

## Assessing the impact of the Sydney Declaration: a survey of Forensic Science professionals

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### Abstract (max 400 words)

In preparation for the International Association of Forensic Sciences meeting in Sydney, and in response to external scrutiny about the fundamental foundations of forensic science, an international group of forensic scientists embarked on a reflection and discussion that evolved into an attempt to organize these thoughts to encourage conversations in the broader forensic science community. The aim was to define forensic science and its essence in the form of fundamental principles as concisely and comprehensively as possible with the overarching goal of demonstrating a unifying foundation across forensic science. The outcome of this work was presented in a 2022 publication entitled *The Sydney Declaration: Revisiting the Essence of Forensic Science Through its Fundamental Principles* [1].

More than one year after the publication of the Sydney Declaration and following multiple opportunities to present, discuss, and disseminate it worldwide, we conducted a survey to examine how the Sydney Declaration has been received by the forensic science community. The aim of the study was to (1) collect feedback from forensic science professionals concerning the definition of forensic science and each of the principles as articulated in the Sydney Declaration, (2) assess how well the Sydney Declaration has been disseminated and (3) what aspects of the Sydney Declaration (if any) have been implemented across education, training, and casework. The findings from the survey will inform and direct future projects relating to the Sydney Declaration and its practical implementation.

This study, which is broadly sectioned into (1) participant demographics, (2) awareness, (3) understanding, views and perceptions, and (4) implementation, is the first formal evaluation of the Sydney Declaration's role on current forensic science education and practice. The results of the questionnaire will be analyzed and discussed in this presentation, with an assessment of what the resultant data could mean for the future role and impact of the Sydney Declaration across the forensic science community.

### References

- [1] Roux, C., Bucht, R., Crispino, F., De Forest, P., Lennard, C., Margot, P., Miranda M. D., NicDaeid, N., Ribaux, O., Ross, A., Willis, S. (2022). **The Sydney Declaration – Revisiting the Essence of Forensic Science through its Fundamental Principles**, Forensic Science International 332, 111182. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0379073822000123?via%3Dihub>