

Amanda Knox: How DNA Convicted and Freed an Innocent Woman

Greg Hampikian, Ph.D., Boise State University

Amanda Knox and Raffaele Sollecito were convicted of murdering Meredith Kercher largely on the basis of two pieces of DNA evidence: a bra clasp recovered from the victim's room, and a knife recovered from Mr. Sollecito's apartment. Dr. Greg Hampikian was a defense consultant for Knox during the trial that convicted her, and the appeal that ultimately freed her. The key to her freedom was a reanalysis that concluded that the DNA evidence was unreliable. As part of the team, Hampikian analyzed the DNA and performed experiments to demonstrate the potential of low-level contamination. The talk will present the evidentiary electropherograms, the experiments run in Hampikian's laboratory, and contemporary news reports covering the case.