Dear Colleagues,

This week I would like to feature the outstanding efforts of our Advocacy Committee, specifically mentioning Matthew Gamette and Beth Lavach for their tireless efforts to represent the resource needs of crime labs. As announced to you in an email through your Advocacy Points of Contacts this last week, the $1.3 Trillion Omnibus Spending package was passed and signed by the President, which included spending approvals that can be used directly by crime labs to fight crime. Through our membership in the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CSFO), we speak with one voice in support of crime lab needs.

In that bill, through your letter writing, our Advocacy Committee and CSFO efforts, Coverdell funding was increased from $12 Million to $30 Million to assist us in battling the opioid crisis. We were also able to successfully push for the OSAC funding to continue to develop forensic standards. We know how hard all of you are working at OSAC and look forward to more success in standards development for forensic science. Continued and in most cases, increased funding has also been included for other critical forensic programs including DNA (Debbie Smith, Bloodworth and SAFE), NAMUS and Byrne Grants.

We have many continued challenges before us, and securing resources to assist crime labs in facing those challenges is an ongoing task. Thank-you to our legislators for their unending support, to our dedicated Advocacy Committee in putting a voice to our needs, and to all of you for your letters and reaching out to your representatives. Great job everyone for FY18; now onward for FY19!

Ray Wickenheiser
ASCLD President

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:  https://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 or 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/advisor recommendation

**Guest-Speaker Line Up**

In addition to the many outstanding speakers we have from within our own community, we have invited several guest speakers to share their perspectives and insights.

- Director Alan Hanson
  Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
  U.S. Department of Justice
- Ambassador Thomas Miller
  3-time U.S. Ambassador
  Current CEO of International Executive Service Corps
- Lt. General John Regni
  Base Commander
  Former Superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy
- Nathan Bennett
  Georgia State Business School—Managing poor performance
- Fred Jewell
  Author—We can't do it alone, building influence with simple strategies
- Paul Speaker, PhD
  WVU Business School—Business Metrics in Labs
- Director Alan Hanson
  Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
  U.S. Department of Justice

**Converting to the 2017 Version of ISO 17025**

The awaited switch to the new 2017 edition of ISO/IEC 17025 has finally happened, but are you ready for it? We will present strategies and priorities for bringing your laboratory into compliance.

Register for 2018 ASCLD Symposium
ASCLD Bring Your Own Slides Sign-up

**Date:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018  
**Time:** 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (TENTATIVE – session length may be adjusted)  
**Location:** Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel (Room TBD)

Bring Your Own Slides at ASCLD 2018

NEW to the ASCLD symposium in 2018 is an opportunity for crime laboratory leaders to Bring Your Own Slides and participate in an informal, evening discussion on shared challenges and solutions in our laboratories.

The Bring Your Own Slides session will be held on Wednesday evening, May 23. If you would like to share a problem or a novel solution to a problem that you have encountered in your laboratory, please sign up to provide a brief (approximately 5 minutes) overview. Time will then be allotted for questions and discussion on the topic so that all attendees may benefit from each other’s shared expertise.

Bring Your Own Slides topics should be:

- **Brief** – describe the problem or solution in approximately 5 minutes to allow time for questions and/or discussion
- **Unique** – describe a new/relevant problem or a novel solution to an old problem
- **Relevant** – topics should apply to managers within a crime laboratory

*Space is limited to approximately 10-15 topics/presentations. Presentations will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis.*

If you would like to sign up, please submit the form found [HERE](mailto:Jeremy.triplett@ascld.org) to Jeremy Triplett at Jeremy.triplett@ascld.org.

Symposium Highlights

**Laboratory Performance Metrics**

In addition to several presentations that will cover the important topic of improving how laboratories monitor and measure their performance, we will have representatives also presenting from Business schools who will share strategies and tips for improving your laboratory's overall approach to business.

**Social Events**

For our more adventurous symposium attendees, we've arranged some fun and interesting leisure outings. These include a golf tournament and a visit to the Atlanta Aquarium where we will enjoy a catered dinner, networking opportunities, a scavenger hunt, a backstage tour of the large tank, and some important talks by emerging DNA technology companies.

