

August 4, 2014



American Society of Crime Lab Directors Crime Lab Minute

General Announcements

President's Message

Dear Colleagues:

I have asked Member Kermit Channell to provide us with an ISO project update. His update is below.

Brady Mills
ASCLD President

As most of you are aware, ANSI is the U.S. member body to ISO. ASCLD has become a member of ANSI in order to represent the forensic community on potential ISO standards that can directly impact our processes.

ASCLD, partnering with ANSI has taken on the role of US-TAG (Technical Advisory Group) Administrator. Our role in this process is to review the proposed standard, consult with our US-Technical Advisory Group members, who include technical experts from Promega, Qiagen, Sirchi, Thermo Fisher and the Defense Forensic Biometrics Agency (DFBA) and formulate consensus regarding the content of proposed ISO standard.

The ISO/PC 272 Forensic Sciences committee's scope is "Standardization in the field of forensic sciences". The proposed standard that our US-TAG is currently working on is ISO/DIS 18385, "Minimizing the risk of DNA contamination in products used to collect and analyze biological material for forensic purposes".

The United States, through our membership in ANSI, is one of 16 participating countries involved in the formation of the above ISO standard.

The US-TAG had its first face-to-face meeting in Arizona at our ASCLD meeting. During this meeting our TAG members were able to discuss and make suggested changes to the developing standard. All comments and suggestions were collated and submitted to ANSI for submittal to ISO.

Vendor Sponsors



The Center for Advanced Forensic DNA Analysis (CAFDA) is pleased to announce the [Genome ID Forum 2014 - Emerging Forensic Genomic Applications](#); a conference to take place on September 9 and 10 at the Hilton Greenville, North Carolina. Genome ID Forum brings together thought leaders from forensic science, research, academia, law and technology development for an open on-going dialogue regarding emerging science, technology applications and adoption by the forensic community. The program includes **Mr. Vince Figarelli**, Superintendent, Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory speaking on "Adoption and Implementation of the Arizona DPS Rapid DNA Program". To foster open discussions, space is limited. Registration is available through our website at www.genomeIDforum.com.



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The next ISO meeting will be held in Berlin, Germany during the first week of October. This meeting will be attended by a delegation of US-TAG members that will use their technical expertise to facilitate discussions for potential changes to the developing standard.

Kermit B. Channell, US-TAG Committee Chair

DNA Mixture Interpretation Study

The ASCLD Forensic Research Committee supports the NIJ-funded DNA Mixture Interpretation Study coordinated by the Defense Forensics and Biometrics Agency and all interested laboratories are encouraged to participate. The purpose of this study is determine the variation that occurs in interpretation of DNA mixtures in 2-, 3-, and 4-person mixtures. Variations in allele calls will be evaluated intra- and inter-laboratory and allele calls will be evaluated both pre- and post-technical review. Participants will analyze five DNA mixture datasets that vary in the number of contributors and contributor ratios. Interpretations will be made using the laboratory's Standard Operating Procedures but with the thresholds provided based on the validation of the instrumentation used to generate the data set. Participants will receive the data in the form of .fsa files. The study will use quantifiable metrics to evaluate the participant's ability to identify the number of contributors, estimate the ratio of mixture components, evaluate the accuracy of the allele calls in each mixture, and examine the variations in the final statistics generated for the reported interpretations. The study is designed to take no more than 4 hours. Currently, eleven labs are participating.

To sign up, please email Roman Aranda at roman.aranda3.ctr@mail.mil. Please use "DNA Mixture Interpretation Study" in the subject line. Registration closes **August 29, 2014** with all data to be returned to Dr. Aranda by September 29, 2014.

News Around the Globe

[Cold Case Solved Using Fingerprints](#)
HamletHub

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<http://www.ssi.shimadzu.com/ASCLD>



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN: [Bode's 2014 DNA Technical Conferences](#), providing DNA training on the latest techniques and technologies to the forensic scientific community.

