



Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL)



The Florida

# LABLINK



## In this Issue

2023 Division 6.2  
Infectious Substances  
Packaging & Shipping  
[page 1](#)

Stay in the Know [page 2](#)

Team Member Spotlight  
[page 3](#)

Tentative Division 6.2  
Training Schedule [page 3](#)

Up-To-Date Phone List  
[page 4](#)

## Packaging and Shipping Training 2023

### Division 6.2 Infectious Substances

The Division 6.2 Infectious Substances Packaging and Shipping training schedule for 2023 is almost set. The first quarter sessions are confirmed, and registration is available in Train ([www.Train.org/florida](http://www.Train.org/florida))

First quarter sessions	
Feb. 20, 2023	780 SW 24th St, Ft. Lauderdale 33315 (Auditorium)
Feb. 21, 2023	3719 NW 97th Ave, Doral, FL 33178 (Police Training and Community Center)
Mar. 1, 2023	1295 West Fairfield Drive, Pensacola (DOH-Escambia Conference Room)
Mar. 2, 2023	597 W 11th St, Panama City (DOH-Bay Auditorium)

In addition to the above sessions, we plan to offer 6 training sessions in both the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters and four sessions in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter at various locations across the state. A tentative schedule for the remaining 16 sessions is provided on Page 3.

Questions regarding the training should be sent to Leah Kloss ([Leah.Kloss@flhealth.gov](mailto:Leah.Kloss@flhealth.gov)) or Rachel Clark ([Rachel.Clark@flhealth.gov](mailto:Rachel.Clark@flhealth.gov)).



# Stay in the Know

## American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

- [Laboratory Response Network \(LRN\) Sentinel Level Clinical Laboratory Protocols](#)
- [Sentinel Level Clinical Laboratory Guidelines for Suspected Agents of Bioterrorism and Emerging Infectious Diseases](#)

## Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL): [Biothreat Agent Bench Cards for the Sentinel Laboratory](#)

## Florida Department of Health

- [Healthcare System Preparedness](#)
- [Preparedness Library and Links](#)
- [Disease Reporting Information for Health Care and Laboratory Providers](#) Contains the printable reportable disease list for Florida.
- [FDOH Bureau of Public Health Laboratories](#)

## Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- [Laboratory Information for Bioterrorism Emergencies](#)  
Contains information on the most common agents of concern, including information on agent identification, safety, and links to other resources.
- [Emergency Preparedness for Laboratory Personnel](#)  
An excellent source for information specific to laboratorians. It provides links to several of the other sources in this list, as well as a link to the [Laboratory Outreach Communication System \(LOCS\)](#).
- Laboratory Response Network descriptions and fact sheets.  
[Laboratory Network for Biological Threats \(LRN-B\)](#)  
[Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats \(LRN-C\)](#)
- Lists of resources for emergency preparation and planning for healthcare facilities.  
[Preparation and Planning for Bioterrorism Emergencies](#)  
[Chemical Emergencies](#)

## Other

- [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) Bioterrorism](#)



Under a very high magnification of 31,207X, this digitally colorized, scanning electron microscopic (SEM) image depicted endospores from the Sterne strain of *Bacillus anthracis* bacteria. A key characteristic of the Sterne strain of *B. anthracis*, is the wrinkled surface of the protein coat of these bacterial spores. These endospores can live for many years, which enables these bacteria to survive in a dormant state, under environmentally stressful circumstances. The photo was taken by Janice Haney Carr.



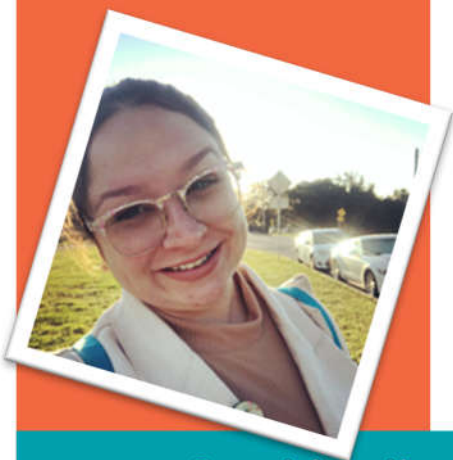
This dorsal view of a patient's right forearm and hand from 1966 provided by O.T. Chambers, reveals a cluster of boils, or carbuncles, located primarily on the hand and wrist, which had manifested during a cutaneous anthrax infection, caused by the bacterium, *Bacillus anthracis*.