**Workshops**

As is customary before the start of our symposium, the learning begins on Sunday and Monday during our workshop sessions:

- A2LA—preconference free webinars on preparing to transition to 17025:2017
- ANAB—conference workshop on transitioning to 17025:2017
- DVI workshop in conjunction with DOJ/NIJ/DHS
- Working with the Media and Crisis Communication
- Arbinger Institute—outward mindset workshop
- Getting into project FORESIGHT
- Quality Management topics (validation, root cause analysis, expert testimony)
- Management topics (working with government officials, SWOT, improving morale, using metrics)
We were honored to have the U.S. Ambassador, the President of the Costa Rican Supreme Court and the Director of the Costa Rican Organization of Judicial Investigations open the conference.

http://fordhamlawreview.org/online/

**Project FORESIGHT**

ASCLD has arranged for a special workshop at the ASCLD symposium this year. We have been working with West Virginia University on Project FORESIGHT for quite some time. ASCLD further has been working on getting the LIMS vendors for more automated reporting of Project Foresight metrics. We want more labs to get involved in this project and we hope to show you how to start gathering this data and reporting it.

**FORESIGHT and FORESIGHT 2020: A Formula for Success**

How is your lab performing? Do you know—really know? What's your internal progress compared to last year or the year before or the last 5 years? Have you added or changed new processes? Has management or your administration changed and do you need to make arguments for better resources? Where does your lab stand compared to other labs of its size or caseload?

FORESIGHT was created in 2008 as a business benchmarking process for forensic laboratories to analyze, evaluate, and share their performance. Since then, it has been used by hundreds of laboratories around the world to improve effectiveness and efficiency of laboratory services to stakeholders. But many managers are unsure what might be required to participate, how to collect, submit, and (agonizingly) analyze the data they need to be part of FORESIGHT? This workshop will walk you through the process of FORESIGHT from start to finish, giving you the tools you need to fill out the Laboratory Reporting and Analysis Tool (LabRAT) and what the FORESIGHT 2020 project means for you. Using FORESIGHT has gotten easier as well and even basic input can yield useful operational information—you don’t necessarily need every scrap of data you might think you need. With FORESIGHT 2020, a software project that links LIMS to FORESIGHT, it is now easier than ever to improve a laboratory’s function, gain insights to process improvements, and make arguments for resources that persuade decision makers.

This workshop will provide an overview of benchmarking and process improvement, FORESIGHT as a method for laboratory analysis and evaluation, and the uses of FORESIGHT 2020 to provide immediate and clear feedback about laboratory performance. Participants will gain a better understanding of how industries self-analyze, what the forensic enterprise has done to create a culture of improvement through benchmarking, and how FORESIGHT provides superior feedback in context for laboratories to achieve greater efficiencies. No experience with FORESIGHT is necessary—new users, experienced users, and "tire-kickers" are all welcome.

Learn how to use "big data" to your advantage, make the case for the resources you need, and deliver better services with greater efficiency using FORESIGHT. Join us for this workshop!

**The FORESIGHT 2020 project needs volunteer labs using STaCS**

Does your laboratory use STaCS software? Would you be willing to get great business process data from your system to compare to other labs? The FORESIGHT 2020 project needs volunteer labs using STaCS to have the FORESIGHT 2020 module installed and validated.

The project is funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, so there is no cost to your lab.

If you're interested, contact Max Houck at mmhouck@forensicintelligence.net or at 727-346-8285.
2LA – ASCLD Webinar Series

Presenters:
Brittney Bryant & Timothy Osborne

In the fall of 2017, a revision to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard for testing and calibration laboratories was published. The standard was revised to ensure consistency with other standards, such as ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies (e.g. crime scene units), and includes several changes to the approach of conformity assessment and documentation of a management system.

To assist the forensic community, the 2LA forensic accreditation program and 2LA training program has partnered with the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) to offer ASCLD members and their organizational staff a series of educational webinars focusing on the changes to and transition to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard. These webinars are to be attended in series and act to prepare all levels of forensic personnel to transition to the 2017 version of ISO/IEC 17025.

This training will be offered free of charge for our membership by logging on to the following link on the ASCLD website:
https://www.ascld.org/meetings-and-training/forensic-conferences-training/

This 2LA–ASCLD four-part webinar series will be present by Brittney Bryant and Timothy Osborne in two hour blocks. The schedule and course description are provided below.

