



2026 NILA Lab Leaders Forum

March 4-6 • Albuquerque, New Mexico

TriCore Reference Laboratories

Preliminary Schedule of Events

As of February 13, 2026

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 (Pre-Conference)	
Time (MST)	NILA Lab Leaders Forum
4:00 p.m.	Tour of TriCore Laboratory
6:30 p.m.	Pueblo Cultural Center including Dinner, Indigenous Pueblo Dancers, Music, and access to the Cultural Center's Museum.
Thursday, March 5, 2026	
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Networking Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Jay Weiss, Ph.D., Chair, NILA</i>
8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Washington Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAMA Data Collection • RESULTS Act • OIG Report Assessment of Fraud Risks in Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests • OIG Report on Medicare Part B Laboratory Expenditures in 2024 <i>Erin Morton, Meghan Riley, Stefanie Rinehart (CRD Associates)</i>
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Networking Break
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Legal Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payor and Compliance Audits: How to Prepare • The MultiPlan Antitrust Lawsuit: What It Reveals About Laboratory Reimbursement and Out-of-Network Payments • EKRA and other DOJ issues <i>Jeff Sherrin, Graig Zappia (O'Connell and Aronowitz)</i>
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Emergency Preparedness for Laboratories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): NILA's Role • Emergency Preparedness Plans for Community and Regional Clinical Laboratories <i>Meghan Riley (CRD Associates), Robert Footlik (NILA Special Consultant), Rob Middleberg Ph.D. (NMS Laboratories)</i>
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	CLIA Update from CMS <p><i>Moderator: Robert Footlik, NILA Special Consultant</i> <i>Gregg Brandush, Director, CMS Division of Clinical Laboratory Improvement & Quality</i></p>
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Networking Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	NILA Advocacy Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots Training • NILA Capitol Hill Day 2026 • Inviting Your Policymakers to Your Laboratory <i>Meghan Riley (CRD Associates)</i>
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	How a NILA Member Laboratory Won a Major Whistleblower Lawsuit <i>Matthew Rutledge (MD Labs)</i>
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	NILA Business Meeting, Reception, and Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities For 2026 • New Member Recruitment • Advocacy Fund <i>Jay Weiss, Ph.D. (Allermetrix), Kira Marquis (National Labs), Peter Wright (Birenbaum & Associates/NILA Office)</i>
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Time on your own
7:00 p.m.	Group Dinner (Location to be Announced)
Friday, March 6, 2026	
Time (MST)	NILA Lab Leaders Forum
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Networking Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Billing Problems Workgroup Discussion Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for Inclusion in Payor Networks • Addressing Common Billing/Coding Issues • New ICD Codes and Payments <i>Moderator: Stefanie Rinehart (CRD Associates)</i> <i>Panelists: Sherry Dadgar, Ph.D. (PMCDx), Robin Divine (TriCore Labs)</i>
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Update from CMS: What You Need to Know About Reporting for PAMA <i>Sarah Harding and Sarah Shirey-Losso, CMS Division of Ambulatory Services</i>
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Networking Break
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	How Payors are Using AI to Deny Claims and How Laboratories Can Use AI to Appeal <i>Speaker to be announced</i>
12:00 p.m.	Open Discussion