

December 23, 2013



American Society of Crime Lab Directors Crime Lab Minute

General Announcements

President's Message

A Busy time of year...

I have been marveling at how much activity that we have in the ASCLD organization right now. Between webinars, meetings and symposium planning activities, I feel like we have really engaged the membership and likewise, you have responded! Thank you for your continued feedback and participation. It is valued and allows us all to serve and grow the organization.

Another Great Webinar!

A special thanks to Brian Gestring and Beth Kroupa for last Wednesday's Webinar "The Paradox of Backlog Reduction: Doing Less is Doing More". In case you missed it, here's a link to that presentation: <https://www.forensiced.org/training/viewcourse.cfm?moduleid=97f08e2e-5290-46af-b78c-383e5cffc64f>

Get ready for the third in the series, Wed Jan 8, 2014: Partnering with your Customers and Stakeholders

<https://www.forensiced.org/training/viewcourse.cfm?moduleid=c6c16b34-73cc-4931-88e5-8700d21022f4>

Symposium Details...

In the next couple of weeks, we will be releasing the registration information for the Scottsdale meeting. Suffice to say, we're excited about having the membership come together again and are looking forward to an amazing conference. If you have any questions, please contact Brady Mills at brady.mills@dps.texas.gov.

We need your feedback!



Call for Posters!!

The deadline for submitting abstracts for posters and workshops has passed, but there is still time to submit one for a poster. The theme for this year's meeting is "The Efficiency of Quality". If you've got an idea for a poster, please download the form below and return by **March 1, 2014**.

[2014 ASCLD Symposium Abstract Form](#)

Speaking of the meeting

The planning committee still has room for volunteers. Your degree of participation can be very flexible with opportunities ranging from working a shift at the registration table to running the meeting's plenary session. How much time you commit is up to you! If you're interested, please contact President Elect Mills at brady.mills@dps.texas.gov.

We will be electing new members to the Board of Directors at the business meeting to be held at the Symposium. If you or someone you know is a regular member and is interested in becoming a candidate for the ASCLD Board, please contact Sabrina.Cillesen@DFS.Virginia.gov

And, you are responding! Earlier this week, Membership Committee Chair Jeff Salyards send a request to all members seeking their opinion. As you may recall from the last symposium, we discussed some proposed language changes and realized that we needed to do a better job of understanding the viewpoints of the members, hence, the survey. Please, if you haven't done so already, take a few minutes to share with us your thoughts. The link for the survey is: <http://questionpro.com/t/AGGeDZQb9c>

ASCLD Leadership Academy
[ASCLD Leadership Academy Registration Announcement.pdf](#)

Under the leadership and energy of Training and Education Committee Chair Jeremy Triplett, the registration for the leadership academy was announced last week. From all indications, this is going to be a very popular and highly sought after program. Well, you know, if Jeremy is in charge, it will be nothing short of amazing. If you or your line supervisors or managers are interested, I would encourage you to get your applications in soon!! There's more information on the new Leadership Academy page on the ASCLD website at <http://www.ascl.org/academy>.

CFSO Update

See the link below for the latest CFSO newsletter. This month is packed with useful information including a side-by-side comparison of the various proposals on forensic reform. Enjoy!

[CFSO December Newsletter](#)

Merry Christmas!!

Jay Henry
ASCLD President

This Week's Forensic Metric: 68

The median turn-around time in days (68) for a DNA report with the timeline defined as beginning at the

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date of the first submission of evidence to report submission. This information is derived from those laboratories who participated in the 2011-2012 FORESIGHT program.

News Around the Globe

[Military drug tests get tough on spice](#)

Marine Corps Times

The Defense Department has officially changed its random urinalysis tests to include the synthetic marijuana substance known as spice on its list of ...

[State launches drug take-back initiative](#)

Washington Observer Reporter

Tom Corbett announced Monday the launch of the drug take-back program, which will provide as many as 250 MedReturn boxes across the state.

[Officials say new crime lab will make Nashville a 'safer city'](#)

The Tennessean

Mayor Dean talks about Nashville's crime lab: Mayor Karl Dean discusses the benefits of of the new crime lab that is opening in 2014.

[Actions of indicted state chemist Sonja Farak cause 2 more ...](#)

[MassLive.com](#)

Sonja Farak appears in Hampshire Superior Court Aug. 26 for a hearing related to charges of evidence tampering at the UMass crime lab.

[New DNA "origami" model arranges nanoparticles in 3-D](#)

R & D Magazine

If the scientists' nanoparticles were a million times larger, the laboratory would look like an arts and crafts room at Christmas time: gold, silver and ...

[Texas leads trend in challenging forensic evidence](#)

USA TODAY

A Texas Forensic Science Commission was recently formed to look into ... Of the 311 DNA exonerations across the USA the group has tallied since ...

[DNA motor 'walks' along nanotube, transports tiny particle](#)

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.

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[Phys.Org](#)

This illustration depicts the walking mechanism of a new type of DNA motor that researchers have demonstrated by using it to transport a nanoparticle ...

[Scientists Discover Second Genetic Code Hidden in DNA](#)

Science World Report

Scientists have discovered a second code hiding within DNA. This second code contains information that changes how scientists read the instructions ...

