President's Message

Greetings Colleagues,

This week I have invited Dr. Paul Speaker from the West Virginia University to share a brief overview of the FORESIGHT project and the most recent data from this project. FORESIGHT has been an important project for the forensic community and laboratories can learn a lot about their operations by participating in project. FORESIGHT accounts for the totality of fiscal considerations for the laboratory and associates it with traditional performance metrics allowing lab management to evaluate successes and opportunities for improvement. In this week's CLM, Dr. Speaker has authored *Metrics to Help Guide Laboratory Management* for our members. If you are interested in becoming a participating laboratory or would like more information, please visit the FORESIGHT website at [http://www.be.wvu.edu/forensic/foresight.htm](http://www.be.wvu.edu/forensic/foresight.htm).

I also wanted to wish all of our members, partners, and stakeholders a great week at the NIST International Symposium on Forensic Science Error Management. It will be a busy week filled with interesting presentations and great information. I hope you all have a great week in Arlington, VA!

Regards,
Jody

Next Board Teleconference: July 24, 2015

On June 30, ASCLD sponsored two webinars.

The first webinar, ASCLD: FBI Allele Frequency Amendments Overview - Managers Perspective and Legal Considerations, was a great success. There was over 450 participants. Tina Delgado from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Gary Sims of California Department of Justice, Ray Wickenheiser of the New York State Police Crime Laboratory System and Matt Redle, Sheridan WY County and Prosecuting Attorney, presented.

This presentation was designed to assist Crime Lab Management to provide timely assessment, correction, notification, reporting and documentation; enabling Crime Labs to continue to earn
and keep public trust. This webinar provided a high level overview of the issue by the FBI including history on the errors, their detection, correction, and the dissemination of information. It also included the laboratory directors’ perspective and legal issues that laboratories may need to consider.

It will be available on ASCLD’s website at http://www.ascld.org/meetings-and-training/forensic-conferences/ by July 10.

The second webinar was ASCLD: FBI Allele Frequency Amendments - Technical Discussion. Presenters were Tamyra Moretti of the FBI Laboratory, John Buckleton of the Institute of Environmental Science & Research Ltd in Auckland, New Zealand and Bruce Budowle of the Institute of Applied Genetics, University of North Texas Health Science Center. Also scheduled were Steven Myers of the California Department of Justice, Alyson Saadi, DNA Technical Leader for the Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory and Cyndi Hall, Quality Manager, Idaho State Police Forensic Services Laboratory. There were over 700 registrants and we hit the capacity of 500 for the Adobe Connect room. Unfortunately the RTI had technical difficulties with the server and the webinar was not able to be completed.

ASCLD is hoping to reschedule the webinar so that a Question & Answer period can be conducted. If that is not possible, the webinar will be recorded and be available on ASCLD’s website at http://www.ascld.org/meetings-and-training/forensic-conferences/. Further information about the webinar details will emailed to members and posted in the Crime Lab Minute.

This presentation will assist quality managers, DNA technical leaders and forensic scientists to provide timely assessment, correction, notification, reporting and documentation; enabling Crime Labs to continue to earn and keep public trust. It will provide for a technical discussion of the issue by the authors of the FBI’s Erratum. It will also include presentations by a quality manager and technical leader on how they have handled the issue in their laboratories.

Free Access to Public Safety and First Responder Standards & Guides

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is now providing free access to ASTM standards to public safety professionals and first responders. Allowing agencies to easily identify and incorporate best practices into their operations, this portal includes standards and practice guides on a variety of topics, including:

- Standard Guide for Credentialing Access to an Incident or Event Site.
- Standard Practice for Radiological Emergency Response.
- Standard Guides for Emergency Operations Center Development and Management.
- Standard Guide for Operational Guidelines for Initial Response to a Suspected Biothreat Agent.

By registering for access, a user will be able to view and download ASTM standards, practices and test methods, which normally cost up to $49 each; compare them to previous versions; and annotate documents online free of charge.

Get your free access to the ASTM Compass portal.
The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is the largest, multi-discipline accreditation body in the U.S., having accredited over 3,500 labs to various ISO standards over its 35-year history. A2LA is a non-profit, membership organization and its accreditations to ISO standards are recognized and accepted worldwide. The A2LA Forensic Accreditation Program offers accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 for forensic testing laboratories and ISO/IEC 17020 for crime scene units. In addition, A2LA offers a diverse training program. Don’t miss A2LA’s workshop, “ISO/IEC 17025: Non-conformances and Strategies to Prevent Recurrence” which will be presented by Program Manager, Karin Athanas, at the ASCLD Symposium in April.

**Forensic Training**

Online Basic Fire Debris Analysis Course
July 6-31, 2015.
Click [here](ncfs.ucf.edu) for registration.

**Employment Opportunities**

- **AFIS Analyst**, Peel Regional Police, Toronto, Expires: July 26, 2015
- **Forensic Scientist – Firearms & Toolmarks**, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Roanoke, VA, Expires: August 4, 2015
- **Firearms Examiner**, Kansas City Police Crime
MAFS is announcing a Forensic Anthropology Workshop hosted by the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office Criminalistics Laboratory in Olathe, Kansas on September 1st - September 3rd. Click here for additional details.

