

Dodge

Technical Seminar

The LINQ

Las Vegas, NV

November 13 & 14, 2025

Seminar
Registration
is ONLINE!

Details inside

Join us in fabulous Las Vegas!

Learn something new or enhance what you
already know about...

- Tumor Removal for a Natural Appearance
- Challenging Cases... Overcoming the Obstacles
- Masking Postmortem Stain
- Mortuary Cosmetics
- Non-Toxic Formaldehyde Embalming
- Navigating the Challenges of Tissue Recovery

...and much more



Questions? Call 800-443-6343 and ask for Michelle or email us at Seminars@dodgeco.com

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*Breakfast will be available each morning
starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Social A & B meeting rooms (2nd Floor).*

TIME	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast / Registration	Breakfast / Registration
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<i>Tumor Removal for a Natural Appearance</i> Michael Andrade	<i>Challenging Cases... Overcoming the Obstacles 2025 - Part 1</i> Nathan Shaw
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Break	Break
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM	<i>Bariatric Embalming</i> Stephen Blevins	<i>Challenging Cases... Overcoming the Obstacles 2025 - Part 2</i> Nathan Shaw
11:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Break	Break
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	<i>Navigating the Challenges of Tissue Recovery: Roadmap to Effective Preservation, & Results - Part 1</i> Melinda Van Waus Collison & Tamela Mease-Van Vactor	<i>Non-Toxic Formaldehyde-Free Embalming is Here... And it Works!</i> Tom Sherman
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch	Seminar Ends - Thank you for coming!
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	<i>Navigating the Challenges of Tissue Recovery: Roadmap to Effective Preservation, & Results - Part 2</i> Melinda Van Waus Collison & Tamela Mease-Van Vactor	
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Break	
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	<i>Masking Postmortem Stain</i> Michael Andrade	
3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	Break	
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<i>Crawl Before You Walk - Mortuary Cosmetics: A Back to Basics Response</i> Stephen Blevins	

CEUs: Continuing education credits for licensed funeral directors will be available, pending individual state/province approvals. If you have a question as to whether your state board has accredited our program, please email seminars@dodgeco.com. Due to high-fee filing requirements, we no longer apply for credits from Virginia or Kentucky. We'll be applying for a total of 9 credits - 6 for Thursday & 3 for Friday. The Seminar has been accredited by the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice for 9 CEUs.

DIAMS

The Dodge Institute For Advanced Mortuary Studies
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EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 13, 2025

Online Registration!

The Dodge Seminar registration is completely online. Whether you are paying by credit card or mailing a check the registration process is the same. You will still receive a confirmation as well as a receipt when paying by credit card. If you pay by check, you will still register online and will be sent an invoice for you to include when you mail your payment. This will not only streamline the registration process but will provide a secure way to process credit card transactions.

Please visit shop.dodgeco.com and click on Seminars in the menu at the top and click on the "Register" button.

You will still have the options to register multiple attendees from the same firm for discounted pricing at one time. **Please be sure to change the quantity of attendees to get the correct total to pay.** If registering separately from the same firm, the discounts will not apply. Students are still eligible for a discounted rate.

Thursday & Friday

1st Registrant - \$565 / After 10/14/24 - \$615
2nd Registrant - \$515 / After 10/14/24 - \$555

Thursday Only

1st Registrant - \$455 / After 10/14/24 - \$505
2nd Registrant - 405 / After 10/14/24 - \$455

Friday Only

1st Registrant - \$340 / After 10/14/24 - \$390
2nd Registrant - \$290 / After 10/14/24 - \$340

STUDENTS:

There is a \$140 flat-rate registration fee for students* currently enrolled in mortuary school.

* Student ID needs to be emailed to seminars@dodgeco.com after online registration.



Registration Cancellation Policy:

On or before 11/3: 100% registration fee refunded. After 11/3: \$100 cancellation fee will apply. Cancellation must be made in writing via mail, fax or e-mail to any of the addresses listed below.

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HOTEL RESERVATION & RATE INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE:
All attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations.

The LINQ, Las Vegas
3535 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas, NV 89109

800-634-6441 - <https://www.caesars.com/linq>

The LINQ Las Vegas Hotel + Experience is in the heart of The Strip. Enjoy stylish rooms and a futuristic casino, as well as The LINQ Promenade's 550-foot-tall High Roller Observation Wheel, retail shops and every dining option imaginable.

"Run of the House" Room Rates

Tuesday, November 11th - Saturday, November 15th = \$105.00 / night

Check-in: 4:00pm / Check-out: 11:00am

Additional persons will be charged at a rate of \$30.00 per person, per night, with a maximum of four (4) persons per guestroom.

Resort Fees: A daily resort fee of \$30.00 per room, per night (plus tax) will be charged in addition to the room rates listed above. This fee includes:

- Unlimited local phone calls (no long distance or international calls)
- Two (2) guest admissions per day to the Fitness Center (does not include use of the spa)
- In-Room Internet access to include two (2) devices per room, per day

Rates & fees are for single/double occupancy and do not include applicable taxes & fees.

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at (866) 523-2781, referencing our Group Code: "SQTDC5" - Dodge Technical Seminar or by booking online at <https://book.passkey.com/go/SQTDC5>

The cut-off date to make hotel reservations at the group rate is Sunday - October 12, 2025.

Please Note: All reservations made via the telephone call center will be assessed a fee of \$15.00 per reservation. This fee will not apply to reservations made via the internet.

All reservations must be guaranteed with a deposit for the first night's guestroom and tax charge.

If reservation is guaranteed to a credit card, the first night's guestroom and tax charge, per guestroom, will be billed immediately to the cardholder's account.

Notice of cancellation must be received 72 hours prior to your arrival date in order to receive a full refund of your deposit.

Each guestroom must have at least one (1) registered guest 21 years of age or older.

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MICHAEL ANDRADE is a licensed funeral director and embalmer who has worked in funeral service for 20+ years. His experience includes Oakdale Mortuary, Riverside Care Center, and the San Diego Medical Examiner's office where he became a Forensic Autopsy Specialist. He is a graduate of Cypress College and has extensive experience in embalming, crematory management, and all other aspects of funeral service, including supervision of a care center caring for 4,000 - 5,000 cases per year. Michael is the Dodge Sales Representative for West Central California [Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles and Orange Counties] and Hawaii.

Tumor Removal for a Natural Appearance - This case focused on an autopsied forty-seven-year-old male with tumor growth and severe decomposition. Following our initial pre-embalming evaluation of the body, we found that there may be undisclosed neoplasms. We carefully removed the abnormal tissues without cutting through the skin. The use of Inr-Seel allowed us to achieve a more natural appearance. Class participants will be introduced to other sutures to close the cranial incision, the practice of undercutting tissues at the base of incisions to prevent leakage, and use of various products to achieve the desired outcome.

Masking Postmortem Stain - At the conclusion of this session, participants should better understand the application of cosmetics on a male without it being overdone. Additionally, they should develop an understanding of a product like Dense Covering to help achieve the desired outcome.

- How to utilize cosmetics for the desired outcome without overuse
- Utilizing Dense Covering along with cosmetics
- Minimizing bleeding through of postmortem stain following cosmetic application
- Mixing different cosmetics for desired color
- Utilization of dry wash in cosmetic application
- Brushes and brush strokes
- Finishing details



STEPHEN BLEVINS is a 2nd generation licensed funeral service professional in the Commonwealth of Virginia and has been for 20+ years. He received his degree in Funeral Service Science in 2005 and actively worked in the funeral service industry as a full-time funeral director and embalmer for a mid-sized firm in West Virginia and as a trade embalmer for several funeral homes in the area on an as-needed basis. Since March of 2020, Stephen has taken on the role of a Dodge Sales Representative in Virginia and West Virginia. He is still actively spending time in the prep room as well as taking care of his clients.