[State police analyze backlog of 4000 rape kits](#)

Chicago Tribune

Of the 4,000 profiles, 927 were matched in the national DNA database, ... In addition, the state crime lab sometimes refused to analyze kits, the ...

[DNA Bill not a panacea to crime problem, says Bunting](#)

Jamaica Observer

National Security Minister, Peter Bunting, says that the DNA Bill, slated to go to Parliament next month, will not provide ...

[Letter: State Crime Lab underfunded](#)

Greenville Daily Reflector

9) cites questionable statistics, there can be no quarrel with the premise that the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory (the Lab) is in grave need of ...

[A rare look inside Homeland Security's cyber crimes lab](#)

MyFox Houston

Here you're getting a rare look inside of Homeland Security's Cyber Crime Lab at DHS in Houston. Once they get a tip they use their technology to go ...

[New DNA tool nets first conviction in rape case](#)

Richmond Times Dispatch

... ago is apparently the first person brought to justice in Virginia by familial DNA searching, a new forensic tool used only when other methods fail.

[Massachusetts drug bust yields bags of heroin marked 'Obama Care'](#)

Fox News

Massachusetts State Police took four people into



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custody Friday morning after discovering 1,250 individual bags of heroin marked "Obama Care," ...

Training

FTCOE 2D/3D Crime Scene Imaging Knowledge Transfer web based Event: Dec 18, 2013 @ 1:00 pm EST for crime scene management and practitioners in your service area;

The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCOE) at RTI International is pleased to host the web based discussion panel 2D/3D Crime Scene Imaging: A Practitioner's Perspective on December 18th at 1:00 pm EST. The panel consists of forensic practitioners who have adopted and implemented one of three panoramic crime scene imaging technologies; SceneVision-Panorama, Panoscan MK-3, and Leica ScanStation C10. Please register for free at:

<https://www.forensiced.org/training/viewcourse.cfm?moduleid=30e8776f-7326-471a-a72b-8b12633fc043>.

The goal of this event is to provide participants with access to adopting practitioners' perspectives and hear firsthand what has worked and what hasn't in their real world implementations. Panelists will present a brief overview of their implementation and then there will be time for discussion among the panel and questions from attendees. Access an executive summary of the FTCOE technology evaluation report at <https://rti.connectsolutions.com/p48gn4fh4wi/>. Many thanks to Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Forensic Sciences for their excellent work on behalf of NIJ's FTCOE!

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

[Toxicology](#), Ontario Public Service, Toronto, ON, Expires: January 6, 2014

[Latent Print Examiner Supervisor](#), Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orlando, FL, Expires: March 4, 2014

[Firearms & Toolmarks Examiner – FTE position](#), Wisconsin Department of Justice – Milwaukee State Crime Lab, Milwaukee,

Wisconsin, Expires: December 31, 2013

[Forensic Scientist III/Quality Assurance Specialist-Latent Print Examiner](#), City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul, MN, Expires: March 2, 2014

[Forensic Scientist II-Latent Print Examiner](#), City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul, MN, Expires: March 2, 2014

[Information Technology Specialist \(LIMS\)](#), DC Government – Department of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, Expires: February 24, 2014

[Firearms Examiner](#), Dallas County Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences, Dallas, TX, Expires: February 26, 2014

[Forensic Toxicologist or Trainee](#), Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Norfolk, VA, Expires: January 6, 2014

[Assistant Professor](#), Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, Expires: January 31, 2014

[Chairperson](#), Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, Expires: February 18, 2014

[Tenure-Track Position in Forensics](#), Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Trois-Rivières, Expires: December 31, 2013

[Crime Scene Analyst – Denver](#), Colorado Department of Public Safety, Denver, CO, Expires: December 31, 2013

[Forensic Scientist – Latent Prints](#), Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Roanoke, VA, Expires: December 31, 2013

[Forensic DNA Analyst](#), Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, UT, Expires: January 11, 2014

[Criminalistics Manager, Police Laboratory](#), NYPD, New York, NY, Expires: January 6, 2014

[Manager – Case Management, Training and Professional Development Section](#), NYPD, New York, NY, Expires: January 6, 2014

[Tenure Track Faculty Position in Forensic Biology](#), Indiana Univ Purdue Univ Indpls (IUPUI), Indianapolis, IN, Expires: December 31, 2013

[Crime Scene Sciences Supervisor \(Unit Manager\)](#), 202 727-8239, Washington, DC, Expires: December 23, 2013

[Forensic Science Full-Time Faculty Position](#), Cedar Crest College, Allentown, PA, Expires:

student, class seating will be limited. For more information, click [here](#).

[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*.

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=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>).

December 23, 2013

Conferences

February 17-22, 2014: American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Seattle, WA. See <http://www.aafs.org/aafs-66th-annual-scientific-meeting> for more information.

April 6 -14, 2014: International International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT) in Newport, CA. See <http://www.iactonline.org/> for more information.

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

May 11-16, 2014: Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners in Seattle, WA. See <http://www.afte.org/TrainingSeminar/AFTE2014/announcements/afte2014.htm> for more information.

May 19-23, 2014 Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists in State College, PA. See <http://www.maafs.org/#!annual-meeting> for more information.

May 21-23, 2014 European Conference on Child Abuse (EUCCAN) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. See <http://www.euccan.eu/en/> for more information.

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

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 information.

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