

**KING'S FORENSICS SYMPOSIUM 2025:**

# **Stronger Science for a Fairer Society**

Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 April 2025  
Bush House, Strand, London

**Agenda**


# King's Forensics Symposium 2025: Stronger Science for a Fairer Society

**DAY ONE: Monday 28 April 2025** VENUE: **Bush House, King's College London**


08:30 **Registration & Poster set up, Welcome & Refreshments**

09:15 **Welcome, introduction to King's College London: Prof Shitij Kapur, Vice Chancellor & President, King's College London**  
**Introduction to King's Forensics & Symposium 2025: Prof Kim Wolff, MBE, Director, King's Forensics, King's College London (Chair)**

## AM-1 session Plenary 1

09:30	 <b>Anti-Doping Science</b>	<b>Keynote: Prof Olivier Rabin, Senior Director</b> , Science and Medicine, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) – Challenges of detecting cheating in elite sport: the role of analytical evidence.
10:20		<b>Prof Mario Tevis, Professor of Preventive Doping Research</b> , Laboratory Director, Cologne Sports Testing Lab, German Sport University Cologne – Analytical approaches for the detection of emerging therapeutics and non-approved drugs in human sports testing.
10:40		<b>Dr Corinne Buisson, R&amp;D Lead</b> , Paris-Saclay, Laboratoire AntiDopage Français (LADF) – Innovations for testing: lessons learnt from Paris 2024 and future directions.
11:00		<b>Dr Rosa Ventura, Director Catalanian Antidoping Laboratory</b> , Fundació Institut Hospital del Mar d'Investigacions Mèdiques (IMIM), Barcelona – The development of DBS as a tool for detecting doping in human sports testing.
11:20		<b>Dr Jayasena Channa, Reader in Reproductive Endocrinology, Consultant FRCP; Dr Bonnie Grant, Clinical Research Fellow</b> , Imperial College London; <b>Dr Rodrigo Aguilera, Principal Analyst</b> , Drug Control Centre, King's Forensics – What we can learn from a community population of steroid users to aid doping control?
11:40	<b>Refreshment/Comfort break</b>	

## AM-2 session Plenary 2

11:55	 <b>Forensic &amp; Analytical Science</b>	<b>Dr Vincenzo Abbate, Reader in Bioanalysis</b> , King's Forensics (Chair)
12:00		<b>Keynote: Prof Jan Ramaekers, Professor of Psychopharmacology and Behavioural Toxicology</b> , Maastricht University – Effect of cannabidiol and $\Delta^9$ – tetrahydrocannabinol on driving performance.
12:20		<b>Prof Kim Wolff, Professor of Analytical, Forensic &amp; Addiction Science, Director</b> , King's Forensics – Drug driving: the case against nitrous oxide.
12:40		<b>Prof Christophe Stove, Professor of Bioanalysis</b> , Ghent University – Blood microsampling and dried blood spots (DBS) as a more accurate means to detect drug use/misuse than traditional methods such as urinalysis.
13:00	<b>Lunch/Networking/Sponsors: Viewing &amp; Judging Posters</b>	

## PM-1 session Plenary 3

14:00	 <b>International Forensics</b>	<b>Welcome: Prof Funmi Oloisakin Vice President</b> , International Engagement, King's College London <b>Prof Denise Syndercombe Court, Professor of Forensic Genetics, Head of DNA@King's</b> , King's Forensics (Chair)
14:10		<b>Prof Denise Syndercombe Court, Professor of Forensic Genetics</b> , King's Forensics – Genetic investigations of sexual exploitation in developing nations (International Sexual Exploitation of Children: Action).
14:30		<b>James Netto, Solicitor Advocate, Partner</b> , The International Family Law Group LLP, <b>Visiting Senior Researcher</b> King's Forensics – Sexual abuse in the aid sector: legal challenges.
14:50		<b>Prof Gillian Tully, CBE, Professor of Practice for Forensic Science Policy &amp; Regulation</b> , King's Forensics – Improving the contribution of forensic science to the investigation of sexual violence: an evidence-based approach.
15:10		<b>Tracy Alexander, FKC, Director Forensic Science Services</b> , City of London Police – What can forensic science offer to help address the illegal wildlife trade?
15:30		<b>Keynote: Dr Shiquan Liu, Executive Director</b> , National Forensic Evidence Analysis Centre, Institute of Forensic Science, Fudan University, Shanghai, China – Solving cold cases with forensic evidence: working with forensic evidence analysis.
16:15	<b>Refreshment/Comfort break</b>	

## PM-2 session

16:30	<b>Research Lightning talks: King's Forensics Research Showcase – Dr David Ballard (Adjudicator), Senior Lecturer Forensic Genomics, King's Forensics</b>
	Individual PhD students presenting work: Lauren Woodcock, Alvaro Varela Morillas, Maxine Den Hartog, Chen Shuangqing, Jana Liechti, Katie Lawlor, Ye Jee Roh, Somruetai Satmun, Anca Frinculescu, Eman Mshari, Anita Tarnoska, Daria Chodaczek <b>Judges: Prof Atholl Johnston, Dr Shobha Ahi, Dr Erika Castrignano, Visiting Prof Simon Elliott</b>
17:50	<b>Poster exhibition and drinks reception open to all attending 8th Floor, Bush House</b>
19:00	<b>Speakers Symposium Dinner, River Room, Strand, London</b> <b>Pre-dinner guest speaker: Mr Douglas McKenna, Former SIO, Counter Terrorism, London Metropolitan Police – The importance of forensic evidence in counter terrorism.</b>

