

Portland Section Meeting Notice

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February 2026

Forensics: Operating at the intersection of scientific principles, human nature and law

a talk by

Liz Flannery and Jon Dyer
OSP Forensic Services Division

Thursday February 12, 2026, 6-9pm

Leikam Brewing
5812 E Burnside St
Portland, OR 97215

Dinner Reservations

Reserve your dinner for \$25/person (\$15 for undergraduate students, high school teachers, unemployed members). \$5 added for tickets purchased at the event.

Schedule: 6pm social—6:45 pm buffet dinner—7:45 pm program

Please contact Rob Jensen <robert.p.jensen@gmail.com> for any questions.

Abstract and bio next page.

Looking Ahead

- **Thursday, March 12th—Dr. Lei G. Wang, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at OHSU**
- **Thursday, April 9th—Dr. Theresa McCormick, Professor of Chemistry at Portland State University**
- **Thursday, May 14th—Dr. David Stuart, Professor of Chemistry at Portland State University.**

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Forensics: Operating at the intersection of scientific principles, human nature and law

Abstract

Drawing on experience as a forensic scientist and forensic administrator, this presentation examines contemporary forensic laboratory practices, emerging drug trends, and the role of scientific interpretation in the criminal justice system.

Speaker Bios

Liz Flannery currently serves as the Director of the Portland Metro Forensic Laboratory for the Oregon State Police. Serving for more than a decade in progressive leadership roles, her expertise encompasses technical casework, quality assurance, and organizational leadership. Liz is a passionate public servant, overseeing the only full-service, accredited Forensic laboratory in the state, she is responsible for the strategic direction and daily operations of a complex, multidisciplinary team encompassing controlled substances, toxicology, DNA, latent prints, firearms, and trace analysis. Her work sits at the critical intersection of scientific rigor, and the ever-changing demands of the criminal justice system. A lifelong learner, Liz is a level 1 graduate of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) Leadership Academy, an ANAB Assessor and recently earned her certification in Public Management from Willamette University. A strong advocate for mentorship-based leadership, Liz focuses on developing the next generation of forensic professionals while supporting peers and emerging leaders through professional coaching.

Jonathan Dyer is a lifelong Oregonian, who graduated from Portland State in 2000 and was hired on the same year to be a forensic chemist for the Oregon State Police. He was first stationed in Pendleton, Oregon, but in 2002, he moved to the Portland lab, and worked there until his retirement in 2025. In addition to chemistry (drug identification), he worked in crime scenes, and was a Primary Examiner (physical evidence screening for biological, trace, and firearms evidence), and piloted the digital evidence and video extraction program. In 2015, he was promoted to Forensic Manager, and for the last decade, in addition to continuing to work casework in chemistry, oversaw the firearms and chemistry sections of the laboratory. Over the course of his career, he has worked thousands of cases in multiple disciplines and testified over 130 times all over the state and in federal court.