**Class 1 - April 17th, 2-3:30pm EST**
This class focuses on business management changes to ISO/IEC 17025 (the Standard) that might affect an organization’s structure, policies, processes or documentation.
4/17 - https://cc.readytalk.com/r/i4tv3zduv6m&eom

**Class 2 - April 19th, 2-3:30pm EST**
This class emphasizes the significant changes between ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and 2017, with special focus on impartiality, confidentiality, the process and risk-based mindset, and continuous improvement.
4/19 – https://cc.readytalk.com/r/ivnpjfc6p6w&eom

**Class 3 - April 24th, 2-3:30pm EST**
This class is designed for bench-level staff and provides an outline of changes to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard from 2005 to 2017 that will directly affect day-to-day operations.
4/24 – https://cc.readytalk.com/r/8y8tvj8ow2h&eom

**Class 4 - April 26th, 2-3:30pm EST**
This class is meant for all levels of laboratory personnel and builds on discussion held during the previous three courses. This seminar will focus on ISO’s requirements for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 transition with emphasis on how the laboratory director, middle management, and laboratory staff work together as a team to identify opportunities for improvement, implement effective changes and ensure coordinated efforts are successful by identifying key metrics to manage success.

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Forensic Science in the News

**Grant will help Department of Forensic Science**
The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences will use an $80,000 grant to purchase morgue and laboratory supplies used for autopsies and scientific analysis.

**Philly forensic scientist helps bust crimes and stereotypes | We the People**
"I didn’t have anyone to guide me into the field," Campbell said. "My goal was to create a network to open up the whole gated community of forensic science and make it accessible to people so they could understand what we do."

**The Human Microbiome – A New Potential Fingerprint in Forensic Evidence?**
A microbiome is the sum total of the microbes of bacteria, fungi, and viruses that live inside your body. They are all over your skin and in your gut. Bacteria alone accounts for 2-3 lbs of your body mass.

**State Police lab seeks better DNA-matching technology**
Three years after severing ties with a company that would fine-tune its DNA-matching capabilities, the New York State Police forensic lab is again in the market for state-of-the-art DNA screening software.
Gov. Justice signs DNA testing bill
The bill will allow the West Virginia State Police to contract with the Marshall University Forensic Science Center to process lab work related to the testing of offender samples for the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) and DNA testing in criminal paternity cases, criminal casework and identification of human remains. It also sets out parameters by which law enforcement and correctional officers can use reasonable force to obtain DNA samples and allows for the collection of non-blood sampling of DNA (mouth swabs).

Defense lawyers for 11 people have contacted DA's office about possibly re-examining DNA evidence in their cases
The letters were sent after a review of jury trial convictions in cases from 2003 to 2016, where the evidence included a mixture sample of DNA from more than two individuals. In 2010, the leading DNA forensic science working group in the country revised the guidelines for interpreting such samples. The new guidelines were more conservative: Samples that under the old guidelines would be deemed to have the DNA of a suspect would now be considered to be inconclusive.

Beyond Zodiac: A 360 video tour of the Bay Area crime scenes
Fifty years ago, a murderer caused panic and hysteria in the San Francisco Bay Area. Five people, whose ages ranged from 16 to 29 years old, were killed between 1968 to 1974, confirmed victims of the man who became known as the Zodiac killer. Only two people — Michael Mageau and Bryan Hartnell — survived the attacks.

East Texas toddler's parents on the run after 2-year-old dies
Preliminary information from the hospitals and an autopsy conducted at the Southwest Institute of Forensic Science "indicate that the number and severity of the injuries, both internal and external, were not consistent with a fall from a porch," the Sheriff's Office reports.

SDPD Crime Lab Using DNA From Ammunition to Link Suspects to Crimes
"Previously, other agencies, including ourselves, either thought there was so little DNA left on ammunition after it was fired, or that the act of firing heated up the casing to a temperature at which the DNA was destroyed," said Patrick O'Donnell, supervising criminalist at the SDPD crime lab.

WPD's crime lab receives international accreditation
The Wilmington Police Department's crime lab recently received international accreditation.

Baltimore City proposes $28M budget to help reduce violence
"It is for firearms examiners that will gather gun crime, ballistics crime evidence and enter it into a national database. We're hoping that will improve our intelligence and our ability to close cases from that evidence," said Cenname.

Probabilistic Genotyping: Theory and Implementation
Instructors: Dr. Michael Coble (NIST), Annette J. Ortiz (Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory), Kristen Schelling (Michigan State Police), and Brandon Good (Michigan State Police)
When: April 23 – 25, 2018 (8:00a – 5:00p each day)
Where: Brookfield, Wisconsin (Suburb of Milwaukee)
Training Location & Lodging: Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel, 375 S. Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005($104/night + tax; be sure to mention MAFS when reserving your room)
Cost: $200 MAFS Member / $350 Non-MAFS Member
Workshop Coordinator: Sharon Polakowski (polakowskim@doj.state.wi.us)
Cancellation Date*: March 23, 2018 (20 min / 35 max)
The first two days of the workshop will be presented by Dr. Michael Coble from NIST and cover the basics of probabilistic genotyping, including likelihood ratios. The remaining one day will be presentations by representatives from agencies who have implemented PG. They will discuss validation, training of analysts, prosecutors, and defense attorneys, and further 'nuts and bolts' of implementation, including some data.
Visit MAFS.net to register and for further details.
*The workshop will be cancelled if its minimum number of registrants is not met by the cancellation date. Registration will remain open after the cancellation date if the minimum is met.

