Greetings Colleagues,

This week marks the 68th meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. I want to congratulate President Victor Weedn and his Board of Directors on a great year full of achievements and contributions to the forensic science community. This week marks a commitment to Transformation: Embracing Change. The 68th meeting of the AAFS is packed full with important meetings, presentations, and special engagements with embracing change at the heart of all activities.

There are several events that are of interest for ASCLD members. The United States Technical Advisory Group (US TAG) for the ISO Technical Committee 272 for Forensic Science met on Sunday, February 21st, to share the scope of work of the new TC 272 with interested stakeholders considering membership in the TAG. This is an incredibly important effort to develop international standards for forensic science and we need stakeholders to participate in the process so that the US can have a meaningful voice in the international standards development process. As a reminder, ASCLD chair’s the US TAG to TC 272. My sincerest appreciation to Chair Kermit Channel and Secretariat Soraya McClung for their efforts in organizing this meeting.

ASCLD Board members will also be meeting this week to kick off our FORESIGHT 20/20 project that is being funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. We will be focusing on project milestones, timelines, and those items which are key to the successful outcome of the project.

ASCLD will also be meeting with members from the Netherlands Forensic Science Institute for informational purposes and possible collaborative opportunities. We are looking forward to meeting some of our international partners.

This is an exciting time for ASCLD! The ASCLD Board members in attendance this week are looking forward to representing our organization in these efforts.

Have a wonderful week!

--Jody

Next Board Meeting: February 29-March 1, 2016
Scholarship Opportunity

Do you know a student who is in the process of obtaining a degree related to the field of forensic science and may need financial assistance? If so, ASCLD’s annual scholarship solicitation is now open and accepting applications. The annual award is in the amount of $1000.

Please reach out to prospective applicants as soon as possible as the due date (April 15) is quickly approaching. The application can be found on the ASCLD website http://www.ascld.org/nominations/

Eligibility

Applicants must be a junior or senior in a baccalaureate program or a graduate student (masters or doctorate) at an accredited university who is pursuing a degree in forensic science, forensic chemistry, a physical or natural science. Applicants from FEPAC accredited programs will be given additional consideration. High school students or college/university students in their freshman or sophomore years will not be eligible for application. As the scholarship program was created to provide opportunity to students intending to enter the forensic field, scholarships will not be granted to current forensic science laboratory employees pursuing graduate degrees.

Selection criteria

• Award recipients will be selected on the basis of:
  • Overall scholastic record
  • Scholastic record in forensic science coursework
• Motivation or commitment to a forensic science career
• Personal statement
• Faculty/adviser recommendation

Forensic Training

West Virginia University

Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification for Forensic Professionals.
The program begins March 22, 2016. It consists of a series of 16 2-hour long webinars delivered over the course of 24 weeks and concluding with a one day face to face finale in Pittsburgh, PA.
Click here for registration and additional information.

Forensic Management Academy.
Those interested in improving their individual and organizational knowledge of contemporary business practice as it applies to forensics should apply now, space is limited. Training will occur August 28-September 2, 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh Airport
Click here for registration and additional information.

National Center for Forensic Science

Advanced Fire Debris Analysis
March 14 – May 1, 2016
Six week course offered through the Web.
$750.00
Click here for course description.
Click here for registration link.

News Around the Globe

Brokers of Junk Science?

March 14-18 2016 the Maryland State Police will be
VICE News
“I have reviewed some awful papers for [Critical Reviews in Toxicology], ... Gio Gori, editor of Regulatory Toxicology, also declined to comment and ...

University to turn old Tulsa fire station into crime lab
Enid News & Eagle
(AP) — An abandoned fire station in west Tulsa is being turned into a crime scene investigation laboratory for Oklahoma State University students.

Stable funding sought for forensic center
The San Diego Union-Tribune
Escondido — Two years ago, the aging Escondido office where police detectives took victims of rape or child abuse for their medical exams and to ...

Income Tax dept. to set up world-class forensic lab
The Hindu
Faced with the challenges of tackling new-age economic offences and evasion, the Income Tax Department plans to set up a forensic laboratory of ...

