

Karen L. Irish

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EDUCATION

1962-1966 Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2003-Present Forensic Consultant

- Audit forensic laboratory performance for readiness for ASCLD/LAB accreditation and outline steps laboratory should take to secure such accreditation.

1994-2003 Director - Retired
Forensic Services Section
Baltimore County Police Department
700 East Joppa Road, Towson, MD 21286

- Managed a staff of 51 employees for an ASCLD/LAB accredited crime laboratory serving 754,000 residents and a 612-square mile area in Baltimore County, Maryland.
- Oversaw forensic services in crime scene and evidence processing, latent prints, chemistry, biology/ DNA, trace, firearms/toolmarks, digital enhancement, computer forensics, and photography.
- Oversaw and administered annual budget of \$2 million.
- Initiated and led accreditation of laboratory, resulting in Baltimore County Police Department being the first police agency accredited in Maryland.
- First in Maryland to institute 13 loci STR technology, local CODIS entries, digital enhancement technology, and digital photography capabilities. Acquired DRUGFIRE, IBIS, SICAR, and an evidence tracking and laboratory information management system.
- Established biology/DNA, firearms/toolmarks, and trace capabilities.
- Acquired grants and asset seizure funding for personnel, training, renovations, and equipment.
- Increased training budget from \$0 to over \$20,000 annually.

1984-1994 Forensic Supervisor - Toxicology/Safety Unit
Maryland State Police, Crime Laboratory Division

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1201 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, MD 21208

- Supervised and trained laboratory personnel.
- Analyzed controlled dangerous substances, blood for alcohol, and urine for drugs.
- Performed chemical and instrumental analyses, showing proficiency in UV/visible spectrophotometers, FTIR spectrographs, gas chromatographs, mass spectrometers, Syva EMIT instrumentation, and microscopes.
- Testified as an expert in the courts of twenty Maryland counties and the City of Baltimore.
- Developed and administered Laboratory Safety Program.

1983-1984

Chemist II - Radiation Chemistry

State of Maryland, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Environmental Chemistry

201 West Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

- Analyzed environmental samples for Alpha, Beta, and Gamma radiation using chemical techniques, proportional counters, and gamma analyzers, ensuring compliance with FDA procedures.
- Computerized file system for sample data incorporating radioactivity calculations.

1967-1970

Assistant Quality Control Supervisor - Analytical Chemist

McCormick and Company, Inc.

Baltimore, MD

- Supervised and trained laboratory technicians.
- Analyzed spices and spice products using chemical techniques, microscopes, ultra-violet/visible spectrophotometers, and gas chromatographs.
- Researched competitors' products and new packaging materials and investigated customer complaints.

1966-1967

Research Analytical Chemist

Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, Division of United Aircraft

Middletown, CT

- Analyzed metal alloys by x-ray fluorescence and emission spectrography.

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB)

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- Qualified ASCLD/LAB-*International* Program Assessor (ISO/IEC 17025 compliant accreditation program)

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD)

- Co-Chair, Laboratory Accreditation Mentoring Committee
Partners non-accredited crime laboratories (protégés) with ASCLD/LAB inspectors (mentors).
- ASCLD Representative to the Scientific Working Group on Imaging Technology (SWGIT)

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)

- Evaluator, Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC)

American Society of Testing and Materials

- E-30 Committee on Forensic Science

Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists

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PAST PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB)

- ISO/IEC 17025 Conversion Committee
- Trained ASCLD/LAB Legacy Program Inspector

Maryland Statewide Forensic Sciences Task Force

- Developed State Forensic Plan for the Governor
- Chair, Quality and Accreditation Committee

Technical Working Group on Forensic Science Training and Education (TWGED)

Towson University Forensic Chemistry Program Advisory Board

International Association for Identification

Clandestine Laboratory Investigating Chemists Association

Baltimore Metropolitan Council - 1998 Baltimore Metropolitan Area Forensic Services Survey

- Chair, Technical Committee

Washington Area Forensic Laboratory Safety Council

- Co-founder and former Chair

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

1975-Present YWCA of the Greater Baltimore Area, Inc.

Board of Directors

- Member (Former President, Vice President, Treasurer and Committee Chairs)

Awards

- Eleanor Hood Gross Leadership Award
- YWCA Racial Justice Award
- YWCA Volunteer of the Year Award