Advanced Courtroom Testimony for the Drug Chemist
Instructor: Tim McKibben
When: May 7-8, 2018 (8:00am—5:00pm each day)
Where: Dayton, Ohio
Training Location & Lodging: Crown Plaza Dayton ($101/night + tax; be sure to mention MAFS when registering for your room)
Cost: $200 MAFS Member / $350 Non-MAFS Member
Workshop Coordinator: Jennifer Watson (watsonj@mcohio.org)
Cancellation Date*: March 1, 2018 (30 min / 60 max)

This two-day workshop is aimed at educating drug chemists beyond the basics of testimony related to drug analysis. Topics covered may include but are not limited to: handling opposing experts in general, reviewing opposing expert’s reports and what to focus on, Daubert (or Frye) hearings (how to get started, how to educate the attorney, etc), how to explain chemistry/chemical structures to a jury (related to analog and pharmacophore cases; what to do, what not to do), common opposing expert tactics and how to conquer them, how to aid in the prosecution’s/defense’s understanding of analog/pharmacophore cases, spectral interpretation as it relates to testimony, how to handle when an opposing expert “muddies” the water when testifying about chemistry related topics, case law that supports Dauberts (or Frye)/opposing reports etc, and how to introduce new technologies in court that have not previously been used in the area/district. The training will also include practical exercises.

This workshop is open to drug chemists working in local, state and federal laboratories.
Visit MAFS.net to register and for further details.

*The workshop will be cancelled if its minimum number of registrants is not met by the cancellation date. Registration will remain open after the cancellation date if the minimum is met.
FORESIGHT Overview

Managers of scientific laboratories see themselves as scientists first and managers second; consequently, they tend to devalue the managerial aspects of their jobs. Forensic laboratory managers are no different but the stakes may be much higher given the importance of quality science to the criminal justice system. The need for training and support in forensic laboratory management has been recognized for many years but little has been done to transition the tools of business to the forensic laboratory environment.

Project FORESIGHT Annual Report, 2015-2016
Forensic Science Initiative, College of Business & Economics, West Virginia University

FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE
Forensics
Forensic science dates back well over 200 years, when Scotland Yard first connected a bullet to the murder weapon (1835) and the first fingerprint classification system was developed (1892). The field has advanced significantly since then, and, when used effectively, forensic science—in all its many forms—can provide valuable contributions to law enforcement’s pursuit of justice and public safety.

READ CURRENT ISSUE
ASCLD is excited to announce the addition of new awards to be debuted at the symposium this year. There are so many wonderful initiatives ASCLD and its members are involved in that we are pleased to be able to recognize more of them.

Awards include:

- **ASCLD Member of the Year** – ASCLD member who has made significant contributions to the organization in the past year. (Nomination form will be distributed to membership in advance of the symposium.)
- **FORESIGHT** – Most innovative success story epitomizing the tenets of FORESIGHT.
- **Symposium Presentations by a member** – The best presentation as voted by the audience.
- **Symposium Attendee with longest membership**.
- **Best Capstone presentation from the Leadership Academy** – voted upon by Leadership Academy participants and instructors.
- **FTCoE / NIJ / ASCLD Webinar of the Year** – Attendance and audience feedback will be key indicators for selection of this award.

- **Briggs White** - Exceptional competence and achievement in any area of public administration, leadership shown in the direction or development of programs, creativity and resourcefulness, adherence to the basic principles of enlightened public service, integrity and dedication to duty. ([https://www.ascld.org/nominations/](https://www.ascld.org/nominations/))

In addition to the existing and new awards, ASCLD will be recognizing members in other new areas. Please be sure to join us for this year's Awards Banquet in Atlanta!

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**45th Annual ASCLD Symposium**

Advancing Forensic Science requires leadership, which includes taking initiative, motivating employees, and applying resources creatively to the complex problems presented by today's forensic casework and issues. Leaders lead by example and encouragement, building on success and learning from their past experiences and that of others.