Scientists sue state police over ‘pro-prosecution’ DNA lab
Sentinel-Tribune
... N.Y. — Three scientists who worked at the New York State Police crime lab ... They cited blowback for supporting the computerized DNA analysis called ... The three maintain that all 37 forensic scientists in the TrueAllele training ... They are not concerned about previously presented DNA evidence, ...

Ron Smith & Associates Training

February 2016
Forensic Examination of Violent Crime Scenes
Location: Cumming, GA
Class Dates: 02-16-2016 thru 02-18-2016
Tuition: $400.00 | Hours: 24

Fundamentals of Crime Scene Examination and Evidence Collection
Location: Grand Forks, ND
Class Dates: 02-22-2016 thru 02-26-2016
Tuition: $600.00 | Hours: 40

March 2016
Scientific Analysis (ACE-V): From the Laboratory to the Witness Stand
Location: Dallas, TX
Class Dates: 03-07-2016 thru 03-11-2016
Tuition: $600.00 | Hours: 40

Introduction to the Science of Friction Ridge Examination
Location: Melbourne, FL
Class Dates: 03-21-2016 thru 03-25-2016
Tuition: $600.00 | Hours: 40

Palm Print Comparison Techniques
A longtime toxicologist with the city Medical Examiner's Office was forced out of her job after she questioned the office's use of controversial DNA...

**Local governments to be asked to support private forensic lab**

Times Daily

Within the next two weeks, government officials in northwest Alabama will be asked to pass resolutions supporting a proposal for a private forensic lab...

**State crime lab effective, efficient despite onslaught of synthetic drugs**

KSL.com

SALT LAKE CITY — Though they are far from the front lines, they play a vital role in policing drug crime in the state of Utah. They are forensic chemists, ...

**Couple sues state over mishandled evidence**

Delaware State News

The medical examiner's laboratory has since been replaced by the Division of Forensic Science under the Department of Safety and Homeland ...

**“It smells of Big Brother”: Some question legality, effectiveness of Louisiana's expansive DNA**

The New Orleans Advocate

Advocate staff photo by RICHARD ALAN HANNON -- Louisiana State Police Crime Lab personnel demonstrate DNA analysis in Baton Rouge in this ...

**More Funding Proposed for Rape-Kit Testing Reform**

Public News Service

Knecht says the End the Backlog initiative is using public records requests to pinpoint the number of untested rape kits at the Tennessee Crime Lab.

**Cracking cold cases with DNA analysis and old fashioned police work**

CBC.ca

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Location: Bethlehem, PA
Class Dates: 03-22-2016 thru 03-24-2016
Tuition: $400.00 | Hours: 24

**National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy**

April 24, 2016 – September 23, 2016

RS&A now offers an intense 20 week training program designed to provide agencies with a Latent Print Examiner who is trained to competency. This academy, with 800 hours of formal training, will produce graduates that are capable of performing "supervised case work" and once time requirements are met, be ready to apply for IAI Latent Print Certification. It is scheduled to begin April 24, 2016 in Hattiesburg, MS at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Only 25 academy applicants will be selected to attend so apply today! The total cost for this program including academy tuition, 20 weeks room and board, and 3 meals per day is $27,500.00.
Click here for complete details, photos, and the admission application.

**National Footwear & Tire Track Training Academy**

Coming Fall 2016

RS&A now offers a Footwear and Tire Track Training Academy which includes 4 weeks of footwear examination training followed by 2 weeks of tire track examination training. Applicants can elect to complete the entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy or break it up and choose only the 4 weeks of footwear training or the 2 weeks of tire track training. The academy graduates of this 6 week program will learn the skills necessary to complete supervised footwear and tire track casework and will be ready to apply for a IAI Footwear Certification once time requirements have been met. It is scheduled to begin Fall of 2016 in Hattiesburg, MS at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Only 20 academy applicants will be selected to attend. For the entire 6 week footwear and
Cracking cold cases with DNA analysis and old fashioned police work ... Then, because of new technological advances in DNA testing, forensics specialists ... Sashi Jasra, the program chair of forensic sciences at the University of ... 

Deposition Shows Mismanagement, Lax Oversight Led to BSO Crime Lab Failure 
New Times Broward-Palm Beach 
Lax policies and poor oversight led to errors at the Broward crime lab that may cause scores of cases to be reopened or thrown out, according to a ... 