[Bode Technology](#) provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

Bode's solutions include [BodeDirect™ Outsourcing](#) and [Same-Day DNA Service™](#), and the [Bode Buccal DNA Collector™](#), a direct collection system, reduces processing time, saving money for crime laboratories.

Bode's newest offerings include: [BodeLIMS™ – The First True Forensic DNA LIMS](#). BodeLIMS is a web-based LIMS that tracks samples from receipt through reporting. The software documents and captures the entire DNA analysis process and is completely configurable, thus adaptable to changing technologies.

[Bode LeanLab™](#) service utilizes Lean Six Sigma principles and delivers custom solutions

When fingerprints are involved, "latent prints" are those accidentally left ... Bureau's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, or IAFIS.

[Anoka county forensic lab receives national accreditation](#)

TwinCities.com-Pioneer Press

Anoka County was recently added to the short list of Minnesota communities operating accredited forensic crime labs. The Tri County Regional ...

[Sloppy work at FBI lab could affect thousands of cases](#)

DigitalJournal.com

Touted as a state-of-the-art crime-fighting facility, the FBI forensics lab has long been regarded as the final word on analyzing evidence whether it's ...

[Crime lab on ropes again](#)

East Oregonian (subscription)

The Oregon State Police crime lab in Pendleton is once again faced with an uncertain future. Local staff learned Wednesday that OSP is considering ...

[FBI errors throw forensic convictions into question](#)

New Scientist

In the 1980s and 1990s, forensic scientists routinely compared hairs under ... This still happens today, but it is usually backed up by mitochondrial DNA testing. ... It could even ripple out to other areas of forensic science that don't fall ...

[Commissioner helps to speed DNA checks](#)

Lancashire Telegraph

AN innovative project to rapidly speed up the time it takes to get DNA ... to significantly impact upon the way forensic science supports policing in the ...

[State to build new forensic lab in Roanoke](#)

Chatham Star-Tribune

ROANOKE — Representatives from the Virginia Department of Forensic Science and the Virginia Department of Health, as well as Secretary of ...

[Congress Debates Dangers of Driving Stoned](#)

NBCNews.com

As states continue to relax marijuana laws, Congress on Thursday turned its attention to the tricky question of how to handle "drug driving."

[Western Crime Lab Funding](#)

WLOS

District Attorney Ron Moore says that's due, in part, to the lack of forensic scientists in the state. Currently, only two toxicology labs run blood work for ...

to forensic labs improving efficiency, increasing throughput, reducing turnaround time and eliminating backlogs.

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WVU Center for Executive Education offers unique customized programs for forensic professionals interested in improving their individual and organizational knowledge of contemporary business practices.

[FBI Ordered to Resume Review of Cases that May be Tainted by Two Decades of Flawed Forensics](#)

AllGov

The mess at the FBI crime lab was revealed by The Washington Post two years ago. The newspaper found hundreds of people may have been ...

[UNT Forensic Chemist Develops System to Identify Counterfeit Documents for the US Department ...](#)

BioNews Texas

Dr. Guido Verbeck An associate professor of Chemistry at the University of North Texas developed a system that is able to identify fraudulent ...

[Bill aims to strengthen forensic training in sexual assault cases](#)

ArmyTimes.com

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, will introduce legislation Wednesday designed to strengthen the Pentagon's sex ...

[A2LA Accredits Forensic Proficiency Test Provider and First Forensic Trace Evidence Analysis ...](#)

DigitalJournal.com

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is proud to announce the dual accreditation of Forensic Science Consultants (FSC) to ...

[Victims wait for justice as rape kits sit in lab backlogs](#)

WLKY Louisville

For many victims justice is slow as rape kits sit untested in the state crime lab. The Louisville Metro Police Department has roughly 4,700 DNA kits, but ...

[Forensic pioneers ARRO Supranano make Oxfordshire acquisition](#)

The Journal

"Their analytical services include fingerprint / footwear, drugs, DNA, medicine ... Arro Supranano was recently awarded the Forensic and Expert Witness ... ID Group LLC, The Centre for Advanced Forensic DNA Analysis™ (CAFDA).