Please join us in Atlanta, Georgia, May 20-24th for the 2018 ASCLD Symposium where you will learn about exciting initiatives to advance forensic science. New and experienced managers and directors will be presented with innovative tools to sharpen their leadership skills. Presentations from experts and leaders, both inside and outside the forensic science community, will cover various aspects of leadership. Our goal is to invigorate you with techniques and information to increase your leadership capacity in both life and occupation.

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**Make your Reservation** - https://aws.passkey.com/event/49236454/owner/321/home


https://www.ascldsymposium.com/education

Before the show, get caught up on the latest news: http://www.evidencemagazine.com/
RTI International in partnership with the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, a program of the National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice, produces a podcast called "Just Science". The Just Science podcast is designed to reach a broad audience of forensic scientists and other professionals who collaborate with the forensic science community. As part of the podcast series, the FTCoE would like to interview any ASCLD members who would like to share interesting or unusual criminal cases, now closed or adjudicated, where forensic science was critical to the outcome of the case.

Our goal is to provide the audience with a positive view of the importance of forensic science in criminal investigations. The timing of the cases is not important, although preference will be given to cases involving some personal experience and that can be subject of an in-depth conversation. The audio-only recording usually takes 40 to 60 minutes, depending on the content, and all disciplines are welcome. We would like to do the recordings during the ASCLD annual symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. The available dates are Tuesday May 22 & Wednesday May 23, 2018 and we can accommodate your schedule.

Please visit https://forensiccoe.org/ascldpodcast/ to submit your bio, headshot, consent, and a short overview of the case and methods used. This is a great way to disseminate your, or your crime laboratory's work to a wide audience, hopefully sparking conversations, new ideas, and inspiring others within the field to approach cases in alternative ways.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES (Hiring now)**

Due to an recent upgrade with the newsletter software, visit http://www.ascld.org/jobs2 to link and view details about job announcements listed below.

- **Director Office of Forensic Services**, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Albany, NY, Expires: May 15, 2018
- **Physical Section Supervisor – Forensic Scientist IV**, Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, Anchorage,
Assistant CODIS Administrator, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 28, 2018

Forensic Scientist – Controlled Substances, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: April 20, 2018

Forensic Scientist II – Biology, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Madison, TN, Expires: April 11, 2018

Accreditation Manager, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, Cary, NC, Expires: June 26, 2018

Computer Evidence Specialist, Center for Forensic Sciences, Syracuse, NY, Expires: April 20, 2018

Forensic Scientist – Forensic Biology, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: April 16, 2018

Forensic Scientist – Controlled Substances, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: April 12, 2018

Crime Scene Supervisor, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 15, 2018

Forensic Serologist, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Expires: April 9, 2018

Criminalist 1 and 2 (recruiting for one position in Toxicology), Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Forensic Science Division, Reno, Nevada, Expires: April 20, 2018

MSP Forensic Scientist III, Maryland State Police/Forensic Sciences Division, Pikesville, Maryland, Expires: April 4, 2018

Quality Assurance Manager, Salt Lake City Police Department, Salt Lake City, Expires: April 2, 2018

MSP Forensic Scientist Supervisor, Maryland State Police – Forensic Sciences Division, Pikesville, Maryland, Expires: April 4, 2018

Criminalist II – Forensic Biology (DNA), San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco, CA, Expires: April 3, 2018

Latent Fingerprint Examiner, MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT (MDPD), Doral, Florida, Expires: April 16, 2018

Forensic Scientist – Firearms & Toolmarks, Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: April 13, 2018

FBI FORENSICS ADVISOR (Recruiting for one position in Toxicology), Engility Corp, Washington DC, Expires: May 26, 2018

Forensic Chemist, Rapid City Police Department, Rapid City, SD, Expires: May 18, 2018

Associate Medical Examiner, Arkansas State Crime Laboratory, Little Rock, Arkansas, Expires: May 31, 2018

Faculty – Forensic Science – College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Expires: May 1, 2018

FACULTY POSITION IN THE MS PROGRAM IN BIOMEDICAL FORENSIC SCIENCES, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, Expires: April 10, 2018

Forensic Scientist I-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018

Forensic Scientist II-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018

Forensic Scientist III-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018

Forensic Scientist IV-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018

Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018

Forensic Scientist II-Trace Evidence, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018

Forensic Scientist III-Trace Evidence, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
The Need for Safety Officers and a Health and Safety Committee

The elements of a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) have been the subject over the last few weeks. Previous topics have been 1) the need for SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures), 2) Criteria for Implementing Control Measures, 3) requirement to ensure that fume hoods and other protective equipment are functioning properly and identify the specific measures the employer will take to ensure proper and adequate performance of such equipment, and 4) Required Information to be provided to lab personnel working with hazardous substances. This week’s topics are 5) the circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer’s designee before being implemented, and 6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee.