The Forensic and Investigative Science Outreach, at West Virginia University, is offering many onsite forensic science courses and workshops through September 30, 2015, as part of an award from the National Institute of Justice. Click here for additional information.

Ron Smith & Associates – National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy. October 2015 Camp Shelby, MS
Click here for more information.

The NFEA provides training for apprentice/entry level firearm and toolmark examiners from Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The Academy curriculum is composed of the fundamentals of firearms & toolmark examinations and serves as a basis for the trainee, under supervision, to develop into a qualified firearm and toolmark examiner. The application deadline for the 2015 - 2016 session of the NFEA is August 21, 2015. It is anticipated that the class will start in October 2015 however the training schedule is dependent on the receipt of funding and may be adjusted accordingly.

Additional information and the application form can be found at: http://www.atf.gov/content/firearms/firearm
s-enforcement/national-firearms-examiner-academy-course-id-frms-pg-0002

Questions can be directed to either:
Sheila Hopkins
NFEA Program Manager
202-648-6061
Sheila.Hopkins@atf.gov
or
Jodi Marsanopoli
NFEA Laboratory Coordinator
Firearms and Toolmark Examiner
202-648-6116
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The American Society of Crime Lab Directors, along with RTI, have made the below webinars available.

False-Positive and False-Negative Error Rates in Cartridge Case

Comparisons
ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 1 – Archival

Version
ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 – Archival Version

Rapid DNA Webinar 3 – Archival Version
ASCLD Webinar Series:

July 21, 2015

Firearm / Tool Mark examiner, City of Albuquerque Police Crime Lab, Albuquerque, NM, Expires: July 20, 2015

Forensic Lab Technician (Biology/DNA), NLT Management Services, LLC, Beltsville, MD, Expires: September 16, 2015

Quality Assurance Specialist, NLT Management Services, LLC, Beltsville, MD, Expires: September 16, 2015

Quality Assurance Specialist, NLT Management Services, LLC, Atlanta, GA, Expires: September 17, 2015

Quality Assurance Specialist, NLT Management Services, LLC, Walnut Creek, CA, Expires: September 17, 2015

Forensic Scientist Manager (DNA), DC Government – Department of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, Expires: July 30, 2015

Forensic Scientist Technical Leader (DNA), DC Government – Department of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, Expires: July 30, 2015

Computer/Digital Examiner, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: July 31, 2015

Supervisor- Biology/DNA section, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: July 31, 2015

Fingerprint Technician, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Crime Lab, Saint Louis, Expires: July 31, 2015

Forensic Analyst- Trace, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: August 31, 2015

Sheriff’s Forensic Scientist II/III – Firearm & Toolmark Examiner, Ventura County Sheriff’s Office, Ventura, CA, Expires: July 22, 2015

Forensic Laboratory Supervisor, Oregon State Police, Springfield, Or, Expires: August 18, 2015

Forensic Laboratory Director, Oregon State
News Around the Globe

District expected to name new head of embattled DNA lab, officials say
Washington Post
District officials Friday plan to announce a new director of the city’s troubled forensic lab, three months after the previous director was removed ...

#TesttheKits: Sacramento County works to clear rape kit backlog
News10.net
The Sacramento County Forensics Lab said it has 1,500 untested rape kits and has a plan to clear the backlog. (Thursday, July 16, 2015).

Better DNA Hair Analysis for Catching Police, Central Point, Oregon, Expires: August 18, 2015

Firearms Examiner, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: July 31, 2015

Forensic Analyst- Toxicology, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: July 31, 2015

Crime Scene Investigator, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: July 31, 2015


Associate Medical Examiner (Forensic Pathologist), GA Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Georgia, Expires: August 7, 2015

Quality Assurance Manager – Police Laboratory, New York City Police Department, New York, NY, Expires: August 3, 2015

DIRECTOR: Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS), Government of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC, Expires: July 31, 2015

Crime Lab Quality Assurance Manager, Metro Nashville Police Department- Crime Laboratory, Nashville, TN, Expires: July 22, 2015

Director of Forensic Toxicology, NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, New York, NY, Expires: July 21, 2015

Bode Cellmark Forensics provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.
Criminals | Lab Manager
Lab Manager | News (press release) (blog)
“Technological advancements over the last 10 years have allowed police and forensic scientists to profile crime-scene DNA from ever smaller and ...

Cuyahoga Medical Examiner tightens protocols after botched tests
cleveland.com
Sran was caught when Cleveland police narcotics investigators asked the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Laboratory to retest a sample ...

Identity crisis
The Economist
Advances in forensic science have led to spectacular breakthroughs in ... after a police lab confused his DNA with samples taken from the victim.

Editorial: Local crime lab should speed justice - Winston-Salem Journal: Editorials
Winston-Salem Journal
It took some doing, but Winston-Salem authorities have taken almost all the steps necessary to open their own crime lab at the beginning of next ...

