

# Notification of ASCLD Board Action

On April 22, 2007 in Orlando, Florida, the ASCLD Board of Directors passed two important resolutions pertaining to accreditation, education, and training in forensic science. Significant research and deliberation went into the passage of these resolutions to ensure that the final product brings clarity and leadership to the forensic science community in matters pertaining to accreditation, scientist competency, and the right of ASCLD to maintain its strategic partnerships.

The purpose of this document is to summarize for ASCLD members the impetus for these actions. Furthermore, all ASCLD members are advised that the retraction of one or more of these resolutions may be moved from the floor during the annual ASCLD business meeting. In the event such action is intended, please contact President-Elect Stephanie Reilander so that arrangements can be made to accommodate time for discussion.

## **Resolution on Accreditation: 07-0422-01**

The relationship between ASCLD and ASCLD/LAB has been called into question. It was suggested that ASCLD's longtime strategic partnership with ASCLD/LAB should be relegated to that of a basic vendor/client relationship, which would deprive ASCLD members of the access they currently have to the ASCLD/LAB program and its representatives. This was judged to be an unacceptable alternative in light of the tremendous progress that this partnership has facilitated over the last twenty-five years. ASCLD/LAB was created by ASCLD and the enduring partnership creates no conflict of interest, nor does it deprive another accrediting body of the opportunity to compete for market share.

No two accreditation programs are identical. Each has unique attributes and qualifications that must be considered carefully. Laboratories must ultimately follow their own rules and guidelines; however, the profession of forensic science depends on each crime laboratory's effort to select a program based on quality and value, and to educate procurement officials about the importance of accreditation, the uniqueness of each provider, and the impact that accreditation has on the well-being of the public.

## **Resolution on Education and Training in Forensic Science: 07-0422-02**

Training and education in the forensic sciences are critical to the long-term stability of the profession. The ASCLD board of directors sought to issue an authoritative position statement that can be used by crime laboratory managers to support their efforts to increase training and education funding for their scientists. It is also intended to provide a basis for public policy initiatives that advocate for increased training and education funding throughout the profession.

The strategic partnership that ASCLD has maintained with NFSTC is one that the ASCLD board wishes to leverage as a way to bring valuable training, education, and other operational resources to crime laboratories in the United States.