5) The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer’s designee before being implemented. Prior to any new work being conducted in a lab that uses a hazardous chemical, prior approval must be acknowledged. Prior approval would normally come from the Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) or Safety Officer in your lab. Many procedures use chemicals that require special considerations. Additionally, some labs may not have the proper storage or work area for its use. Also, the chemical must be added to the chemical inventory, all personnel who will work with or come in contact to the chemical must read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Having a plan where an employee has read the SDS and understands the hazards by signing a review sheet or some other acknowledgement is a good way to improve compliance. Additionally, ordering and purchasing hazardous chemicals should go through one person or a team so that proper storage locations, policies, and procedures can be appropriate for chemicals ordered.

6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee. Designating a person, such as a CHO or Safety Officer for day-to-day administration of chemical issues is paramount and crucial for accreditation. A CHO will provide reports at the department Safety Committee meetings on chemical hygiene activities performed. Additionally, a CHO will work with others to develop, review and approve Standard Operating Procedures which detail all aspects of proposed laboratory activities that involve hazardous materials. A Chemical Hygiene Committee, commonly known as a Safety Committee (or Health and Safety) in forensic labs is also a requirement for accreditation. Health and Safety committee members should establish a committee structure and process and develops an action plan for the year that identifies a few priority health and safety issues to work on. The concerns would be addressed at safety committee meetings and the executive management meeting(s).

Jane B. Northup  
Quality Assurance Officer  
RI State Crime Laboratory  
Certified Chemical Hygiene Officer

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1450  

The National Registry of Certified Chemists  
http://nrcc6.org/

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Training  

OSHA Fact Sheet:  

CHP Template:  

Examples of CHPs:  
University of California, Santa Barbara: http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/labsafety-chn  
University of Rhode Island: http://web.uri.edu/ehs/files/ChemicalHygienePlan.pdf
Crime Lab Safety Plans:

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

In 2018, the Forensic Science Training Institute will be offering a week-long course in Advanced Fabrics Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Training on March 19-23.

The class size is limited to twelve, so please register early to ensure your seat.

For registration and full details on the course requirements, visit the Forensic Science Training Institute website here: [http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/16/1.htm](http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/16/1.htm)

**Recorded Training:**

**Episode 9 Podcast!!**

Just Blood Spatter

In episode nine of Just Science, funded by the National Institute of Justice’s Forensic Technology Center of Excellence [Award 2016-MU-BX-K110], we spoke with Dr. Marc Smith, from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Smith’s NIJ funded research in blood spatter has connected computational fluid dynamics with empirical studies to improve the understanding of blood spatter onto solid, slanted surfaces. His work looks at many variables, including droplet size, speed, surface roughness and wettability. Listen and Subscribe HERE.

Subscribe to the channel at:

- [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps)
- [iTunes](https://itunes.apple.com)
- [Stitcher](https://www.stitcher.com)
- [Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com)

**ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series**

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series can be found at the following links:

- [The Paradox of Backlog Reduction – How Doing Less Can Be Doing More](#)
- [Taking the First Steps Toward Backlog Reduction](#)
- [Managing Customer Expectations and Education](#)
- [How to Increase your Staff without Increasing Budget](#)
- [Efficiency Improvements](#)
- [Developing a Statewide Approach to Backlog Management](#)
- [Case Acceptance Policies and Guidelines](#)

**ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series**

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series can be found at the following links:

- [Rapid DNA: The QAS and NDJS](#)
- [Rapid DNA: Arizona DPS and Richland County, SC](#)
- [Rapid DNA: Booking Stations and CODIS](#)

**ASCLD /RTI DNA Standards and Guidelines Webinar Series**

SWGDAM Interpretational Guidelines


Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes

ortho-Methylmethoxyacetylfentanyl found in combination with Despropionyl ortho-Methylfentanyl

The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) at the Department of Justice through a partnership with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is working with NMS Labs to identify newly emergent Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) found in seized drug samples entering the United States. You have been identified as a stakeholder in the process of notifying US public health and public safety agencies, and other international entities of the appearance of these novel substances, to allow for appropriate public health policy development and public safety actions through enforcement and interdiction.