NMS Labs Earns Prestigious International Accreditation from the American Society of Crime ...
Business Wire (press release)
WILLOW GROVE, Pa.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--NMS Labs is proud to announce that it has earned the prestigious ASCLD/LAB-International accreditation ...

Thousands of rape kits in Portland, U.S. untested
kgw.com
A KGW public records request found 182 kits sitting on Oregon Crime Lab shelves since April 2014, waiting for one of the crime lab’s 100 scientists to ...

What comes next: SAPD's rape kit backlog completed
KENS 5 TV
"From the crime lab's perspective we do not have a rape kit backlog and a rape kit ...
Montana case opens door to reconsideration of DNA in criminal convictions

KPAX-TV
People convicted of a crime without conclusive DNA evidence will now have another chance at innocence thanks to a recent ruling by the Ninth Circuit...

BCA Blends Old & New Tech To Match Shoes To Criminals « CBS Minnesota
CBS Local
MINNEAPOLIS (WCCO) — From the time of Sherlock Holmes, trace evidence found at crime scenes has been “elementary” in solving the “who dunit.”

#TestTheKits: Thousands of rape kits go untested - WZZM 13
WZZM
If they are tested, it would happen at the Michigan State Police crime lab in Grand Rapids. Those who work there say police in West Michigan do a...

2009 Report: Rape kits go untested
WWL
“We’re looking at them holistically as a person, not just as a crime scene,” she...
The NOPD’s DNA lab hasn’t been rebuilt since Hurricane Katrina.

FVSU receives $400000 grant for toxicology research
13WMAZ
This summer, she was able to try her hand at toxicology through lab experiments with her mentor, assistant professor of Biology, Celia Dodd.

Autopsies are once again being performed in Montana
KRTV Great Falls News
Another longtime examiner left in April, but a temporary examiner came on board at the state crime lab in Missoula last week and has performed about...

Public defenders continue push to reopen drug cases


ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Testing Laboratories

ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Breath Alcohol Calibration

ASCLD/LAB-International Internal Auditor Training Course

ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Testing Laboratories

ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Calibration Laboratories

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

A2LA’s Training Program provides a variety of courses designed to help organizations achieve and maintain accreditation to international standards.

Forensic Conferences

July 20-24, 2015: NIST to Host International Symposium on Forensic Science Error Management in Gaithersburg, MD.

August 2-8, 2015: 100th International Association for Identification (IAI) in Sacramento, CA.

August 8-13, 2015: The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners (ASQDE) will be held in Toronto, Canada.

August 31- September 5, 2015: The 26th Congress of the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG) will be held in Krakow, Poland.

September 20 - 25th, 2015: Midwestern
The controlled substances lab was closed in February 2014 and its duties were assigned to the newly created Division of Forensic Science under the ... 

**Winston-Salem Police chief:** Speedy lab tests lead to speedy trials

Winston-Salem Journal

The city is working with National Medical Services-Integrated Forensic Laboratories for a lab that will process tests for drug and alcohol cases, said ... 

**Democrats line up against police use of DNA**

Sacramento Bee

Four state Senate Democrats blocked a bill that would have allowed law enforcement to collect DNA from people convicted of certain misdemeanors, ... 

**Editorial: Local crime lab should speed justice**

Winston-Salem Journal

The lab, operated by National Medical Services-Integrated Forensic Laboratories under the authority of the Forsyth County District Attorney’s office, will ... 

**New DNA Ruling Could Stretch State Resources Thin**

ABC FOX Montana News

But state resources that would be left to analyze potential new DNA ... The Montana state crime lab could face the task of re-analyzing more dna ... 

**Bedford lab subject of science commission complaint**

Fort Worth Star Telegram

Feller worked as a lab analyst for Integrated Forensics Laboratories, which tests blood samples for several regional law enforcement agencies. 

**Designer drugs create problems for death investigators**

The Augusta Chronicle

Being unable to identify the intoxicant means toxicology reports are even slower to return because the GBI often has to seek outside help, he said. 

**Association Forensic Scientist** fall meeting will be held in Mackinac Island, Michigan.

October 6-9, 2015: 14th Annual AFQAM Training Conference will be held in Pensacola Beach, FL 

October 12-16, 2015: Southern Association Forensic Scientist (SAFS) Annual 2015 Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

October 18-25, 2015: Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) in Atlanta, GA.

October 19 - 23, 2015: Southwestern Association of Forensic Science (SWAFS) in Oklahoma City, OK.

October 2015: Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists in Spokane, WA

April 3-8, 2016: International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT) in Orlando, FL.

Untested evidence means missed chances to catch rapists - Argus Leader
Sioux Falls Argus Leader
Sioux Falls Police collected evidence in more than 350 rape cases since 2000 that was only recently sent to the state crime lab for testing. rape kits.

Officials: No clear reason for 5006 untested rape kits
Indianapolis Star
From the hospital, kits are sent directly to the Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency. The forensic lab keeps “nonreporting” kits for...