*Both images are part of the public domain. Copies can be obtained from the CDC Public Health Image Library (PHIL).*

# Team Member Spotlight

## Chemical Threat Team Senior Chemist

Zena Johnson, PFSM, MT(AAB)  
Office: 904-791-1719  
Work cell: 904-637-9286  
1217 N. Pearl Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Email:  
Zena.Johnson@FLhealth.gov



## Meet Zena Johnson

### The Chemical Threat Teams New Senior Chemist

Zena was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida. She received a bachelors from Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) in biomedical chemistry sciences and a master's degree in professional forensic science from Florida International University (FIU). In addition, she is a licensed Clinical Chemistry Medical Technologist.

Her career with the Florida Department of Health began in January of 2019 in Newborn Screening as a Chemist II. After the pandemic began, she volunteered to work extra hours doing COVID testing while continuing to perform her duties in Newborn Screening. In October 2020, she transferred to the Chemical Threat Department as a Chemist II and two years later, in November of 2022, was promoted to Senior Chemist. Congratulations Zena!

Contributing to a healthier Florida one test at a time

## Tentative 2023 Division 6.2 Infectious Substances Packaging & Shipping Training Schedule

The following months and locations are being provided for general planning purposes. They are subject to change based on location availability. The course listing in Train has the most up-to-date and accurate information.

Quarter 2			Quarter 3		
<b>April</b>	Orlando	Jacksonville	<b>July</b>	Crestview	Tallahassee
<b>May</b>	Ft. Myers	Tampa	<b>August</b>	Orlando	Ocala
<b>June</b>	Miami/Doral	West Palm Beach	<b>September</b>	Ft. Lauderdale	Indian River
<b>Quarter 4</b>	<b>October</b>	Tampa	Sarasota		
	<b>November</b>	Jacksonville	Daytona		

This publication is funded by the Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Cooperative Agreement for Public Health Emergency Preparedness. CDC-RFA-TP19-1901

Unless otherwise indicated, all photography is for illustrative purposes only and all persons depicted are models.

Editor: Rachel Clark

# Bureau of Public Health Laboratories-Directory

Interim Bureau Chief: **Susanne Crowe, MHA**  
**904-791-1550 (Phone) 904-318-8901 (Cell)**

After hours (24/7)	Bioterrorism Event			Chemical Threat Event
	Jacksonville	Tampa	Miami	
	904-945-4415 904-637-9260	813-459-4039	305-433-0442	904-271-1593

**BHPL – Jacksonville**  
 1217 Pearl Street  
 Jacksonville, FL 32202  
 904-791-1500

**Director**  
 Susanne Crowe, MHA  
 904-791-1550  
 904-318-8901 (Cell)

**Assistant Director**  
 Mary Ritchie, PhD  
 904-791-1767  
 904-945-9437 (Cell)

**BHPL – Tampa**  
 3602 Spectrum Boulevard  
 Tampa, FL 33612  
 813-233-2203

**Director**  
 Andrew Cannons, PhD  
 813-233-2277  
 813-956-8850 (Cell)

**Assistant Director**  
 Marshall Cone, MPH, MT (AAB)  
 813-233-2290  
 813-455-4798 (Cell)

**BHPL – Miami**  
 1325 N.W. 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
 Miami, FL 33125  
 305-324-2432

**Director**  
 TBD

**Assistant Director**  
 Elesi Quaye  
 305-325-2536  
 305-322-1488 (Cell)

Biological Threat Program				
Program Advisor		Ashley Merryman	904-791-1713	448-500-3078 (Cell)
Coordinators	Jacksonville	Phil Lee (Lead) George Churchwell Maria Pedrosa	904-791-1712 904-791-1781 904-791-1756	904-945-4415 (Cell) 904-637-9260 (Cell) 904-718-8744 (Cell)
	Tampa	Lisa Tate Shan “Justin” Hubsmith	813-233-2323 813-233-2237	813-956-8853 (Cell) 813-455-9105 (Cell)
	Miami	Mario Bustosgiraldo Jillien Durand	305-325-2538 305-325-2548	305-409-9924 (Cell)
Trainers	Tampa	Rachel Clark	813-233-2367	813-407-7173 (Cell)
	Jacksonville	TBD Jarek Goetsch	TBD TBD	TBD TBD

Chemical Threat Program				
Chief of Chemistry		TBD		
Lab Administrator		TBD		
Senior Chemist		Zena Johnson	904-791-1719	904-637-9286 (Cell)
Preparedness Coordinators	Jacksonville	Michelle Latona	904-791-1525	904-945-4396 (Cell)
	Tampa	Angela Ren	813-233-2293	813-363-0623 (Cell)