

FEATURE

“New Frontiers in Forensic Science: Looking to the Future” was the theme of the 9th ENQFor

The 9th National Meeting of Forensic Chemistry (ENQFor), the 6th Meeting of the Brazilian Society of Forensic Sciences (SBCF), and the 19th Latin American Regional Congress of Forensic Toxicology (TIAFT) took place from November 10 to 13, 2024, at the Events Center of the Royal Tulip JP Hotel in Ribeirão Preto (SP, Brazil). This event attracted 320 participants.



Opening ceremony of the event. Photo by Lucas Rafael, SBCF Image Bank/Photographer.

“For this event, our expectations were even higher because of the integration of our event with the Latin American Regional Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT). All our expectations were confirmed by the presence of many registrants, not only from Brazil but also from other Latin American countries,” stated the event’s president, Prof. Dr. Bruno Spinosa De Martinis (Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters of Ribeirão Preto – FFCLRP, University of São Paulo, Brazil).

This congress event aimed to encourage critical discussions, foster interdisciplinary collaborations, and prepare participants for the challenges and opportunities that await the forensic science community in the coming years.

The event comprised four days filled with thematic sessions, plenary conferences, oral and poster presentations, awards, mini-courses, and an exploration of a crime scene — highlighting all relevant and selected contributions to both events.

Some notable names at this event were Dr. Sarah Willie (Belgium), Dr. Helena Teixeira (Portugal), Dr. Jean Claude (France), Dr. Morris Keith (USA), and Dr. Elizabeth Devine (Co-Producer of CSI Miami).



Presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Devine (CSI Miami Co-Producer). Photo by Lucas Rafael, SBCF Image Bank/Photographer.

According to Dr. De Martinis, the topics presented were considered current and of great interest to the forensic science field. "I was not able to attend the various lectures and workshops, nor be present at all the posters, but in talking with the participants, both delegates and speakers, and after meeting with some members of the organizing and scientific committee, it became clear that the event was a great success and was well-received by the majority of participants," said Dr. De Martinis.



Opening cocktail party. Photo by Lucas Rafael, SBCF Image Bank/Photographer.

The Federal Council of Chemistry (CFQ), the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS), and various companies, including Waters, CMS Científica do Brasil, Analítica, Shimadzu, and Agilent, among others, were instrumental in supporting the event.

Crime Scene

One of ENQfor’s regular activities is the Crime Scene. The activity consists of a crime scene set up in the sponsors’ exhibition area. The participants then describe and explain the dynamics of the crime that occurred.



Crime scene. Photo by Lucas Rafael, SBCF Image Bank/Photographer.

Crime Scene Resolution

The text below was written by the president of the event, Prof. Dr. Bruno Spinoza De Martinis.

“Paulo and his friend were drinking and eating snacks in his apartment while they discussed how to divide the money from the drug sales and how to divide the remaining drugs. They could not come to an agreement. So, when Paulo was distracted — fiddling with his cell phone — his friend got up and walked behind Paulo, from where she fired a shot with a 9 mm pistol, hitting him in the occipital region. She then left the scene.

After hearing the gunshot, the neighbor, Mr. Ademir, went to the apartment to check whether everything was okay. Upon arriving at the scene, he noticed that the door was half open, which was unusual since the victim usually locked the door when he left for work on his motorcycle. Upon entering the apartment, Mr. Ademir found Paulo injured and immediately called for help.

The Mobile Emergency Care Service arrived on the scene and assisted the victim, who, unfortunately, died at the hospital.

After the death, the doctors sent the body to the Institute of Forensic Medicine, where it was determined that the victim had two head injuries caused by a firearm bullet: an entry wound located in the occipital region and an exit wound. The report indicated that the bullet had traveled from back to front and from top to bottom.”

Text written by Lilian Freitas, BrJAC Publisher
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