



American Society of Crime Lab Directors

"THE CRIME LAB MINUTE" NEWSLETTER

Colleagues,

The Board of Directors is often asked about the organization's position on a variety of topics. Over the last 2 years, Past-Presidents Brady Mills and Jody Wolf have been very busy leading the Board of Directors' efforts in this area by managing the large amount of responses to public comment opportunities.

Over the life of the National Commission on Forensic Science, the ASCLD Board of Directors provided more than 30 public comments, approximately twice as many as any other organization. In the last two years, ASCLD has also offered public comments on the Department of Justice's Forensic Science Discipline Review Framework and Uniform Language for Testimony and Reports in ten different disciplines.

With the announcement two weeks ago that the Department of Justice will provide an opportunity for public comments on the newly formed subcommittee on forensic science, the ASCLD Board will certainly provide public comments seeking to ensure the voices of all crime laboratories are heard in this new effort, whether the labs are large, medium, small, federal, state, or local.

ASCLD's public comments are available on the website at:

<http://www.asclcd.org/resource-library/asclcd-policy-library/>

I encourage you to review the large amount of work that has gone into advocating on behalf of the organization's members over the last several years during public comment periods. The Board of Directors also values any feedback that you have regarding the current public comment period in response to DOJ's announcement two weeks ago and this Federal Register notice ([LINK](#)).

Finally, thank you to Past-Presidents Brady Mills and Jody Wolf for the immense amount of work they put into coordinating these responses the last two years.

Have a great week and safe travels to those headed to Dallas next weekend. I look forward to seeing you there.

Kindest regards,
Jeremy Triplett



ASCLD Scholarship Deadline Approaching

ASCLD awards annual scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students in forensic science. Scholarships are generally awarded in the amount of \$1,000; however, the number and dollar amount of scholarships will be determined annually after the availability of funds is determined. Applications are reviewed and ranked according to the following criteria:

Overall scholastic record

Scholastic record in forensic science coursework

Motivation or commitment to a forensic science career

Personal statement

Faculty/Academic advisor recommendation

The first due date in the application process is April 15th. For more information and to obtain a copy of the application please go to <http://www.asclcd.org/nominations/>.



Hotel Reservations and Symposium Information

44th Annual ASCLD Symposium, April 30 – May 4, 2017, Dallas, Texas

The theme for the 2017 symposium is “Continuous Improvement – Leading through Continuous Learning.” ASCLD is interested in presentations that focus on innovative techniques to permit managers to mentor and inspire their employees as they strive to continuously improve their organizations. The key goal of 2017 ASCLD presentations is to provide crime lab leadership with actionable tools and transportable information that can be directly applied to improve their operation.

<http://www.ascldsymposium.com/>



ASCLD Members: we are asking for you to send the following notice regarding a University Research and Forensic Lab collaborative workshop out to your University contacts:

Workshop - Arbinger - Developing and Implementing and Outward Mindset

Cameron Cozzens (Arbinger Institute) is conducting an 8 hour workshop on May 1 to assist leaders in forensic organizations facilitate change. From the authors of the international best-selling books Leadership and Self-Deception, The Anatomy of Peace, and The Outward Mindset comes the workshop that is helping government and corporate leaders dramatically transform their culture. In this workshop, The Arbinger Institute helps resolve the organizational problems—including weak individual performance, lack of accountability, ineffective leadership, poor teamwork, interpersonal conflict and functional silos—that plague many organizations, hurting their results. The root cause of most organizational problems is that employees often unknowingly work with an “inward mindset”—focused inwardly on their own, personal objectives. www.arbinger.com

Workshop - NIJ Research

Bridging the Gap Between Researchers and Practicing Forensic Scientists: The Need for Collaboration The “Forensic Science Research Incubator”

On Sunday, April 30, NIJ is conducting an 8 hour Workshop at the ASCLD Annual Meeting to bring together University Researchers and Forensic Lab Leaders to facilitate research. Grant funding opportunities will also be presented. This workshop is an excellent opportunities to meet face to face to share ideas and forge partnerships. This meeting will also provide an opportunity to learn about the ASCLD Forensic Research initiative. Please check out the specifics at:

<http://www.ascldsymposium.com/events-1/i546th2e508/Bridging-the-Gap-Between-Researchers-and-Practicing-Forensic-Scientists-The-Need-for-Collaboration>

The meeting general information and registration is: <http://www.ascldsymposium.com/> and consider attending.