Serial Burglars: Part 1 - Fingerprint backlog contributing to Austin's #1 crime 
KEYE TV 
At the department's forensics lab, six latent fingerprint examiners painstakingly work to match prints. Each examiner can review about 28 sets of prints ... 

Santa Maria Police Spotlight Top Officer, Crime-Scene Specialists 
Noozhawk 
The Santa Maria Police Department's crime lab staff received the Distinguished Team Award at the agency's annual awards luncheon on Wednesday. 

State Police DNA analysts question credibility of agency lab 
Albany Times Union 
Three forensic scientists who were snared in an alleged cheating scandal at the State Police crime laboratory have filed a federal lawsuit claiming they ... 

Santa Maria Police Spotlight Top Officer, Crime-Scene Specialists

Houston Forensic Science Center

February: 
Crime Scene Investigation class will provide participants with hands-on instruction in a unique training environment, a house specifically designed to teach such courses. Click here for details.

One-day Sig Sauer Pistols. Armorer Certification. Click here for details.

On-demand Webcast: The Public Health Challenge of Synthetic Cannabinoids

This one day symposium, recorded live on September 30th, 2015, addresses different aspects of synthetic cannabinoid use, including pharmacology, clinical symptoms, assessment and treatment of synthetic cannabinoid use and laboratory testing related to these compounds. Click here for additional information.

The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence Presents
ASCLD: FBI Allele Frequency Amendments - Technical Discussion
On-Demand (Approximately 75 Minutes)
The Santa Maria Police Department's crime lab staff received the Distinguished Team Award at the agency's annual awards luncheon on Wednesday.

**Western Lab of Forensic Science almost finished with renovations**

WSLS

ROANOKE (WSLS 10) – The Western Lab of Forensic Science just finished its expansion and now working on renovations to its existing building.

**ISU statistician strives to use more science behind forensics**

Ames Tribune

Carriquiry also organized a recent symposium for forensic sciences. “We're trying to reach out to crime labs nationwide so we can develop the ...

**Montana task force begins looking into protocols for rape kits**

The Missoulian

Last year, the state's crime lab handled 182 sex-related cases – the largest number in the past 10 years, according to data presented to the task force ...

**Bath salts difficult to detect in biological samples, SHSU study finds**

EurekAlert (press release)

In addition, many toxicology labs do not test for these drugs. While identifying these substances in seized drug materials such as pills and powders is ...

**“Minister, when will the crime lab be reopened?”**

– UnitedPac

St. Lucia News Online

The American Society of Crime Lab Directors, along with RTI, have made the below webinars available.

**ASCLD Train the Directors Controlled Substance Webinar – Archival**

**ASCLD Train the Directors Digital Multimedia Evidence Webinar – Archival**

**ASCLD Train the Directors Toxicology Webinar – Archival**

**ASCLD Train the Directors Firearms Webinar – Archival**

**False-Positive/Negative Error Rates in Cartridge Case Comparisons**

**ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 1 – Archival**

**ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 – Archival**

**ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 3 – Archival**

**ASCLD Webinar Series:**

**Research Reports**

These research reports have been submitted by the National Institute of Justice especially for their relevance to crime laboratory activities. ASCLD has not reviewed nor does it necessarily endorse the findings of this research.

**Analysis of the Effect of a Variety of PCR Inhibitors on the Amplification of DNA**

A common problem in forensic genetic analysis is the presence of Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) inhibitors that contaminate DNA samples and can result in no
One involving a policeman, another where a woman was allegedly raped in the privacy of her residence and now a young girl a victim of the act whilst ...

**Columbus Crime Lab gives forensic equipment to MSU**
The Commercial Dispatch
Columbus Police Department Crime Lab director Austin Shepherd explains how to operate a super glue chamber, pictured behind them, to MSU ...

**Bills To Help Address Florida’s Untested Rape Kits Backlog Head To House, Senate Floors**
WFSU
Last month, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement finished a final assessment surveying law enforcement crime labs. They found that there are ...

**24 Guns Walked Out Of DC Police Evidence Locker, Half Were Used In Other Crimes**
The Libertarian Republic
... cases from 2014, but an employee at DFS conducted a more thorough review of guns that came through the crime lab and found the discrepancies.