[UCO forensic researcher answers key question](#)

Edmond Sun

"You spend the whole day," the UCO W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute student said, "sometimes days, searching for someone and only find a ...

[Attorney General Talks Improved Efficiency At State Crime Lab, RX Drug Abuse](#)

WITN

Registration is now open for the 2014 Forensic Management Academy, a unique one-week management program geared specifically to current and aspiring forensic laboratory managers, law enforcement professionals and other forensic service providers. Instructors include forensic practitioners and college professors experienced in the field of forensics. The program will be offered September 14 – 19, 2014 in Morgantown, WV on the WVU campus. Please visit our website at <http://www.be.wvu.edu/execed/fma> for more information and to register.



Forensic Magazine® is the leading source of information on all aspects of forensic science technology, trends, equipment, services, and laboratory design. In every issue, Forensic Magazine® provides professionals working in forensic laboratories and crime scene investigation with the news and technical information they need—both in the lab and in the field. Forensic Magazine® covers forensics from evidence collection through processing, analysis, storage, and more. Forensic Magazine® features the latest technology, applications, and information for forensic scientists, crime scene investigators, and forensic specialists. Free subscriptions for the print/digital magazine and daily electronic newsletter are available at www.forensicmag.com

Employment Opportunities

[Sheriff's Forensic Services Bureau Manager II](#), Ventura County Sheriff, Ventura, CA, Expires: September 30, 2014

Cooper says they're working to improve efficiency at the state crime lab. He says they need to get more funding for forensic analysis so they can hire ...

[ACMT Presents Environmental and Health Consequences of Clandestine Methamphetamine ...](#)

PR Web (press release)

The American College of Medical Toxicology will present 'Environmental and Health Consequences of Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories' ...

[Division of Forensic Science struggles to get going](#)

The News Journal

Delaware's crime lab still isn't fully operational more than a month after the General ... "We need to re-establish trust and credibility in that lab. This will ...

[DNA-testing for crime scene investigations will soon identify criminals in a matter of HOURS](#)

Daily Mail

CSI has taken a step closer to reality as rapid DNA testing that could identify killers in ... Rapid DNA, in tandem with innovative fingerprint technology, is being ... Developed by IntegenX in the US and Key Forensic Services in the UK, ...

[Timely lab testing could help courts in Forsyth County](#)

myfox8.com

As it turns out, NMS Labs has been in talks with local officials to open a crime lab here, according to Jim O'Neill, the Forsyth district attorney, and Lee ...

Training

The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence announces its 2014 Technology Transition Workshop: The Utility and Features of Expert Systems for Interpreting DNA Data.

This on-site all travel-expense paid workshop will provide the forensic DNA community with a comprehensive review and hands on experience using a variety of expert systems available to crime laboratories.

We invite crime laboratory directors and managers for nominations. Space is limited so please see attached information sheet to learn more. Nominations received after August 8, 2014 will not be considered.

https://forensiccoe.org/tech_workshops/DU_TTWS_ExpertSystems.aspx

[Forensic Toxicology Analyst](#), St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office, Lacombe, LA, Expires: September 12, 2014

[DNA Analyst III](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, Texas, Expires: September 30, 2014

[Laboratory Quality Assurance Manager](#), Tri County Regional Forensic Laboratory, Andover, MN, Expires: August 19, 2014

[Quality Assurance Coordinator](#), The City of Lakewood, Lakewood, Colorado, Expires: August 29, 2014

[Criminalist, IB](#), NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York, NY, Expires: August 23, 2014

[Chief Medical Examiner](#), Travis County, Austin, TX, Expires: September 23, 2014

[Forensic Scientist II-Latent Print Examiner](#), City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul, MN, Expires: October 23, 2014

[Criminalist I – Firearms](#), Oakland Police Department, Oakland, CA, Expires: August 8, 2014

[Criminalist II Firearms Examiner Specialty](#), Oakland Police Department, Oakland, CA, Expires: August 8, 2014

[Forensic Scientist – Toxicology](#), Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: August 4, 2014

[Forensic Analyst – Biology-DNA](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2014

[Latent Print Examiner](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2014

Please reply to Shane Hamstra (shamstra@rti.org; [919.541.7265](tel:919.541.7265)) with your nomination and questions.

