sunday, August 18 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety | Speaker Series

The Utah Highway Patrol has seen a significant increase in wrong-way drivers over the last several years. Many of these incidents end in tragedy—with the loss of life, significant injuries, or a significant amount of vehicle damage. In the most severe wrong-way crashes, drivers are more likely to be extremely impaired with alcohol, drugs, and or poly substances. The Utah Highway Patrol and other stakeholders have identified progressive ways to interdict wrong-way drivers through intercept techniques and by utilizing technology. Attendees will learn leading practices and effective strategies to safely stop wrong-way drivers.

- Jeff Nigbur - Utah Highway Patrol
- Mike Rapich - Utah Highway Patrol

Navigating the High-Ways of Poly-Drugged Driving: A Growing Challenge to Roadway Safety
Sunday, August 18 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert | Repeated Session

Driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) is not identical to "drunk driving," and can be more challenging to detect and prosecute. Impairment indicators can vary from drug to drug and driver to driver. However, DUI due to the impairing effects of drug use is just as dangerous as alcohol, if not more so. Experts agree that the DUID landscape has changed dramatically, and drivers impaired by one single drug are not as prevalent today as in the past. Today's DUID "norm" is poly-drug or poly-substance use, with drivers often impaired by two or more drugs, or drugs used in combination with alcohol. This alarming trend is making roadside detection, arrests, toxicology analyses, and prosecution difficult, and has a dangerous impact on roadways. This workshop will address the
current and evolving trends of poly-drugged driving and focus on how police can use their training to identify and take appropriate action when encountering a suspected poly-drug driver.

- Chuck Hayes - International Association of Chiefs of Police (Retired)

No Stone Unturned: Using a DRE and a Collaborative Approach to Fatal Crash Investigations
Sunday, August 18 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert

This workshop is designed to help officers fully utilize their basic training in DUI and crash investigations—from breaking down drink purchases into servings of alcohol, to looking into all possible defenses and evaluating causational factors of a collision with a collaborative approach. Chargeable fatality collisions are a lot of work; however, collaboration with experts such as DREs, detectives specializing in alcohol crimes, or collision reconstructionists can break down investigations into manageable tasks for a primary investigator. Presenters will highlight a case study which utilized the above methodology and had a lasting impact in the crash investigation community in Idaho for the last four years.

- Allen B. Ashby - Idaho State Police
- Nick Knoll - Coeur D’Alene Police Department
- Troy Tulleners - Idaho State Police

Instructor Development: Understanding Knowledge Acquisition
Sunday, August 18 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert | Repeated Session

Knowledge retention is critical when training police in skills such as impaired driving identification. This presentation uses mind, brain, and education (MBE) science principles to walk participants through cutting-edge research on adult learning and how this translates to the classroom using evidence-based learning concepts. Participants will learn effective ways to engage learners, such as utilizing scaffolded learning and multi modal strategies. Recent advancements in understanding the brain’s role in learning allow for evolution in instruction, especially as comprehension continues to change later in life. Based on these new findings, examples of ways to enhance learning will be shared with participants. Using the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework, participants will be shown how to teach to all students most effectively.

- Christine Frank - National Highway Traffic Safety Association

Making a 100-Proof DWI Case
Sunday, August 18 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Driving While Impaired (DWI) Enforcement

Tired of prosecutors not filing your cases? This presentation will help officers overcome common mistakes during a driving-while-intoxicated investigation. From the perspective of a veteran prosecutor and experienced DRE, attendees will learn what is expected if a case goes in front of a jury and the steps that can be taken to make a case 100-proof.

- Marylyn Dickens - Missouri State Highway Patrol
- Stephanie Watson - Missouri Office of Prosecution Services

Merging Traffic Safety with Community Engagement: Procedural Justice and Equity in Traffic Stops
Sunday, August 18 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety

Traffic safety and enforcement have become central to community engagement and building trust. Agencies must strike a balance between enforcing traffic laws, maintaining public safety, and effective, safe, and transparent engagement with the community during stops. Panelists will discuss the four tenets of procedural justice and equity, and how to apply them in the context of a traffic stop based on a newly developed IACP course through Elevate Blue: Essential Training for Law Enforcement, a no-cost virtual training suite available for agencies.
Micro-Dosing and Xylazine—Trends that have Changed Our Roadways
Sunday, August 18 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert

From celebrities to influencers, individuals from all walks of life are talking about their experiences with micro-dosing. Additionally, as Xylazine becomes more prevalent, there are several misconceptions regarding its effects on the human body. During this session, attendees will learn what micro-dosing and Xylazine are and how these effect people, specifically behind the wheel of a motor vehicle.

- Aaron Bommersbach - Minnesota State Patrol
- Tyler J. Milless - Minnesota State Patrol

The Use of a DRE in Therapeutic DUI Courts
Sunday, August 18 | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Track: Prosecutor

This presentation will discuss the value of having a DRE as part of a therapeutic DUI court team. Attendees will learn the value of having the expertise of a DRE in court staffing meetings prior to court, as well as during court when participants often show up to court after using or relapsing. Identifying the use or relapse early on could mean the difference of success and failure by DUI court participants. The DRE can easily identify when an offender switches from one drug to another and can better understand an offender who is struggling with their substance use disorder. DREs have the training and experience to hold participants accountable and identify when they need additional help. Presenters will highlight how the use of a DRE in a therapeutic DUI court has led to lower recidivism rates.