# King's Forensics Symposium 2025: Stronger Science for a Fairer Society

**DAY TWO: Tuesday 29 April 2025** VENUE: **Bush House, King's College London**

09:00	<b>Registration: Welcome Refreshments</b>	
09:30	<b>Introduction of Day Two Symposium: Prof Graham Lord, Senior Vice President Health &amp; Life Sciences, King's College London; Executive Director, King's Health Partners and Chief Academic Officer, Guy's &amp; St Thomas' and King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts.</b>	
09:40	<b>Welcome: Prof Gillian Tully, CBE, Professor of Practice for Forensic Science Policy and Regulation, King's Forensics (Chair)</b>	
<b>AM-1 session Plenary 4</b>		
09:45	 <b>Forensic Policy &amp; Regulation</b>	<b>Alex MacDonald, Data and Identity Directorate, UK Home Office</b> – What next for forensic science policy?
10:05		<b>Dr Mark Pearse, Director, Eurofins Forensic Services (UK)</b> – How can a dominant market provider contribute to a vibrant forensic science research and practice environment?
10:30		<b>Dr Reuben Moreton, RELI-ID Ltd</b> – Policy and regulatory considerations for use of AI in forensic facial identification.
10:50		<b>Keynote: Chief Constable Rachel Swann, QPM, Derbyshire Constabulary</b> – How can science contribute to making society safer? A law enforcement perspective.
11:20	<b>Refreshment/Comfort break</b>	
<b>AM-2 session Plenary 5</b>		
11:35	 <b>Forensic Genetics</b>	<b>Dr David Ballard, Senior Lecturer in Forensic Genomics, King's Forensics (Chair)</b>
11:40		<b>Keynote: Prof Titia Sijen, Professor of Forensic Human Biology, Swammerdam Institute for Life Sciences (SILS), University of Amsterdam (UvA)</b> – A decade journey of applying mRNA typing in forensic casework.
12:25		<b>Dr Lucinda Davenport, Postdoctoral Researcher, King's Forensics</b> – Application of digital PCR technology as a novel approach to forensically relevant questions.
12:45		<b>Dr Federica Giangasparo, Forensic Scientist, King's Forensics</b> – The use of canine DNA for breed identification.
13:00	<b>Lunch/Networking/Sponsors: Viewing &amp; Judging Posters</b> <b>Judges: Prof Atholl Johnston, Dr Shobha Ahi, Dr Erika Castrignano, Visiting Prof Simon Elliott</b>	
<b>AM-2 session Plenary 6</b>		
14:00	 <b>Forensic Traces</b>	<b>Dr Nunzianda Frascione, Senior Lecturer in Forensic Science and Dr Matteo Gallidabino, Lecturer in Forensic Chemistry, King's Forensics (Chairs)</b>
14:05		<b>Keynote: Dr Sheila Willis, Hon Prof and Fellow of Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science, University Dundee</b> – Repurposing forensic science through the Sydney Declaration.
14:40		<b>Dr Matteo Donghi, Head of Ballistics, Arma dei Carabinieri, RIS Parma</b> – Innovative approaches to gunshot residue analysis: enhancing detection and quantification for forensic applications.
15:00		<b>Prof Pierre Esseiva, School of Criminal Justice, University of Lausanne (UNIL)</b> – Decentralisation of forensic capabilities and broadening access to tools to equip law enforcement with the technical capability to detect illicit drugs in the field in real time.
15:20	<b>Refreshment/Comfort break</b>	
15:35	<b>Poster &amp; Lightning Talk Prize giving: Executive Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences &amp; Medicine, James Black Professor of Medicine &amp; BHF Professor of Cardiology, Prof Ajay Shah</b>	
15:45	<b>Introduction: Professor Ajay Shah, MD, FMedSci, FKC, Executive Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences &amp; Medicine, King's College London</b>	
<b>PM-2 session Plenary 7</b>		
15:50	<b>Keynote: Chi Onuworah, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee</b> – How can Parliament support best use of science for a fairer society?	
16:40	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <b>Moderator: Prof Gillian Tully CBE, Professor of Practice for Forensic Science Policy &amp; Regulation, King's Forensics</b> <b>Panel: Jessica Toale, Member of Parliament; Carolyn Lovell, Office of the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Police; James Netto, Solicitor Advocate and Partner, The International Family Law Group LLP; Dr Sheila Willis, Hon Professor and Fellow of Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science; Dr Mark Pearse, Director, Eurofins Forensic Services (UK)</b>	
17:20	<b>Thank you: Prof Kim Wolff, MBE, Director King's Forensics, King's College London</b>	
17:30	<b>CLOSE DAY TWO</b>	