**Officials wanting to bring back UNA forensics lab**
WBRC FOX6 News - WBRC.com
Prosecutors know the case will rely heavily on forensic evidence, which ... and city councils to support their plan to bring back the forensics lab at UNA.

**The Role of DNA Repair and Whole Genome Amplification in Forensically Relevant Samples**
Forensic analysis of DNA is limited by the quality and quantity of the sample, and forensic investigators are often constrained by significant damage or alteration to the molecular structure of the DNA. This study explores methods to first damage DNA, then compares methods to either repair damaged DNA or, as an alternative, conduct whole genome amplification (WGA). The researchers conclude that WGA using DOP-PCR (degenerate oligonucleotide-primed polymerase chain reaction), “is a more fruitful avenue for analyzing challenged samples than attempting DNA repair.”

**The Reliability of the ACE-V Process: Accuracy & Precision in Latent Fingerprint Examinations**
In this study to evaluate the reliability of latent fingerprint examiners use the Analysis, Comparison, Evaluation and Verification (ACE-V) methodologies, researchers found that fingerprint examiners make extremely few errors. Even when examiners did not get an independent second opinion about their decisions, they were remarkably accurate. But when decisions were verified by an independent reviewers, examiners had a 0% false positive, or incorrect identification, rate and a 3% false negative, or missed identification, rate. Watch a video interview with the researcher here.

**Forensic Toxicology Instrumentation Techniques & Applications Register today:**
http://forensicscienceeducation.org/forensic-toxicology-
If so, it would be useful at either crime scenes or in labs when forensic analysts are trying to confirm that a piece of evidence has a bodily fluid on it.

*Ex-Official Says Medical Examiner Forced Her Out Over DNA Technique*  
New York Times  
Such critics say that while DNA profiles analyzed from a drop of blood or a semen stain are the gold standard of forensic evidence, the low copy ...

*Should We Trust Forensic Science?*  
Boston Review  
In the fall, we published Nathan J. Robinson's "Forensic Pseudoscience," which argued that the forensic sciences are so unscientific, and so poorly ...

*Texas Forensic Science Commission: Bite Mark Evidence Is Junk Until Proven Otherwise*  
Houston Press  
During his trial, the linchpin in Chaney's conviction came from a forensic ... An example, Kessler said, is if experts swab a bite mark for saliva DNA ...

IntegenX, headquartered in Pleasanton, California, is the market leader of Rapid human

instrumentation-techniques-applications/

Learn more: www.ForensicScienceEducation.org/FBioCourse

ASCLD/LAB is a not-for-profit corporation specializing in the accreditation of public and private forensic laboratories. Since 1982, we have been committed to the ongoing accreditation, support, education and oversight of forensic organizations striving for excellence in forensic analysis. Visit our website to learn more about our accreditation programs, the assessment process and training opportunities.
DNA identification technology. IntegenX technology platforms integrate advanced fluidics, optics, and biochemistry capabilities to produce sample-to-answer products for DNA-based human identity testing for forensics and law enforcement applications.

**Employment Opportunities**

**DNA Analyst**, City of Albuquerque Police Crime Lab, Albuquerque, NM, Expires: April 1, 2016

**Firearm Toolmark Examiner**, City of Albuquerque Police Crime Lab, Albuquerque, NM, Expires: April 1, 2016

**Criminalist**, City of Long Beach, Long Beach, CA, Expires: March 4, 2016

**Forensic Analyst - Audio/Video**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: March 31, 2016

**Latent Print Examiner**, Durham Police Department, Durham, NC, Expires: March 8, 2016

**Crime Lab Scientist (Toxicologist) - 5 Positions**, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Expires: April 15, 2016

**Laboratory Accreditation Specialist 1**, New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, Albany, NY, Expires: March 9, 2016

**DNA Technical Leader**, NMS Labs, Willow Grove, PA, Expires: May 9, 2016


**Forensic Scientist III – Latent Print Unit**, City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale, AZ, Expires: March 6, 2016

**Forensic Analyst – Digital**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: April 15, 2016

**Manager – Multimedia Forensics**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: April 15, 2016

**Computer Evidence Specialist (CES) III**, Center for Forensic Sciences, Syracuse, NY, Expires: March 4, 2016

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

Bode’s newest offerings include:

**Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction Program** streamlines processes to eliminate backlogs of untested sexual assault kits.