Bariatric Embalming- More and more often, funeral service practitioners are called to prepare the remains of individuals who have been overweight or morbidly obese throughout their lives or at the time of death. Regardless of how long they struggled with obesity, certain procedures must be employed to properly prepare such individuals so that the embalming process is both thorough and ensures optimum preservation. Caring for such individuals doesn't leave room for shortcuts or sloppy embalming techniques.

Crawl Before You Walk - Mortuary Cosmetics: A Back to Basics Response - No matter how long one has been involved with preparation of deceased individuals, there always seems to be a little more difficulty in cosmetizing males. Sometimes the frustration that is encountered is simply occasioned by the fact that most people are not used to seeing males wearing makeup or when cosmetics are required to achieve a pleasant memory picture or mask postmortem stains. Through a thorough understanding of the basics of mortuary cosmetics, it is hoped that everyone will gain more confidence in their skill set and feel confident that their work meets the needs of the families they are called upon to serve.

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MELINDA VAN WAUS COLLISON & TAMELA MEASE-VAN VACTOR

Melinda has been the Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation Lead Partner Liaison at LifeSource for 20 years. She is a licensed mortician in Minnesota and Michigan. She holds a bachelor's degree in Mortuary Science from the University of Minnesota. Melinda is the Chair of Donate Life America Funeral Service Committee and a member of MN FDA, ND FDA, SD FDA and Arrowhead FDA.

Tamela is the OneLegacy Funeral Home Liaison serving seven counties in southern California. She holds an Associates of Science Degree in Math and Science from the College of the Canyons and is a graduate of Cypress College of Mortuary Science. She is a licensed funeral director, embalmer, crematory manager and limited lines insurance agent in California.



Navigating the Challenges of Tissue Recovery: Roadmap to Effective Preservation, Restoration and Results - This presentation will focus on embalming and restorative technique for post-tissue recovery. Participants will gain practical insights into the care of tissue donors and the necessary supplies needed at funeral homes. Tamela and Melinda will also emphasize the importance of surgical techniques during recovery and how these techniques can affect the embalming process. The goal is to address the concerns of funeral service practitioners and explore ways to enhance relationships through education, training, and support.



NATHAN SHAW earned his bachelor's degree in Mortuary Science from Wayne State University. He has been a licensed funeral director and embalmer since 2007. He is currently the Dodge Sales Representative in Eastern Michigan and "The Thumb".

Challenging Cases... Overcoming The Obstacles - 2025 - This session will be interactive and based on a case Nathan recently embalmed, concentrating on the challenges of edema and postmortem stain coverage while applying cosmetics, and showing all the steps taken to reach the final result. Nathan will also share with us some of the different techniques and skills he acquired while working at one of Detroit's busiest funeral homes for 18 years.



TOM SHERMAN has 25+ years experience working in the funeral industry. He earned a diploma in Mortuary Science from the Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service Houston in 2003, and has been a licensed funeral director and embalmer since 2005. He also holds a BSBA and MBA from Western Governor's University. Tom has been the Dodge Sales Representative for the Central and West Texas area since 2013.

Non-Toxic Formaldehyde-Free Embalming Is Here... And It Works! - In the world of embalming, formaldehyde, justly or not, is becoming more and more maligned in the public opinion. At the same time, many embalmers are unsure about changing what has worked for them for over a century, so they push back against utilizing non-toxic non-formaldehyde chemicals in their work. As the ever changing consumer market changes, the funeral business has to learn to adjust or at least be willing to learn about new techniques to serve their client families. Fortunately, there is a non-toxic non-formaldehyde embalming chemical available, and it has shown to provide just as high quality and long-lasting results as formaldehyde-based embalming. In this presentation funeral directors and embalmers will be shown the results of this embalming chemical to provide confidence that it is a service they can provide to their client families.

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