December 30, 2013

American Society of Crime Lab Directors
Crime Lab Minute

General Announcements

President’s Message

Get ready for Webinar #3

Remember to please consider joining your colleagues for ASCLD’s webinar on Wed Jan 8, 2014: Partnering with your Customers and Stakeholders featuring John Collins. Updated reminders with current links will be forwarded in the coming week.

We need your feedback by no later than January 10th!

To date, we’ve heard from about one third of you. 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

Thank you for responding to Jeremy’s announcement. So far, we’ve had a tremendous response which indicates that we’re on the right track. If you or your line supervisors or managers are interested, please get your applications in soon!!

ASCLD Leadership Academy Registration Announcement.pdf

There’s more information on the new Leadership Academy page on the ASCLD website at http://www.ascld.org/academy.

Have a Great New Year!

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.

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 will be electing new members to the Board of Directors at the business meeting to be held at the Symposium. If you or
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 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

Failing forensic lab - Audit reveals several concerns in operations of ...  
Jamaica Gleaner  
All is not well at the state-run Forensic Services Laboratory (FSL), leading to fears that test results, whenever they are finally done, could be ...

Local Police Collect DNA Samples From Crime Victims  
WPEC  
Riviera Beach police told mom and son that they had to collect DNA ... How does the county’s crime lab handle it as evidence, and are privacy rights ..

Cost a concern for Oklahoma DNA database  
The Lawton Constitution  
Jolley's bill did not set aside funding to pay for additional DNA tests, ... Ryan Porter, a forensic biology supervisor with the Oklahoma State Bureau of ... said it costs $15.10 for the state’s crime lab to process a convicted-offender ...

The Meth Menace: W.Va. lawmakers seek fix for drain on crime ...  
Charleston Gazette  
West Virginia lawmakers are reviewing a six-year-old law that allows the state to reimburse property owners for meth lab ...

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Bode Technology  
provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

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Scientists discover new drug that may reverse muscular aging
Fox News
A newly discovered drug may someday help dramatically slow muscular aging, according to BBC News. In a study published in the journal Cell, ...

Judge revoke bail for accused drug lab worker
Sonja Farak
MassLive.com
... Hampshire Superior Court for an August hearing related to her case of evidence tampering and larceny from the UMass crime lab where police drug ...

A magnetic nanoparticles-based method for DNA extraction from the ...
Phys.Org
PCR products of methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase C677T DNA samples extracted with magnetic nanoparticles using saliva samples (lanes 1) ...

Conn. university to test pot for contaminants
Houston Chronicle
Heather Miller Coyle, a forensic botanist and associate professor at the ... to detect contaminants in marijuana through DNA profiling and analysis.

Staffing shortages hit KC police civilian units
Kansas City Star
The crime scene investigation unit is operating at two-thirds staffing with nine ... The crime lab also has trained members of specialized units, such as ...

St. Paul crime lab problems aren't leading to overturned convictions
Minneapolis Star Tribune
State public defenders have had little success getting drug-related convictions re-examined following a court case that exposed widespread

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 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.
Computers work overtime in crime lab
Greensboro News & Record
In North Carolina, DNA is collected from all convicted felons. Since 2011, it has also been collected from people arrested on the following 11 ...

Indiana Supreme Court limits right of defendants to confront witnesses
nwitimes.com
Adopting a narrow reading of the Sixth Amendment right to confront witnesses, the state’s high court said a crime lab technician who transferred blood ...

DNA results do not prove innocence, judge rules in gruesome St ...
STLtoday.com
A single hair on a blanket helped convict Rodney Lincoln of a 1983 slaying that left two young girls motherless and with life-long wounds.

College's DNA lab may help bring WWII soldier home
ArmyTimes.com
The University of Wisconsin’s DNA lab may help bring the final member of a World War II unit home. Pfc. Lawrence Gordon, 28, from Canada, was a ...

Portable drug test a new addition at New Year's DUI checkpoints
Los Angeles Times
The upcoming New Year’s crackdown on drunken driving will include a new test for many people who are pulled over — an oral swab that checks for ...

Forensic examinations of rape victims plummet
The Independent
The number of forensic examinations carried out on victims of rape and serious sexual assault in
Training

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

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.

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=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).

Conferences

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


