

July 22, 2013



## American Society of Crime Lab Directors Crime Lab Minute

### General Announcements

#### Investigation of False Positive and False Negative Errors for Cartridge Casing Comparisons

I'm excited to announce the availability to ASCLD member laboratories of the opportunity to participate in a national study. The Midwest Forensics Resource Center (at the USDOE Ames Laboratory) is conducting a firearms error rate study funded by the Defense Forensic Science Center. The study is designed to measure rates of false positives and false negatives in comparing questioned cartridge cases to known samples, as well as uncertainties in these rates. The possibility of a very low rate of errors in these comparisons require that a large number of examiners participate to obtain useful results. As such, they are seeking volunteers who are practicing firearms examiners from the ASCLD membership to participate in this study. A letter of invitation, a description of the study, and a consent form can be found at <https://www.ameslab.gov/files/DOD-Study-Greeting-Pkg-snd.pdf>. The results will be published in a peer reviewed journal so that they may be used during legal proceedings requiring an understanding of the error rates of this type of analysis.

Interested applicants should send their completed consent forms by email or mail to the addresses provided with the consent letter as soon as possible or by no later than August 31, 2013.

Jay Henry  
ASCLD President

### Vendor Sponsors



Sorenson Forensics provides forensic DNA casework services for federal, state and local crime laboratories; law enforcement agencies; and assists Officers of the Court in individual criminal cases. Sorenson Forensics is a unique private forensic DNA laboratory. We are built upon a foundation of collaborative forensics with law enforcement agencies, advanced lab technology and our unique experience. More than 500 law enforcement agencies have turned to Sorenson Forensics for individual casework and DNA testing services. We provide comprehensive biological screening, including: blood, semen, and saliva identifications. We also offer Y-screening (using Plexor HY), a more sensitive alternative to traditional screening that directly detects the presence of male DNA. Sorenson Forensics scientists and technicians have extensive public lab work experience, creating an environment empathetic to the issues which public labs face. Our veteran team with combined public and private lab work history have decades of forensic DNA experience and have completed thousands of individual cases. Some of the highest profile cases in the country have been sent to the Sorenson laboratory because of this unique expertise. The growing reputation for excellence has spread internationally with a world-wide clientele now using Sorenson Forensics. <http://sorensonforensics.com>

The Libyan national forensic laboratory (MOI) is looking for training opportunities in the US on forensic document examination and more specifically on the use of Foster & Freeman VSC6000, VSC4PLUS, FORAM685-2, and ESDA2. Please contact Soraya McClung at [smcclung@wvsp.state.wv.us](mailto:smcclung@wvsp.state.wv.us) if your laboratory would be able to accommodate this request"

Soraya McClung  
International Liaison Committee Chair

## News Around the Globe

### [Obama Administration Pushes Drug Courts](#)

U.S. News & World Report

They were there to talk about drug courts – programs that provide nonviolent drug offenders with treatment instead of a jail sentence. The number of drug courts has exploded in recent years along with rising numbers of drug offenders. In 1989, just one ...

### [Drug czar: Treat addiction as public health issue](#)

Kansas City Star

Associated Press. LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The nation's drug czar explained Thursday that the most effective way to address widespread addiction problems is to approach chronic drug abuse as a brain disease and strive to provide treatment to addicts.

### [Drug case earns ex-SF police lab tech home detention](#)

San Francisco Chronicle

A former San Francisco police lab technician, whose admission that she took home cocaine that was being held as evidence led to the dismissals of hundreds of drug cases, was sentenced to a year of home confinement Friday by a federal judge who rejected ...

**Calibrate, Inc.** founded the pipette calibration industry in 1983 and remains North America's



leader in the business. No one knows pipettes better. ISO 17025 Accredited since 2004 (by the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation, or A2LA, a signatory to the ILAC MRA), our focus is on quality.

We work nationwide and in eastern Canada, either on-site or in one of our three mail-in laboratories.

Pipette service is available for all makes and models of pipettes as well as bottle-top dispensers and pipet-aids. We offer an extended warranty on all parts and labor, and are known for delivering high quality work and excellent customer service. We solve problems. It was for these reasons that we were recently chosen by Business Leaders magazine as a 2009 Business Champion.

Visit us on the web at

<http://www.pipetpeople.com> or email us at [forensics@pipetpeople.com](mailto:forensics@pipetpeople.com) for more information about how our quality pipette services can help you create a bullet-proof pipette calibration program at your facility today.

## Employment Opportunities

[Latent Print Examiner III, Supervisory Level](#), Oakland Police Department, Oakland, CA, Expires: August 9, 2013  
[Forensic Scientist – Trace Evidence](#), Virginia

### [Region sees drug crimes rise with Bakken boom](#)

Great Falls Tribune

An oil well near Sidney is shown Feb. 28. Deputies, prosecutors and local drug counselors made the case Friday for more federal help during a Glendive meeting with the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy R. Gil Kerlikowske and Sens.