The purpose of this email is to announce the identification of:

**ortho-Methylmethoxyacetylfentanyl**

ortho-Methylmethoxyacetylfentanyl is classified as a fentanyl analogue and novel opioid. Fentanyl analogues are modified based on the structure of fentanyl. Fentanyl analogues have been reported to cause psychoactive effects, similar to fentanyl and other opioids. Fentanyl analogues have also caused adverse events, including deaths, as described in the literature. Structurally similar compounds include fentanyl and methoxyacetylfentanyl. Fentanyl is a Schedule II substance and methoxyacetylfentanyl is a Schedule I substance in the United States, although recent legislation has temporarily placed all fentanyl-related substances in Schedule I.

**Despropionyl ortho-Methylfentanyl**

Despropionyl ortho-Methylfentanyl is classified as an analogue of the fentanyl precursor 4-anilino-N-phenethylpiperidine (4-ANPP). Fentanyl precursors are modified based on the structure of 4-ANPP and are often used in the synthesis of fentanyl analogues. 4-ANPP is a Schedule II substance in the United States.
New Narcotics Protection Kit as You Face the Dangerous Opioid Epidemic

We designed this single-use kit following DEA & CDC guidelines

Small amounts of Fentanyl can cause an overdose, a significant threat to you & your department. We designed this kit to help you stay safe.

Buy Now

http://www.sirchie.com/nark-ppe-kit-available-in-med-large-x-large-2xl.html#.WaNzc-mQxPb
Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science

OSAC Standards Bulletin, March 2018 Now Available

This Bulletin provides an update on forensic science standards that are moving through the development process at Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs), and those that are moving through the Registry Approval Process at the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC).


The Genetics in Forensics Congress
Oxford Global Conferences: www.oxfordglobal.co.uk
Oxford Global Training Seminars: www.oxfordglobaltraining.co.uk

The new year is upon us. Invest in yourself in 2018 by attending one of the upcoming programs hosted by the WVU Center for Executive Education:

Forensic Management Academy
September 9 - 14, 2018
Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office
Pittsburgh, PA

Lean Six Sigma Certification for Forensic Science Professionals
March 20 - September 11, 2018
Via online webinar with one face-to-face class held on September 11, 2018 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. in Pittsburgh, PA at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport.

For more information on the Forensic Management Academy and Lean Six Sigma programs, please visit business.wvu.edu/execed or email Martina Bison-Huckaby at Martina.Bison-Huckaby@mail.wvu.edu.

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

Bode Cellmark’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.

Advocacy - http://thecfso.org/advocacy/

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- Yale Caplan, PhD Representing ABFT fortfox@aol.com
- Beth Lavach, Legislative Liaison bethlavach@elsandassociates.com

National Institute of Justice’s latest Graduate Research Fellowships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. NIJ has made 20 new awards in 2017 for

Grant Assistance for DNA
STEM fellows, totaling $960,861 for graduate students working towards advancing NIJ’s mission. The GRF-STEM program funds dissertation research across a wide range of topics to criminal justice, including the forensic sciences.

See a full list of awards and descriptions, awardees, and dollar amounts. Sign up to get email notices when NIJ releases GRF and other funding solicitations.

Since 1995, JusticeTrax has produced a suite of products geared specifically toward the law enforcement and forensic community. Over the years, our applications have gained increasing acceptance among city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Our applications are designed by forensic scientists and are the most comprehensive case management tools available.

With installations ranging from small, single-site laboratories of five users, to extremely large multi-site installations with 500+ users, we are honored to serve some of the most sophisticated crime laboratories in North America, Australia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. Of these 175+ laboratories, greater than 95% are accredited to the ISO/IEC 17025 International Standard.

JusticeTrax is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company.

The JusticeFacts newsletters are found at http://JusticeTrax.com/sales/newsletters

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 11

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

Sign up to get email notices when NIJ releases GRF and other funding solicitations.
NIJ-FBI Fingerprint Partnership Identifies 200 Missing Persons
In March of this year, a new collaboration began between the National Institute of Justice and the FBI Laboratory. Fingerprints from unidentified missing persons are sent to the FBI where a new technology, known as Next Generation Identification, along with enhanced processing protocols, is improving the odds of identification. Identifications are increasing even with poor quality prints or with those that have been searched in the past.

