

# Curriculum Vitae

Michael J. Spence, Ph.D.

Forensic DNA Consultant-Spence Forensic Resources

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## Educational Background:

<u>Institute and location</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Conferred</u>	<u>Field of Study</u>
New Mexico State University Las Cruces, New Mexico	Ph.D.	Dec., 1990	Molecular Biology
University of Texas El Paso El Paso, Texas	M. S.	Dec., 1985	Applied Microbiology
University of Texas El Paso El Paso, Texas	B. S.	Aug., 1983	Applied Microbiology

## Professional Experience in Forensic Biology:

2/08-Present: Forensic DNA Consultant, Spence Forensic Resources, Las Cruces, NM

6/07-2/08: Technical Manager, Forensic Testing Laboratories, Las Cruces, NM

5/03-5/07: Forensic Biologist, Indiana State Police, Evansville Regional Laboratory

## Summary of Forensic Training:

- **Spence Forensic Resources (SFR)**: Founded forensic biology/DNA consulting company. SFR provides a range of services including examination of case reports and all supporting documentation, as well as consulting and expert witness testimony at criminal case hearings, depositions, and trials.
- **Forensic Testing Laboratories**: Development of a Quality Assurance Policy in preparation for a pending accreditation process with FQS-I assessors. Design and validation of Standard Operating Procedures and worksheets for documentation of Chain of Custody, Evidence Screening, DNA extraction/purification, real-time PCR quantification, STR-based DNA typing, statistical data interpretation, case report writing, and case review. Preparation of Forensic Biologist training manuals, including a strategy for competency/proficiency testing. Interviewing prospective new employees. Work with local law enforcement investigators on preliminary, non-probative cases.
- Applied Biosystems Instrument Training-3130 Capillary Electrophoresis, 7500 Real-Time PCR and newly released Quantifiler Duo DNA Quantification System, January 28-29, 2008.
- Promega Corporation demonstration and training on the use of PlexorHY Real-Time PCR Quantification System, February 1-2, 2008

- **Indiana State Police Laboratory:** Evidence Screening/DNA Proficiency Training Program. Training included the following: chain of custody, evidence handling and screening for biological material, presumptive and confirmatory testing for blood, semen, saliva, human origin testing, comparative hair analysis, DNA extraction and purification, slot blot-based and real-time PCR-based DNA quantification systems, Promega PowerPlex16-based typing of DNA, statistical assessment of single-source and mixture DNA profiles. Training and mock cases were used to emphasize preparation for courtroom testimony. Case report writing and technical review of reports prepared by associated forensic biologists.
- Indiana State Police proficiency training-Applied Biosystems Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction Process, completed December, 2006
- Training on the use of a newly developed Lab Information Management System, Sept. 2006
- Federal Bureau of Investigation DNA Auditing Training Workshop and Certification, Fredericksburg, VA, July 2006
- Bode Technology Workshop: Advances in Human Identification, San Diego, CA, April 2006
- SPEX Forensics Alternate Light Source Crime Scope Training, November 2005
- ABI Training for Capillary Electrophoresis and Real-Time PCR Processes, August 2005
- Statistics-Forensic Biology Applications Training, November 2004
- Statistics Workshop presented by Charles Brenner, Ph.D., March 2004
- **Auditor-National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC):** June 2008 through May 2009. Assisted with assessment of DNA labs at the following locations: Texas DPS Crime Lab-Austin; TX, Fort Worth PD Crime Lab; Univ. of North Texas-Center for Human Identification; Tarrant Co. Medical Examiner; Baltimore City PD. Crime Lab; Kansas City PD Crime Lab; Florida Department of Law Enforcement Regional Labs Tampa/Orlando, FL; Lab Corp Burlington, NC; North Carolina Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety, Raleigh, NC.

### **Technical Review of DNA Cases and Recent Notable Case Successes:**

**Estimated total number of case reviews for either the prosecution or the defense:** 450+

**State of New Mexico v. Juantio Becenti, November 28, 2008 testimony, Aztec, NM:** Counsel for prosecution withdrew from the case prior to jury deliberation.

**State of Maryland v. Larry Wooden, March 3, 2009 trial, Baltimore, MD:** Counsel for prosecution decided to eliminate all biological/DNA aspects of the case. Defendant was subsequently found not guilty of first and second degree murder. Jury found defendant guilty of gun possession.