### [Stenehjem: Crime lab staffing will remain intact](#)

San Francisco Chronicle

The director of the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program warned nine crime labs in the region earlier this month that funding would likely be trimmed in the next fiscal year and possibly eliminated after that because of federal budget ...

### [As crime lab budget balloons, list reveals KCMO paid about \\$3.5 million to buy ...](#)

KSHB

To make way for the new crime lab, the city needed to purchase 128 parcels in a four square-block area near 27th and Prospect Avenue. A list obtained by 41 Action News shows the total cost to buy all the properties was about \$3.5 million. That number ...

### [See Where In Wisconsin The State Crime Lab Has Processed Heroin Cases](#)

Wisconsin Public Radio News

Heroin use has been increasing in Wisconsin, and not just in urban areas: Rural areas and small towns have also seen an uptick in drug use. Check out this interactive map of heroin cases processed by the state crime lab over the past three years ...

### [Verdugo crime lab to put robot to work](#)

Glendale News Press

A new robot with the ability to handle liquids is coming to the Glendale Police Department's Verdugo Regional Crime Laboratory. The City Council on Tuesday accepted grant funds to pay for the \$53,243 QI Agility robot, which processes samples for DNA ...

### [Colorado lab report shows potential issues with testimony on blood-tests](#)

Department of Forensic Scientist, Richmond, VA, Expires: August 7, 2013

[Forensic Scientist–Toxicology](#), Metro Nashville Police Department, Nashville,

Tennessee, Expires: October 16, 2013

[Forensic Scientist Supervisor – Drug Identification](#), Metro Nashville Police

Department, Nashville, TN, Expires: October 16, 2013

[Forensic Scientist Supervisor – Firearms](#), Metro Nashville Police Department, Nashville,

TN, Expires: October 16, 2013

[Forensic Scientist- DNA/Serology](#), Metro Nashville Police Department/ Jane Madden,

Nashville, TN, Expires: October 16, 2013

[Criminalist – Firearms & Toolmarks Examiner](#),

Oxnard Police Department, Oxnard,

California, Expires: August 8, 2013

[Forensic Scientist](#), Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Roanoke,

VA, Expires: August 1, 2013

[Training, Development, & Research Manager](#),

Colorado Bureau of Investigation,

Lakewood, Expires: July 30, 2013

[Criminalistics Manager](#), Colorado Bureau of

Investigation, Lakewood, Expires: July 30, 2013

[DNA Analyst](#), Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake

City, Utah, Expires: September 9, 2013

[Latent Print Examiner](#), CITY OF FORT WORTH, FORT WORTH TEXAS, Expires: August 2,

2013

[Forensic Scientist II – Firearms and Toolmarks](#),

Johnson County Sheriff's Office, Criminalistics Laboratory, Olathe, Kansas, Expires: July 22,

2013

[Forensic Chemist](#), Miami Valley Regional Crime

Laboratory, Dayton, OH, Expires: August 16,

2013

[Forensic Services Laboratory Technician](#)

[\(NIBIN\)](#), City of Mesa, Mesa,

AZ, Expires: September 28, 2013

[Forensic Scientist I \(Serology\)](#), Suffolk County

Crime Lab, Hauppauge, NY, Expires: August

16, 2013

[Laboratory Manager](#), Washington State Patrol

Crime Laboratory Division, Spokane

WA, Expires: July 29, 2013

[Criminalist – Controlled Substances](#), Houston

Police Department Crime Laboratory, Houston,

Texas 77002, Expires: September 20, 2013

[Lab Director](#), Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake

City, Utah, Expires: August 16, 2013

[Criminalist II](#), City of Chandler, Chandler,

Arizona, Expires: August 17, 2013

Denver Post

Defense attorneys say the accusation is just one example of the supervisor's long-standing bias toward prosecutors that led to potentially tainted testimony in scores of criminal cases. The 37-page report paints a portrait of a lab supervisor who ...

### [Arson Lab Uses Latest Technology To Track Criminals](#)

10TV

We have to freeze it as soon as possible," said Chad Wissinger, the Forensic Laboratory Chief. The goal is to determine what caused a fire to start either intentionally or accidentally. Lab workers say if it's ignitable, they can find it. Even finding ...

### [Rising use of DNA to nab low-level criminals](#)

Philly.com

A 2010 study backed by the National Institute of Justice found that twice as many property-crime suspects were identified when DNA was used. Bristol Township police, like most Pennsylvania departments, submits DNA samples to a state police lab.

### [FBI announces review of 2000 cases featuring hair samples](#)

MiamiHerald.com

Cates, the Innocence Project spokesman, said that "we are hopeful that state crime labs will also recognize their duty" to confirm the accuracy of past lab tests, although the agreement announced Thursday covers only testimony and reports from FBI lab ...

