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**AUTOMATION IN THE LABORATORY EMPLOYING THE TECAN FREEDOM EVO 100 FOR HIGH THROUGHPUT FORENSIC APPLICATIONS**

**Gretchen DeGroot, Patricia Dobrowski, Shehnaz Khan and Susie Odogba**

*Wisconsin State Crime Lab-Milwaukee, 1578 S. 11th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204, USA*

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The Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory has validated the Tecan Freedom EVO 100 automated liquid handler for forensic casework and database samples. The Tecan utilizes scripts for DNA isolation using the automated DNA IQ System developed by Promega; as well as scripts for quantification setup, normalization of the quantification data, and pre-PCR setup. Results, thus far, have shown that the automated system can process samples comparable to the manual process currently employed in the lab. During the entire process, contamination was examined by using blanks between samples in a checkerboard format. No contamination was observed.