The National Institute of Justice recently released a report on National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach in response to the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act of 2013, which focuses on the accurate, timely, and effective collection and processing of DNA evidence in sexual assault investigations. A practitioner working group developed 35 recommendations that provide a roadmap for collecting, transferring, preserving, storing and analyzing sexual assault kits. The recommendations apply to medical professionals, members of law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors and laboratories. A coordinated, collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to sexual assault investigations helps reassure and support victims of sexual violence, encourages victim engagement and increases the potential for just legal resolutions.

The Fingerprint Sourcebook is Now Available in Spanish
NIJ has released a Spanish-language version of The Fingerprint Sourcebook, which aims to be the definitive resource on the science of fingerprint identification. The Sourcebook was prepared by the International Association for Identification and topics covered include the anatomy and physiology of friction ridge skin; techniques for recording exemplars from both living and deceased subjects; AFIS; latent print development, preservation and documentation; equipment and laboratory quality assurance; perceptual, cognitive and psychological factors in expert identifications; and legal issues.

Forensic Identification Using Individual Chemical Signatures
NIJ-funded researchers developed an approach to translate chemical signatures recovered from personal objects such as phones into a lifestyle sketch of the owner, using mass spectrometry and informatics approaches.

Quantifying Error Rates for the Measurement of Human Skeletal Remains
NIJ-funded researchers revised forensic anthropology procedures to include an error metric for the measurement of human skeletal remains. This article summarizes findings from that study.

Designing Methods to Identify Evolving Designer Drugs
This article describes an NIJ-supported research project focused on issues of resolution and discriminatory capabilities needed to increase the reliability and selectivity of forensic evidence and analytical data for new bath salt-type drugs of abuse.

Standardized Process Developed for Identifying Dyes in Fibers
This article summarizes a method with the twofold purpose of producing a novel, reliable, and useful microfluidic system for fabric dye extraction and increasing the knowledge...
Solicitation Announcement
NIJ Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime FY2018
Solicitation:
Applications Due: April 25, 2018

NIJ’s drugs and crime portfolio supports research on law enforcement efforts to deter, investigate, prosecute, and address illegal drug trafficking, markets, and use. This FY2018 solicitation will seek investigator-initiated proposals to conduct applied research on evidence-based tools, protocols, and policies for State, local and tribal jurisdictions. The two drug priorities are: 1) opioid-related criminal investigation, prosecution, drug intelligence, and community surveillance; and 2) illegal marijuana markets and drug-related violent crime. Opioid research proposals should address narcotics law enforcement, forensic science, and/or medicolegal death investigations; and opioids include heroin, fentanyl, diverted pharmaceuticals, synthetic drugs, and analogues.


General information on applying for NIJ awards can be found at www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/welcome.aspx. Answers to frequently asked questions that may assist applicants are posted at www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/faqs.aspx. For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation (NIJ-2018-13682): toll-free at 1-800-851-3420; via TTY at 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only); email grants@ncjrs.gov; fax to 301-240-5830; or web chat at https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp.

Dear Colleagues,
New Solicitation: Research and Evaluation of Technologies to Improve School Safety

The Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is seeking proposals for projects to demonstrate and evaluate the application of technologies to improve school safety. This solicitation is part of the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative (CSSI).

NIJ is interested in funding a single evaluator who will have the capabilities to assess the effectiveness of a few promising technologies that can enhance safety within K-12 schools. Evaluations should consider the school environment and use cases as well as the kinds of data that might be collected or used as a result of the technology intervention.

Applicants are encouraged to explore technologies that have worked for use cases in other ecosystems that may translate well to the K-12 school environment.

All applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 10, 2018.

Review the solicitation.
Applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application.
Learn how to become an NIJ proposal peer reviewer.
This solicitation is competitive; therefore, NIJ staff cannot have individual conversations with prospective applicants.

Any questions concerning the solicitation should be submitted to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service: 1-800-851-3420; TTY at 301-240-6310 (for hearing impaired only); email grants@ncjrs.gov; fax 301-240-5830; or web chat https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp.
See also NIJ.gov’s solicitation FAQ page.

Comparison, and In-Lab Verification using a GelSight-Based Three Dimensional Imaging and Analysis

Stemming from a previous project that developed a 3D surface topography imaging and analysis system for casings based on the GelSight scanning technology and custom feature-based image comparison, this NIJ-supported project aimed 1) to develop the ability to scan and compare firing pin impressions; 2) to examine the use of the imaging and analysis technology in a live lab experiment; and 3) to investigate Virtual Microscopy, the use of measured 3D surface topographics as a substitute for physical casings.