### [DNA finally nails the notorious Boston Strangler](#)

New Scientist

In a bid to solve the mystery, the Boston Police Crime Lab dug up DeSalvo's corpse and removed three teeth and a section of bone from his left arm. The DNA matched degraded samples of DNA that were from the crime scene, which were analysed using ...

### [Washburn officials campus renovations](#)

Kansas City Star

Washburn is also partnering with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation on a new forensic science lab to alleviate problems with the state's crime

[Criminalist – Firearms](#), Houston Police Department Crime Lab, Houston, Texas, Expires: September 13, 2013  
[Forensic Chemist III](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, TX, Expires: September 11, 2013  
[Forensic Scientist III/Quality Assurance Specialist-Latent Print Examiner](#), City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul, MN, Expires: September 10, 2013

[Forensic Scientist II-Latent Print Examiner](#), City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul, MN, Expires: September 10, 2013

[Criminalist – Toxicology](#), Houston Police Department Crime Lab, Houston, Texas, Expires: September 7, 2013

[Criminalist – Serologist](#), Houston Police Department Crime Lab, Houston, Texas, Expires: September 7, 2013

[Forensic DNA Technician](#), Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Utah, Expires: July 31, 2013

[Forensic DNA Analyst](#), Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Utah, Expires: July 31, 2013

[Chief, Emerging Technology Section, Forensic Scientist 5](#), American Registry of Pathology, Dover, DE, Expires: July 22, 2013

[Forensic Scientist \(Crime Scene\)](#), DC Government – Department of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, Expires: August 13, 2013

[DNA Analyst III / Serologist / DNA Operations Technician](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, Texas, Expires: July 31, 2013

[DNA Analyst III](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, Texas, Expires: July 31, 2013

[Forensic Scientist I \(Chemical\)](#), Suffolk County Crime Laboratory, Hauppauge, NY, Expires: August 5, 2013

[Quality Director](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, Texas, Expires: July 30, 2013

## 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/>

investigations. The KBI has been seeking to build a new facility to replace an existing lab housed in the ...

### [Columbus to build new crime lab, Downtown-area fire station](#)

Columbus Dispatch

A new crime lab for the Police Division and a replacement for the city's busiest fire station are included in \$124 million in projects and legislation approved by the Columbus City Council yesterday. The council also gave the green light to send an ...

### [DNA testing increases in La. property crimes](#)

The Advocate

The number of property crime cases submitted to the State Police Crime Lab for DNA testing has jumped from 138 five years ago to 1,415 in the fiscal year that ended June 30. Forensic requests for homicides and sex crimes also increased during that time ...

### [No bones about it — state's forensic anthropologist needs your help](#)

The Register-Guard

Dr. Nici Vance speaks about methods for identifying biological evidence using criminal anthropology at the Springfield Public Library on Saturday afternoon. Vance works for the Oregon State Crime Lab and has been a forensic scientist, crime scene ...

### [Police introduce forensic coding](#)

The South Florida Times

clarence-d-williams-iii-web.jpg RIVIERA BEACH ñ Seeking to enhance law enforcement's ability to identify and capture criminals and identify the outlets that purchase stolen property, the Riviera Beach Police Department is introducing SmartWater CSI, ...

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.

## *Conferences*

August 4-10, 2013 International Association for Identification (IAI) 98<sup>th</sup> International Educational Conference in Providence, RI. For more information see [www.theiai.org](http://www.theiai.org) or contact

[conference@theiai.org](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Advanced DNA Technical Workshop – Bode Mid-Atlantic, Charlottesville, VA. See [Bode Mid-Atlantic Conference](#) for more details.

September 29 – October 4, 2013 Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists Fall Meeting Dayton, Ohio. See [www.mafs.net](http://www.mafs.net) or [MAFS 2013](#) for more details.

October 7-11, 2013 Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers (AFQAM) Annual Training Conference, at The Genesee Grande Hotel in Syracuse, NY. Additional details are posted at [www.afgam.org](http://www.afgam.org).

October 20-24, 2013 Southern Association of Forensic Scientists, Huntsville, AL. [Click here for more information](#).

October 27-30, 2013 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists, Santa Fe, NM. See <http://www.swafs.us> for more details.

October 28-November 1, 2013 Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Orlando, FL. See <http://www.soft-tox.org/meeting> for more information.

Nov 11-12, 2013 Crime Scene and Shooting Incident Reconstruction. 2 day seminar at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. See [http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/legal/cold\\_case.php](http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/legal/cold_case.php) for more details.

May 3-8, 2014 ASCLD Symposium at the Doubletree Resort, Paradise Valley in Scottsdale, AZ, See <http://www.asclcd.org/meetings-list/> for more information.

August 31 – September 4, 2014: 22<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences in Adelaide, South Australia. See

<http://anzfss.org.au/international-symposium/> for more information.