June 3, 2013

General Announcements

Greetings:

This week I discovered some good and bad news about writing in the Crime Lab Minute. The good news is that people are reading what I write. Thank you! The bad news is that what I wrote last week about the backlog forum was not necessarily what I intended to communicate and may have been interpreted as being dismissive. To the contrary, I thought the educational policy forum on discussing crime laboratory backlogs was fantastic and a great opportunity to get information before policymakers, the media and the membership. I appreciate all of the hard work that was put into the event and I look forward to seeing the fruits of that effort!

Indeed, as I left the forum, I was thinking about the complexity of backlogs and how I’d like to have even more dialogue on the subject. As I interact with other ASCLD members, I find that some are innovatively applying strategies and making progress on solving backlogs in their own laboratories. I’d like to hear more of their stories and I bet you would too. Perhaps we can coordinate a webinar in the late summer or fall? Interested in presenting? Let me know. Stay tuned!

Jay Henry
ASCLD President

All of the available presentations and posters from the 2013 ASCLD Symposium are now available for download and review on the website. Please visit http://www.ascld.org/meetings-list/ and use the links on that page to see the various documents. I hope that having this information available on the

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website will prove useful to those members who were unable to attend the meeting.

George Herrin
ASCLD Communications Chair

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**News Around the Globe**

**DNA cannot be primary evidence for rape: Pak Islamic body**
Times of India
The Council of Islamic Ideology, a constitutional body, ruled that Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) sample is not acceptable as primary evidence in case of a rape. However, they can be used as secondary or supporting evidence. The decision was made at a ...

**Real-life CSI: Forensic students brought to Miami murder scene**
MiamiHerald.com
A group of forensic students on a field trip from Nebraska, who don't get to see much bloodshed back home to pursue their morbid studies, got a taste of real-life CSI Miami on Wednesday. A homicide scene in Northeast Miami became their classroom ...

**DNA question has no so simple answer**
Vancouver Sun
Wozney said police are not looking to get DNA samples from everyone who is arrested, just those who are arrested for more serious crimes, such as murder, kidnapping, robbery, arson and break-and-enter. And if a suspect ends up being found not guilty ...

**DNA bill will help conviction rate**
Independent Online
The Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill (referred to as the DNA bill) is now before Parliament and, if voted into law, could drastically change South Africa's conviction rate, with repeat offenders being caught earlier than was previously ...

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**Employment Opportunities**

**Criminalist II, Firearms**, Oakland Police Department, Oakland, CA, Expires: June 17, 2013

**Criminalist II, Drug Chemistry**, Oakland Police Department, Oakland, CA, Expires: June 17, 2013

**Crime Lab Division Director**, Albuquerque Police Department, Albuquerque, NM, Expires: June 14, 2013

**Crime Lab Scientist (Entry-Level)**, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Georgia, Expires: June 11, 2013
Minnesota: BCA asks kin of missing loved ones for DNA samples to help ID...

The samples will be entered into an FBI DNA index, where they can be compared with family member samples from across the country. But Catherine Knutson, the laboratory director for BCA’s Forensic Science Services, said the effort won’t work unless...

Forensic identification of rapists

Former Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Asma Jahangir has condemned the Council of Islamic Ideology for not accepting DNA test as primary evidence for the identification of rapists. The CII two days ago observed that although...

Review functioning of forensic science laboratory: High court tells govt

He sought DNA test pleading innocence before the sessions court but forensic laboratory did not furnish report of DNA test. The matter reached high court in March 2012 and director of forensic laboratory Dr S B Upadhyay stated that owing to non...

DNA lab’s slow results impedes cases, review finds

The RCMP's forensic labs, which include DNA testing, have come under sharp scrutiny in Parliament in recent years, after two reports from the auditor general and one from a Senate committee found they were poorly run and too often backlogged. In May...

Training

No-cost, NIJ Medicolegal Death Investigation online training program. The information available online at: http://www.nfstc.org/apply-now-for-online-medicolegal-death-investigation-course/

The West Virginia University Forensic Science Initiative invites you to utilize their FREE webinar series on a variety of topics in forensic science!
Experts in the field will present on a wide range of forensic science topics from the reliability of eye witness identification to fire scene investigation. Sign up now for the Texas Forensic Science Commission: Justice Through Science presentation. Follow the link for a list of upcoming webinars.

Try your CSI skills at the Basic Crime Scene Investigation for Legal Professionals course at West Virginia University’s forensic crime scene complex. This four day course will offer hands-on training specifically for the legal professional. Learn how to properly identify, collect, and preserve evidence at a crime scene. To better assist each student, class seating will be limited. For more information, click here.

**ATF National Firearms Examiner Academy (NFEA)**
Registration for 2013-2014 session open until July 31, 2013 for apprentice/entry level firearm and toolmark examiners from Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.

University of California Davis Extension (UCDE): **Forensic Laboratory Leadership and Management Certificate**. Please go to www.extension.ucdavis.edu/forensiclab for information, class schedules, and an application form.

**Conferences**
June 7, 2013 The 4th Annual Prescription for Criminal Justice Forensics Conference at Fordham Law School in New York City. See ABA forensics_2013.pdf to review a complete brochure and to register for the conference


August 4-10, 2013 International Association for Identification (IAI) 98th International Educational Conference in Providence, RI. For more information see www.theiai.org or contact conference@theiai.org
September 2-6, 2013 – 25th World Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics in Melbourne, Australia. For more information see: http://isfg2013.org/

September 23-26, 2013  2nd Annual Advanced DNA Technical Workshop – Bode Mid-Atlantic, Charlottesville, VA. See Bode Mid-Atlantic Conference for more details.


October 20-24, 2013  Southern Association of Forensic Scientists, Huntsville, AL. Click here for more information.