- Joni M. Morse - City of Spokane Municipal Court Prosecutor
- Kristin O'Sullivan - City of Spokane Municipal Court
- Mike L. Thomas - City of Spokane Police Department

Explore the Role of a DRE Outside of Impaired Operation Investigations
Sunday, August 18 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert

This dynamic presentation will provide DREs and police executives with the tools necessary to deploy DREs into the community for a multitude of reasons outside of drug-impaired operation investigations. Attendees will learn how a DRE can build relationships with community partners through education in schools, as well as collaborating with care providers and community stakeholders.

- Peter J. Buck - Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee/Town of Petersham

Principles of Cross Examination
Sunday, August 18 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Prosecutor

Testifying in court can be intimidating for a young officer. This session will provide tips to feel comfortable and confident during cross examination and identify different types of cross examination techniques. This session is uniquely taught from both the police and defense perspectives.

- JJ Evans - Integrated Impaired Driving Solutions
- David D. Kopenhaver - Integrated Impaired Driving Solutions

Use of Mandatory Alcohol Screening in Alberta, Canada
Sunday, August 18 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Driving While Impaired (DWI) Enforcement

Presentation will highlight details about mandatory alcohol screenings (MAS) and how it was established in Canada. Speakers will share implementation strategies, along with successes and challenges. The presentation will cover Alberta RCMP traffic enforcement, bias versus non-bias, and
plans for next steps in using MAS. Additionally, Alberta has implemented a provincial administrative process to sanction impaired drivers, which also diverts lengthy court cases out of the criminal courts. Discussion will include the process, successes, and challenges related to this administrative impaired driving program.

- Tyler Dunn - Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Chris Romanchych - Royal Canadian Mounted Police

**The Evidential Oral Fluid Testing Program in New York State**

*Sunday, August 18 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Toxicology*

The use of oral fluid as a specimen for DUID testing is growing in popularity. It can be very useful in DUID investigations, especially when blood samples are difficult to obtain due to limited resources for blood draws or subject refusals. In 2023, the New York State Police (NYSP) Crime Laboratory Toxicology Section completed the validation of methods for evidential oral fluid testing and launched the evidential collection program with the NYSP Drug Recognition Experts. The method development and validation process in the laboratory will be presented along with results of paired oral fluid and blood cases. Presenters will share perspectives gained by the DREs collecting oral fluid samples, including the successes and challenges which are unique to this sample type, as well as how testimony for cases involving oral fluid and blood samples may present certain challenges for the toxicologist, DRE, and prosecutor.

- Seth Tracy - New York State Police
- Joseph A. Turoski - New York State Police

**You're an Expert, Why Are You So Scared?**

*Sunday, August 18 | 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert | Repeated Session*

All experts must be qualified and tendered in court—it involves a series of questions to which you already know the answers. Why is the process so intimidating to officers? This presentation will give an overview of what should be asked, how the questions should be answered, and a demonstration of how it is done.

- Sarah Garner - NC Conference of District Attorneys
- Kyle Van Althius - NC Wildlife

**Go Viral! Amplify Your Traffic Safety Message**

*Sunday, August 18 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety*

In this workshop, participants will learn strategies for transforming an organization's safety outreach methods to yield tangible results and create lasting impact. Presenters will highlight effective campaign creation—setting a target audience and outreach goals early and then driving action through the words and images chosen. Attendees will discover methods to gain buy-in and learn about the newest trends to build a community of advocates and message multipliers. Presenters will share emerging digital trends, merging website content, social content, and email blasts to create a powerhouse messaging schedule. Attendees from agencies of all types and sizes will have the opportunity to create an action plan to bring back to their leadership to assist in implementation.

- Travis Plotzer - Tennessee Highway Patrol
- Sherri-Jo Stowell - National Information Officers Association, Aurora, CO

**Physiological and Psychomotor Changes Associated with Cannabis and the Implications for Detection**

*Sunday, August 18 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM | Track: Drug Recognition Expert | Speaker Series*

Adult cannabis use is increasing, for both therapeutic and recreational reasons, as is the use of cannabis before or during driving. There are several emerging technological approaches that hold promise for non-invasive, portable, and reliable detection of acute cannabis use, including
detection at the roadside. These approaches include psychomotor and cognitive assessments, as well as ocular assessments, such as changes to pupils and other eye movements. Panelists will review the foundational evidence for these technologies, present data from current laboratory tests of a selection of examples of the devices and approaches, and discuss how these results are relevant for impaired driving.

- Ashley Brooks-Russell - University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
- Timothy L. Brown - Driving Safety Research Institute, University of Iowa
- Karl Citek - Pacific University College of Optometry
- Matthew Myers - Peachtree City Police Department

Teen Target Zero—A Holistic Approach to Teen Driving Safety
Sunday, August 18 | 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM | Track: Roadway and Traffic Safety

When E15-minutes was first introduced to the United States, there was little information provided regarding guidance for DUI prevention strategies and teen safe driver outreach. As time passed, evidence showed that there are better ways to reach the targeted teen audience. Washington state police agencies collaborated with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to create a program that shows increases in knowledge, confidence in intervention, and awareness of state laws. This new program covers seatbelt safety, distracted driving, and drug-impaired driving. Each section includes an interactive approach, facts from local traffic crashes, and tips for success. By focusing on social ecology, presenters will highlight how this program takes a more holistic approach to reaching the youth population.

- Jeffrey Cobb - Pasco Police Department