



The IAI celebrates the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11, 2023.

This is an annual observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to promote full and equal access and participation of females in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields. Below is a message from IAI Board Member Dr. Alicia Wilcox:

Greetings from Dr. Alicia Wilcox,

I earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Statistics in 2000 and when researching graduate school options I stumbled upon the field of forensic science. When I learned that the role of a forensic scientist combined scientific investigation, working with law enforcement, and testifying in court, I was sold! I graduated with a Master of Science in Forensic Science and began my career at the national forensic laboratory in Ireland. I later moved to Augusta, Maine, and worked for nearly 10 years at the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory.

My career has changed over the past 22 years. In my current role as an Associate Professor, I have the wonderful opportunity to teach forensic science to undergraduate students. I look forward to seeing how the young women I have taught influence forensic science in the future.

As I reflect on this special day of recognition of Women and Girls in Science, I am grateful to all the scientists (men and women) who have mentored and encouraged me over the years. At this stage of my career, I am focused on the importance of quality and standards in forensic science. My role as a member of this board and as a member of the Organization for Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science allows me to contribute to endeavors that strengthen forensic science for future scientists and the community who depend on us for reliable forensic science results.

Research suggests that one way to increase the representation of women in a particular sector is to have role models for young girls. Girls will pursue science when they see the role of female scientists being valued. This is a tremendous responsibility and we at the IAI take this consideration seriously through our educational offerings, policies, and the participation of women in leading our organization.