August 11, 2014

General Announcements

President’s Message

Dear Colleagues:

National Forensic Science Week has begun!

The National Forensic Science Week officially began on August 10th. During this week, all practitioners of forensic science are encouraged to engage their stakeholders in discussions about resource and policy needs as well as education and awareness about the role they play in the criminal justice system. It’s also a great opportunity to showcase the good work that you do for your community. In Texas, we have tours scheduled for our customers and other stakeholders. We have also planned an afternoon of activities for just lab personnel and their families. Please remember to email us at forensicscienceweek@gmail.com if you have news articles published, or events that we can add to the website. Please feel free to use the following website as a resource. www.forensicscienceweek.org

Brady Mills
ASCLD President

DNA Mixture Interpretation Study

The ASCLD Forensic Research Committee supports the NJ-fund 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

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 Dr. Tamyra R. Moretti, Research Biologist, FBI Laboratory speaking on “Emerging Technologies Developmental Validation - Questions and Concerns”. To foster open discussions, space is limited. Registration is available through our website at www.genomelDforum.com.

GC/MS/MS Speed, Sensitivity, and Selectivity Beyond Comparison

Triple quadrupole GC/MS/MS has emerged as a powerful technique for trace-level analysis of drug residues. Shimadzu’s GCMS-TQ8030, providing exceptional sensitivity, selectivity, and specificity for detection and quantitation of targeted drugs in the presence of background
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.

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

News Around the Globe

The County of San Diego just released a short documentary about a case solved by the San Diego County Sheriff's Regional Crime Lab.

http://www.countynewscenter.com/video?v=154929

DNA confirms remains of WWII missing airmen.
St. George Daily Spectrum
The remains of 1st Lts. William Bernier and Bryant Poulsen were identified through DNA and other evidence collected from the crash site in a forest on ...

£400000 funding will help police use DNA to identify suspects fast
The Visitor
DNA profiles could be obtained from Lancashire crime scenes in a matter of ... “The funding will give us the opportunity to “test out” RapidHIT DNA ... impact upon the way that forensic science supports policing in the future.”.

Military Inaugurates DNA Centre
AllAfrica.com
The minister stressed that the application of DNA technology has proven to be a valuable investigative tool to improve military identification ...
9 Questions You Should Ask About the Drug “Molly”
NBC4 Washington
It's one of the most popular party drugs in circulation at the moment, but what is it? Is it a new danger or old news? There's a lot of misinformation out ...

Columbus crime-lab error might affect 38 cases
Columbus Dispatch
At least 38 closed cases could be affected by a DNA-related mistake in the ... Since then, crime-lab workers have determined that 288 reports were ... The previous report said — and the forensic scientist testified at trial — that ...

Inside the mortuary with the UK’s leading forensic scientists
Financial Times
Black's own career as a forensic anthropologist has spanned the exhumation of mass graves in Kosovo and the analysis of photographs allegedly ...

UP to get 6 new forensic labs
Times of India
LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh government will set up six new forensic laboratories by 2016. It is aimed at improving the poor conviction rate in criminal ...

Broward Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory: New Times Finds Lots of Missing Drugs and Botched ...
New Times Broward-Palm Beach (blog)
Though the broad outlines of the scandal at the Broward crime lab have been made public -- two top staff members have resigned, and an internal ...

McCory names acting SBI director
WRAL.com
McLeod assumed command of the SBI following an outside investigation that determined analysts in the State Crime Lab had omitted, overstated or ...

RapidHit Human DNA Identification System helps Sheriff's Department get criminals off the streets
Columbia Star
This is an important new crime fighting tool when it comes to saving time, ... The Richland County Sheriff’s Department Crime Lab was able to match ...

Western Crime Lab Progress
WLNS
Ellen Pitt with Mothers Against Drunk Driving listened intently on the progress for the western crime lab planned for the Justice Academy in Edneyville

St. Louis Count crime lab already paying dividends

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

Visit www.bodetech.com or email bode.service@bodetech.com for more information.

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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.
The St. Louis County Crime Lab has been open about nine months and already the people that work in the lab are making...

The key to some major endangered species crime investigations is a small lab in Oregon. Public Radio International
The US Fish & Wildlife Service's Forensic Lab in Ashland, Oregon includes a collection of reference samples of protected wildlife species. Lab staff say...

More than 8000 rape kits submitted for DNA testing in Ohio, with over half processed so far
The Republic
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Attorney General Mike DeWine says Ohio's crime lab has received 8,381 untested rape kits as it seeks DNA matches that could...

North metro crime lab earns accreditation, will ramp up DNA work
Minneapolis Star Tribune
The accreditation by the Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board clears the way for the lab to connect to the FBI's DNA index...

Crime lab in Pendleton faces possible shutdown
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin
Keith Kerr, director of the Pendleton crime lab, said the issue now is strictly being driven by the budget. Forensic labs are expensive to operate, he said...

Call go merge pathology and forensic services
Belfast Newsletter
Merging pathology and forensic services in Northern Ireland into a single overarching body could address recurring delays in reporting post-mortem...

Clouded Perspective on Forensic Science
The National Law Review
The National Institute of Standards and Technology

Training

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.

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

Forensic Scientist- Chemist, Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, Beaufort, South Carolina, Expires: September 1, 2014
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.
  
  **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.
  
  **September 25-26, 2014, Alexandria, VA**

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

**Forensic DNA Analyst**, Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office, Beaufort, South Carolina, Expires: September 1, 2014


**Latent Print Examiner**, Fort Worth Police Dept, Fort Worth, Texas, Expires: August 27, 2014

**Sheriff's Forensic Services Bureau Manager II**, Ventura County Sheriff, Ventura, CA, Expires: September 30, 2014

**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

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

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

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

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 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.

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=fd2f9c6-4d9e-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).

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


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


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

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 Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL