

## **Practical and Safety Aspects of Clandestine Laboratory Investigations: Instructor Bio**

Professor Casper Venter is currently the Director of forensic facilities in the Department of Forensic and Investigative Science at West Virginia University. He oversees both the facilities at Oglebay Hall and the crime scene complex. He is the chemical hygiene officer and ensures that the accreditation requirements for both undergraduate and graduate programs are adhered to.

Prof. Venter obtained his first degree in 1992 in analytical chemistry and two graduate degrees in chemistry and laboratory management in 1994 and 2002, respectively, from the Technical University Pretoria and an M.Sc. Biochemistry during 2010 from North West University.

He joined the South African Police Service in 1988, went through internal basic and advanced police training and was then assigned to the forensic science laboratory. Before joining the faculty at West Virginia University, he worked for 22 years in the Forensic Science Laboratory in South Africa as a forensic drug chemist.

During his 22 years in the forensic laboratory he completed various training programs related to instrumentation used in the chemistry department, crime scene investigation, clandestine laboratory investigation, photography, forensic disciplines in forensic sciences, hazardous material first response and advance risk assessment. He examined more than five thousand drug related cases, investigated clandestine laboratories for 13 years and testified as an expert witness for 17 years.