



Drug Facilitated Crime and Forensic Science

This presentation will summarise the investigation of drug facilitated crime from a forensic toxicology perspective. It will outline the most common types of samples used for analysis (e.g. blood, urine, hair); the different evidence that each provides and explain why various information is required to interpret results. The presentation will also outline the various drugs, or drug types, associated with this crime and provide examples from casework.

Dr Fiona Perry

I am currently employed by LGC Forensics (since 2012) as a forensic toxicologist and was previously employed by The Forensic Science Service, London Laboratory, for 15 years. During this time, I have prepared a large number of forensic toxicology reports in various crime types such as murders, GBH, rapes and sexual assaults. One particular area of interest is Drug Facilitated Crime (DFC), both in drug detection improvement and recognition of the varying drugs encountered. I was a published author on the toxicological findings in Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) cases analysed over a 3-year period at The Forensic Science Service and have presented both this study and a more recent similar study from cases at LGC at conferences. I have contributed in an advisory capacity to various formats and am a participant of the UK Forensic Science Subcommittee.

Learning Objectives

- Have an understanding of the drugs and drug types associated with drug facilitated crime.
- Know which samples to take for toxicology analysis and the advantages of each type.
- Gain an understanding of the information required to assist interpretation.

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This presentation will cover:

- FFLM recommendations and reminders of the changes in guidance over the last two years;
- Common errors in relation to cross contamination in the medical examination room;
- The unsampled areas of the body for forensic consideration;
- Time Since Intercourse Assessment and how new DNA techniques have impacted on findings.

Mary Newton

Mary worked as an operational forensic biologist from 1979 for both the Metropolitan police and the Forensic Science Service. She worked on both live and cold cases and the set-up of the National DNA Database in the UK.

She is an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine and an Honorary Advisor to the UKAFN.

Mary is currently an Independent National Forensic Advisor and Trainer for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences. Since July 2012, she has supported the Forensic Regulator as a Specialist Forensic Advisor on SARCs and Forensic Medical Examinations. In 2016 she had a chapter published on Forensic Science in Sexual Crime in "Witness Testimony in Sexual Cases". Mary this year has inspected SARCs in the South West of England at the invitation of the NHS advising on their conformance to the interim anti-contamination standards published by the Forensic Regulators office in 2017.

Learning Objectives

- Approaching forensic sampling in a holistic manner .
- How to minimise the potential of cross contamination happening during a forensic medical examination.
- Gain some up to date information on DNA techniques used by the Forensic Labs currently

