

Patra Watson

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Professional Education

University of South Carolina – Graduate courses in Criminal Justice – 2001 - 2005
University of South Carolina – Graduate courses in Chemistry – 1998 – 2001
University of South Carolina – BS – Chemistry (Cognate – Math & Physics) – 1996

Professional Certificates

South Carolina Department of Public Safety – Basic Law Enforcement – 1998 (EXP)
South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Agent – 1998
SLED - Marijuana Analysis School (Certificate No. 98024) - 1998
SLED - Drug Analysis Department Certificate of Competency - 1998
South Carolina Office of Secretary - Notary Public – EXP
National Welders Supply – Safe Handling of Compressed Gas Cylinders - 2000

Professional Societies

University of South Carolina – Graduate Student Association
University of South Carolina – Criminal Justice Association (Position – Sergeant at Arms)
Southern Association of Forensic Chemists – Associate Member
American Chemical Society – Chemists and the Law
Hemp Industries Association - Member

Professional Experience

Hemp Consultant – Columbia, SC

- **Provided consulting to acquire 40 acres under SC Pilot Industrial Hemp Program for local farmer**
- **Consulted with various CBD distributors/ farmers on product development and placement**
- **Available for laboratory compliance / QA/QC / general information**

Pitt County Sheriff's Office – Forensic Department – Greenville, North Carolina – 2014-2015

- **Alcohol Chemist**
- **Safety Officer**
- **Attended Borkenstein School for Alcohol - University of Indiana**
- **Attended Agilent Mass Spectroscopy School - Atlanta, Georgia**
- **Ordered supplies/ procured sample proficiency tests for Alcohol Lab**
- **Consulted and worked on Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Alcohol and Drug Laboratory**
- **Attended weekly meetings for Forensics Lab Certification**
- **Performed validation studies for Certification**

Online Environmental – Lexington, South Carolina - 2007-2014

- **Environmental Chemist**
- **Safety Officer**
- **Trained Technicians**
- **Performed microbiology on samples**
- **Analytical/ Inorganic Chemistry including QA/ QC**
- **Used DOS-based database to create spread-sheets, reports and billing**
- **Revised SOPs with validation studies to reflect new federal and state lab regulations**
- **Greeted clients and checked in samples**
- **Made sure samples were run in a timely manner**
- **Outsourced samples**
- **Field technician as needed**

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) – Drug Analysis Department - 1998 – 2005

- **Certified Marijuana Analyst**
- **Certified Drug Analyst**
- **Safety Officer for Laboratory**
- **Forensic Chemist responsible for analyzing controlled substances for ten (10) different counties around state**
- **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Training**
- **Responsible for making chemical reagents for lab and other departments (i.e., firearms)**
- **Passed all proficiency tests – both internal and external**
- **Trained other chemists who were hired as drug chemists**
- **Maintains and Troubleshoots Gas Chromatograph/ Mass Spectrometer (GC/ MS)**
- **Responsible for maintenance of five (5) Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometers (FTIRs) in lab**
- **Researched / experimented / wrote paper on “date rape drug,” Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) - extraction methodology and use of chiral GC columns in differentiation of GHB chemical interconversion to GBL**
- **Certified in solid phase extraction (SPE)**
- **Helped local county obtain grant for drug laboratory**
- **Testified as an Expert Witness 30+ times in Federal, Circuit and Juvenile Courts**

Instrumentation

- **Gas Chromatograph/ Mass Spectroscopy (GC/MS)**
- **Gas Chromatograph/ Flame Ionization Detector (GC/ FID)**
- **Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)**
- **Ion Chromatography (IC)**
- **Liquid Chromatography (LC)**
- **Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Analyzer**
- **Gas Sensor (ISE) Electrodes**
- **Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) Analyzer**
- **UV/ Vis Spectrometer**
- **Microscope**

- pH Meter

Awards and Honors

Baptist Foundation Scholarship

J.P. Strom Scholarship

Community Involvement (Volunteer Experience)

Sister care – Children’s volunteer for shelter and volunteered for ticket sales during St. Patrick’s Day Festival

Nancy K. Perry Children’s Home – Helped children with homework in the afternoon

Job shadow participant for two different students in local schools

Presentations

Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS) – Dragon’s Blood – 1999

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Personnel – Designer Drugs

Various high schools, USC, law enforcement agencies, Fort Jackson and civilian groups