

Career Advancements

Learn To Understand Gunshot Wound Evidence

(NAPSA)—If the idea of preserving justice appeals to you or someone you know, a new educational opportunity may be just what you need.

That's because the nation's first Forensic Gunshot Wound Evaluation Program is now available through the Galen Center for Professional Development. Many would say it's about time. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, nearly half a million Americans are victims of a crime committed with firearms every year.

The course, endorsed by the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN), was developed by renowned forensic science expert Dr. Bill Smock. The IAFN is offering continuing education credits to nurses who participate in the program.

"In untrained hands, evidence can be inadvertently destroyed, lost or misinterpreted," explained Dr. Smock. "From this course, participants will learn not only how to apply clinical forensic medicine to the evaluation of gunshot wounds, but the importance of it for victims of gun violence and the communities in which they occur."

Studies have indicated a critical need for training and education of trauma personnel in an effort to improve outcomes of evidence collection in health care facilities and other settings. These misinterpretations and misclassifications—often due to poor documentation or mishandling of evidence—can have a devastating domino effect in legal proceedings.

The course is designed for law enforcement personnel and nurses, but can be a critical resource for emergency medicine and trauma physicians, prosecutors, crime scene investigators, coroners, firefighters and EMTs/paramedics. The program can help participants develop an increased understanding of the importance of recognizing



At a new kind of forensics course, nurses, law enforcement personnel and others can learn about gunshot wounds and proper evidence collection.

ing and preserving evidence on emergency room patients, determining entrance and exit wounds and range of fire, learning the latest techniques for investigating officer-involved shootings, and understanding wound ballistics and wound patterns.

Participants will be better able to recognize evidence and work in conjunction with law enforcement officials.

"This expertise is imperative not only to preserve the judicial integrity of evidence to save hundreds of thousands of dollars in the legal systems of our cities and states, but in the delivery of justice," said Dr. Smock.

Called Clinical Forensic Evaluation of Gunshot Wounds, the course offers a unique 40-hour educational experience in two parts: a 24-hour self-paced online course and a two-day lab practicum at the Galen College of Nursing's state-of-the-art, high-fidelity simulation center in Kentucky. Together, they cover evidence recognition, collection and preservation protocols, wound documentation, shell casing and bullet comparisons, exit and entrance wound examination, trajectory determination, gunshot wounds in domestic violence and more.

Learn more at www.galencenterpd.com.