A2LA courses are designed with forensic professionals in mind, including a new courses to be hosted in Minnesota this September on ISO/IEC 17025 and 17020. See the below link for a full listing with dates and topics.

http://www.a2la.org/training/course_schedule.cfm

The **ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board/FQS** offers 2 workshops for accreditation preparation to the forensic community.

- ISO/IEC 17025 and Audit Preparation Workshop for Forensic Test Agencies

Attendees of this three-day workshop will obtain a general overview of ISO/IEC 17025 as it relates to forensic test agencies. All of the elements will be reviewed. The standard's applicability, origin, purpose and marketplace will be discussed. Some of the more important concepts will be reviewed such as document control, internal auditing, proficiency testing, traceability and measurement and method witnessing.

[September 22-24, 2014](#), Alexandria, VA
[October 27-28, 2014](#), Worcester, MA

- ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation Workshop for Forensic Police Agencies

Attendees of this two-day workshop will obtain a general overview of ISO/IEC 17020 for forensic police agencies. Individual elements of the standard will be reviewed; the standard's applicability to forensic police agencies, origin, purpose and marketplace will also be discussed. Some of the more important concepts, such as document control, internal auditing, proficiency testing, traceability and measurement, and method witnessing will be reviewed.

[September 25-26, 2014](#), Alexandria, VA

[Quality Specialist](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2014

[Forensic Scientist I or II](#), LVMPD, Las Vegas, NV, Expires: September 3, 2014

[Forensic Scientist – Forensic Biology](#), Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Roanoke, VA, Expires: August 31, 2014

[Forensic Scientist](#), Fort Worth Police Department, Fort Worth, Texas, Expires: August 30, 2014

[Firearms Examiner](#), Houston Forensic Science LGC, INC., Houston, TX, Expires: August 12, 2014

Conferences

August 10-16, 2014: International Association for Identification in Minneapolis, MN. See <http://www.theiai.org/conference/2014/index.php> for more information.

August 11-15, 2014: The [2014 Annual General Meeting](#) of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE) will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting will be a joint meeting with the [Australasian Society of Forensic Document Examiners, Inc.](#)

August 31 – September 4, 2014: 22nd International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences in Adelaide, South Australia. See <http://anzfss.org.au/international-symposium/> for more

September 9-10, 2014: Emerging Forensic Genomic Applications – genomID forum In Greenville, NC. See www.advancedforensicdna.com/corporate/snpforum/ for more information.

For more information about these workshops, contact FQS at 703-836-0025, ext 208. To register, please click on any of the dates above.

ASCLD-LAB Training

Training classes to help forensic laboratory personnel understand the requirements of *ISO/IEC 17025 General Requirements for the Competency of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*.

George Mason University's Office of Continuing Professional Education in Virginia is hosting a 2-day seminar:

Sexually Violent Crime: The Body as Evidence
Taught by Dr. Henry Lee and Dr. Leah Bush
November 3-4, 2014

Sexually violent crime continues to challenge investigators and concern the general public. It has been estimated that every two minutes, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. In many cases, sexual assault results in homicide. Dr. Henry Lee and Dr. Leah Bush, two of the country's top forensic scientists, will share their individual and collective expertise to help the participants understand the importance of the body as evidence as it relates to sexually violent crimes.

Please visit our course page at http://www.ocpe.gmu.edu/programs/legal/cold_case.php for more information on this exciting opportunity to learn from two of the top forensic scientists in the country!

Forensic and Investigative Science Outreach is pleased to provide quality, continuing education courses for forensic professionals. We would like to announce several on-site courses which will be offered for FREE at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. Please feel free to visit our [website](#) for additional registration information and to share this information with other interested individuals.

