

Next Generation Sequencing in the Adolescent Years

Preconference Workshop, APHL 2026
May 4, 2026 • 8:00 am – 11:00 am EDT
Baltimore Convention Center • Baltimore, MD

Course Number: **588-505-26**
Registration fee: **\$149 per person**
Register at: **www.aphl.org/AC**

DESCRIPTION

Next Generation Sequencing has been in public health laboratories for almost a decade now and while all laboratories are using this technology for various uses in disease detection and surveillance, there is much room for growth. This pre-conference workshop will discuss how laboratories can continue to build the infrastructure for sequencing from workforce development to workflow development to take their sequencing work to the next level.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this workshop, the participant will be able to:

- Describe new workforce development needs and professional development opportunities for bioinformaticians and genomic epidemiology
- Identify considerations for onboarding new technology and sequencing capacity
- Explain how to expand your laboratory's quality management processes to include clinical validated sequencing assays

AUDIENCE

This workshop is for Next Generation Sequencing professionals, laboratory directors, laboratory supervisors, bioinformaticians and genomic epidemiology professionals.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION

INTERMEDIATE: Refresher course; some basic knowledge is required; for the experienced staff technologist with some years of experience.

PRESENTERS

Dan Evans, MS MB(ASCP)^{CM} CIC REHS CPH, Minnesota Public Health Laboratory
Heather Blankenship, PhD, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Logan Fink, MS, Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services
Kelly Oakeson, PhD, Utah Public Health Laboratory
Lauren Turner, PhD, Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services

TOPICS AND EXERCISES

Discussion on professional development and career trajectories for bioinformaticians and genomic epidemiologists

- Laboratory director • Mid-career/leadership • Recent fellow/grad in bioinformatics • Genomic epidemiologist

How to keep relevant in an ever-evolving field

- How to expand and incorporate to new sequencing technology
- Discuss considerations for additions to bioinformatics analyses
- Discuss how to build a workforce to adapt to the new technology and needs for bioinformatics and sequencing

Expanding the use of sequencing data

- Discussion on how laboratorians and epidemiologists intersect in in genomic epidemiology field
- Provide examples of how genomic epidemiologists have been integrated in both the laboratory and health department side
- Discuss use cases to show how genomic epidemiology allowed for greater impact with sequencing data

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.[®] Program. P.A.C.E.[®] is accepted by all licensure states except Florida. This learning activity will provide 3.0 contact hours for the participant who successfully completes this training.