**U.S.A. v. Seth Hornedeagle, April 9, 2009 testimony in U.S. Federal Court, Las Cruces, NM:** Defendant found not guilty on all counts and immediately released.

**State of New Mexico v. Fernando Coyazo, May 8, 2009 testimony, Alamogordo, NM:** Defendant was found not guilty on all counts and immediately released.

**State of Maryland v. Gary Leon Holloway, March 9, 2010 trial, Frederick, MD:** Attempted homicide case was dismissed due to questionable eye witnesses and misinterpretation of DNA results.

**State of New Mexico v. Danny Rascon, June 18, 2010 testimony, Alamogordo, NM:** Defendant was found not guilty on all counts and released.

**U.S.A. v. Theodore Largo, July 28, 2010 testimony in U.S. Federal Court, Albuquerque, NM:** Defendant found not guilty on all counts and immediately released.

**State of Maryland v. Alonzo Jay King, Jr., September 27, 2011 trial, Baltimore, MD:** Defendant found not guilty on all counts and immediately released.

## **Expert Witness Experience:**

**Testimony in a total of 38 criminal proceedings.**

**Testimony at 16 trials, all for the prosecution:** All occurring in the state of Indiana.

**Testimony at 22 additional proceedings, all for the defense:** Fourteen trials in New Mexico (10/28/2008, 04/08/2009, 04/09/2009, 05/08/2009, 07/17/2009, 08/05/2009, 05/27/10, 06/18/10, 07/28/10, 08/06/10, 01/20/11, 04/20/11, 08/10/11, 11/16/11); Two Daubert hearings in New Mexico (05/11/2010, 01/13/11); Three trials in Texas (10/06/2008, 03/03/2010, and 08/04/11); Two trials in Maryland (03/31/2009, 10/07/11); One hearing in Arizona, (07/12/11).

## **Crime Laboratory Examinations: Evidence Screening and DNA Case Analysis:**

Over 100 cases completed. Note: Dr. Spence is no longer active as a Forensic Biology Analyst.

## **DNA Expert Guest Appearances on *News New Mexico*-Statewide radio broadcasts:**

2011-Four appearances. Link to News New Mexico website: <http://newsnm.com/>

## **Professional Experience in Research:**

12/94-4/03: **Assistant Scientist, Boise V.A. Medical Center, Boise, Idaho.**

**Summary of research:** Postdoctoral Research Assistant. Secured funding for a five-year independent research project focusing on oncostatin M (OSM). OSM is an anti-cancer cytokine produced by activated T-lymphocytes, monocytes, and macrophages.

1/91-11/94: **Postdoctoral Research Assistant, University of Vermont School of Medicine, Department of Molecular Genetics, Burlington, Vermont.**

**Summary of research:** Mammalian cell molecular genetic studies focusing on protein processing.

## **Teaching Experience:**

December 2006: **Visiting Presentation: Southern Indiana Technology Career Training Center.** Provided forensic biology presentations to two classes composed of approximately sixty junior/senior level high school students.

February 2006: **Visiting Presentation: Riley Children's Hospital of Indianapolis.** Provided a training presentation to twenty-five sexual assault nurse examiners. Discussion focused on optimal collection and preservation of evidence associated with sexual assault kits. The presentation also summarized the state of advancing technologies in evidence screening and DNA typing.

Fall 2002 Semester: **Adjunct Faculty Instructor: Boise State University.** Worked on a team-taught course organized by Dr. Cheryl Jorcyk, Department of Biology, Boise State University. This course was entitled: Introduction to Bioinformatics. Presented a section entitled: "Data Mining: DNA Microarrays & Cluster Analysis".

Spring 1993 Semester: **Postdoctoral Teaching Assistant, Univ. of Vermont Dept. of Molecular Genetics.** Participated in teaching a graduate course in Mammalian Cell Molecular Genetics.

8/88-5/90: **Doctoral Teaching Assistant, Department of Biology, New Mexico St. University.** Two semesters teaching Cell Physiology Lab, one semester General Biology Lab.

8/83-12/85: **Master's Teaching Assistant, Department of Biology, Univ. of Texas at El Paso.** Five semesters teaching General Biology Labs.

## REFERENCES

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