Continuing Education Courses – Summer 2014

Introduction to Firearm Examination

September 23-26, 2014: [Southern Association Forensic Scientist \(SAFS\) Annual 2014 Meeting](#) in Savannah, GA.

October 4-10, 2014: Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists in St. Paul, MN. See <http://www.mafs.net/news-feeds-1/mafs-2014> for more information.

October 13-18, 2014: World Forensic Festival in Seoul, South Korea. See <http://www.wff2014korea.org/info/index.php> for more information.

October 14-17, 2014: Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers in Vancouver, B.C. See <http://afqam.org/wp12/annual-training-conference/> for more information.

October 19-24, 2014: Society of Forensic Toxicologists in Grand Rapids, MI. See <http://www.soft-tox.org> for more information.

October 19-23, 2014: [36th Annual Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists \(SWAFS\)](#) in South Padre Island, TX.

October 20-24, 2014: Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists in Rohnert Park, CA. See <http://www.nwafs.org/meetings.htm> for more information.

November 3-6, 2014: [Annual DNA & Investigators Workshop– Bode Mid-Atlantic](#) in Crystal City, VA

November 3-6, 2014: [Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientist \(NEAFS\) Annual Meeting](#) in Hershey, PA.

February 16-21, 2015: [AAFS 67th Annual](#)

This training course will cover the basic duties and necessary knowledge for firearm examiners. Hands-on examination of firearm components along with microscopic comparisons and firearm classification will be discussed and demonstrated. This course will give students a basic understanding of firearm examination techniques and as well as a list of reliable resources to use in a laboratory setting.

Crime scene investigators, evidence technicians and novice firearm examiners who wish to enhance the student's understanding of firearm examinations are encouraged to register for this course.

Dates: July 28-30, 2014

Instructor: Keith Morris, PhD

Location: Oglebay Hall- Downtown Campus

ASCLD Webinars:

Links to these webinars can also be found on the ASCLD [Training Opportunities](#) webpage.

Webinar #1: [Taking the First Steps Toward Backlog Reduction](#)

Webinar #2: [The Backlog Paradox: Doing Less is Doing More](#)

Webinar #3: [Managing Customer Expectations and Education](#)

Webinar #4: [Case Acceptance, Policies and Guidelines](#)

Webinar #5: [Efficiency Improvements](#)

Webinar #6: [Increasing Your Staff without Increasing Your Budget](#)

Webinar #7: [Developing a Statewide Approach to Backlog Management](#)

Cal State Fullerton Certificates in Crime & Forensics. Contact Veronica Martinez at 1-657-278-3123 or see <http://extension.fullerton.edu/professionaldevelopment/Crime-Forensic>.

RTI International's Center for Forensic Sciences Continuing Education is pleased to offer a second premium online course for legal professionals, titled

“Managing Quality and Reliability in the Crime Laboratory: A Lawyer’s Perspective”. This low cost training was developed with the support of ASCLD/LAB, the North Carolina District Attorney’s Association and the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators. This course is designed for legal professionals who interface with scientific experts and/or present scientific evidence in courts of law. The course provides information about how accredited crime laboratories control quality, ensure the reliability of results, and work to maintain a high level of customer satisfaction and confidence in the reliability of laboratory services. It is recommended, but not required, that users have taken the course; An Introduction to the Crime Laboratory - Understanding its Role and Purpose before attempting this course.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Evaluate the work of a scientific expert
- Name the two types of scientific analyses
- Name the international body that governs crime laboratory accreditation
- Recognize authoritative documents and court rulings critical to forensic science
- List five warning signs signaling problems in a crime laboratory

If you know of a legal professional who may be interested in taking this course, please direct them

to:<https://www.forensiced.org/training/viewcourse.cfm?moduleid=fdf2f9c6-4d9e-4e7c-a6fd-c5301474a49d>. In some states, this course has been approved for 1 hour of CLE and MCLE credits (<https://www.forensiced.org/training/clestates.cfm?cid=1128152721>).