**Bode Buccal 2™** is uniquely designed to improve DNA databanking collecting and automate processing. The Bode Buccal 2 is a DIRECT COLLECTION SYSTEM that requires minimal training. There is NO Transfer Step Required.

**Independent Validation Services** are customized to meet your laboratory’s needs. Validation services provide completely unbiased analysis on your equipment, chemistries, or process.

**Accreditation Training**

**ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)** ANAB is a member of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board family of brands. ANAB provides accreditation for ISO/IEC 17025 forensic test laboratories and ISO/IEC 17020 forensic inspection agencies and a wide variety of training, workshops, and academic programs.

**ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Police Agencies**

March 3-4, 2016, Tampa, FL
June 8-9, 2016, Greenville, SC
September 15-16, 2016, Alexandria, VA
**Forensic Science Student**, American University of Science and Technology, Ashrafieh, Expires: May 3, 2016

**Forensic Scientist – Firearms & Toolmarks**, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: March 31, 2016

**Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science**, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, Expires: May 31, 2016

**LIMS Administrator**, St. Louis County Police Crime Laboratory, Clayton, MO, Expires: May 26, 2016

**Tenure Track (Open Rank) Professor, Director of Forensic Studies**, University of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD, Expires: March 16, 2016

**Experienced Latent Print Examiner**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: March 31, 2016

**Experience Crime Scene Investigator**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: March 31, 2016

**Technical Lead – Forensic Biology**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: March 31, 2016

**Manager – Forensic Biology**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: March 31, 2016

**Forensic Analyst – Toxicology**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: March 31, 2016

**Assistant Professor in Forensic Chemistry**, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX, Expires: March 31, 2016


**Assistant/Associate Professor in Forensic Science Department**, University of New Haven, West Haven, CT, Expires: April 7, 2016

**Forensic Science Expertise Opportunities (DNA, Toxicology/Chemistry, Toolmarks/Firearms, & Latent Prints)**, National Forensic Science Technology Center, Atlanta, GA and/or various OCONUS locations based on government requirements, Expires: March 11, 2016

**Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science**, Department of Forensic Science, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, Expires: December 31, 2016

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**ISO/IEC 17025 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Test Agencies**

- **February 29-March 2, 2016, Tampa, FL**
- **May 17-19, 2016, Milwaukee, WI**
- **September 12-14, 2016, Alexandria, VA**

Cost: ASQ member $750, non-ASQ member $800

**Uncertainty of Measurement for Forensic Agencies**

- **May 20, 2016, Milwaukee, WI**

Cost: $500

For more information about these workshops, contact ANAB at 703-836-0025, ext 208. To register, please click on any of the dates above.

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**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.

- **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**
Shimadzu’s triple quad GCMS-TQ8040, providing exceptional sensitivity, selectivity, and specificity for detection and quantitation of targeted drugs in the presence of background interferences, is the most powerful choice for your toxicological applications. It enables the analysis of more than 400 compounds in one run, and features automatic method creation, scan/SIM acquisition mode, and an MRM optimization tool.

The Smart Forensic Database includes hundreds of compounds with optimized transitions and collision energies, CAS registry numbers and retention indices (RI). The database supports simultaneous high-sensitivity analysis of samples using GC-MS/MS, eliminating the need to configure complicated analysis conditions.

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


March 14-15, 2016: Genetics in Forensics Congress – London

April 3-8, 2016: International Association for Chemical Testing – Orlando, FL

May 5-7, 2016: 2nd Annual Middle East Congress of the International Association of Law and Forensic Sciences (IALFS) – Istanbul, Turkey

May 16-20, 2016: Canadian Society of Forensic Science – Montreal, Canada

May 17-20, 2016: Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientist (MAAFS) – Richmond, VA

May 28-June 3, 2016: The Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners – New Orleans, LA

Aug 7-13, 2016: International Association for Identification – Cincinnati, OH

Sep 18-23, 2016: International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences – Auckland, New Zealand

Oct 3-7, 2016: Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientist (MAFS) – Branson, Missouri

Oct 16-21, 2016: Society of Forensic Toxicologists – Dallas, TX

Oct 2016: Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists – Galveston, TX

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