Workshop NIJ Grant Managers

NIJ Programs for Forensic Laboratories

On Monday, May 1, NIJ is conducting a 4 hour Workshop at the ASCLD Annual Meeting specifically tailored to Grant Managers. This workshop will cover grant requirements and reporting, formula and competitive grants and include recommendations to write a successful competitive grant application. Specifics for this workshop can be found at: <http://www.ascldsymposium.com/events-2/i54cmq0k133/NIJ-Programs-for-Forensic-Laboratories>

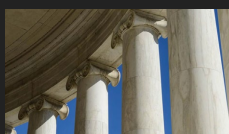
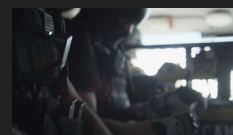
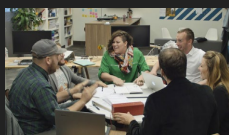
FORENSIC SCIENCE ERROR MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL FORENSICS SYMPOSIUM

July 24-28, 2017 @NIST, Gaithersburg, MD



ChemCentre
EXPERT SOLUTIONS

[Forensic Science Research Digest Volume 1, Issue 2, March 2017](#)



LOOKING AHEAD
THE NATIONAL Sexual Assault
POLICY SYMPOSIUM

NIJ | National Institute of Justice
STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE.

NIJ's Forensic Technology
Center of Excellence

Case Studies ref Arbinger Institute Symposia Workshop



NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 9

Solicitation Deadlines Extended

NIJ has extended the deadlines for two solicitations:

- [Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime](#) now will close on April 24, 2017.
- [Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System](#) now will close on May 8, 2017.

Apply now! Funding is available for:

- FY 2017 Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence-Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program (SAFE-ITR) Application deadline: April 28, 2017 [Download the solicitation \(pdf, 38 pages\)](#)

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250472.pdf>

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS
"Excellence through leadership in forensic science management"

- [Criminalist](#), none, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: June 9, 2017
- [Criminalist I/II \(DNA\)](#), San Diego Police Department, San Diego, CA, Expires: May 1, 2017
- [cyber security](#), jntuk, kakinada, Expires: June 15, 2017
- [Forensic Scientist - Latent Prints](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Norfolk, VA, Expires: April 30, 2017
- [Forensic Biologist - Crime Lab Scientist](#), The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), Decatur, Georgia, Expires: April 30, 2017
- [Latent Print Examiner](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: April 30, 2017
- [Crime Scene Investigator](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 30, 2017
- [Quality Specialist](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: May 31, 2017
- [Chief Operations Officer](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston Forensic Science Center, Expires: May 12, 2017
- [Forensic Technical Leader](#), GenQuest DNA Laboratory, Sparks, Nevada, Expires: April 21, 2017
- [Crime Laboratory Analyst 4](#), Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory, Baton Rouge, LA, Expires: May 1, 2017
- [Forensic Analyst - Biology](#), Houston Forensic

Adapting Newborn Blood Testing Procedures to Forensic Toxicology

<https://nij.gov/topics/forensics/evidence/toxicology/Pages/adapting-newborn-blood-testing-procedures-to-forensic-toxicology.aspx>

Degraded Ignitable Liquids Database: An Applied Study

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/250468.pdf>

Statistical Methods for Combining Multivariate and Categorical Data in Postmortem Interval Estimation
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/250467.pdf>

Citrate Content of Bone: A potential Measure of Post Mortem Interval

A constant concern for forensic practitioners is the determination of the post-mortem interval (PMI) in questioned death cases. A number of methods have been tried to better determine PMI, but all have proven problematic. NIJ-supported researchers at the SUNY Brockport Research Foundation evaluated the citrate method for determining PMI based on a 2010 study that indicated citrate content in bone could be potentially useful in estimating PMI. The researchers intend to make the interface available free online.

Microspectrophotometry of Fibers: Advances in Analysis and Interpretation

Microspectrophotometry is a standard forensic laboratory technique for the comparison of fibers, however, there are concerns about its discriminating power and significance in a field that is moving toward statistical interpretation of data. In this NIJ-supported project, researchers with the forensic laboratory Microtrace conducted an extensive review of microspectrophotometry to present investigators with a context for relating spectral differences to colorant concentrations in fibers and illustrate cases in which similar, but different, fiber populations could not be discriminated.

Massively Parallel Sequencing: Application to Forensics

<https://www.forensiccoe.org/Our-Impact/Advancing-Technology/Reports/Massively-Parallel-Sequencing-Application-to-Forensics>

Examining the Effects of Environmental Degradation on the Optical Properties of Manufactured Fibers of Natural Origin

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249911.pdf>

Transition Metal Cluster Compounds for the Fluorescent Identification and Trace Detection of Substances of Abuse

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/250337.pdf>

Forensic Science Policy and Management: An International Journal

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Backlog

Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: May 12, 2017

- [Forensic Chemistry Supervisor \(Toxicology\)](#), Austin Texas Police Department, Austin Texas, Expires: May 15, 2017
- [Crime Scene Analyst](#), Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Golden, CO, Expires: April 21, 2017
- [Chief Toxicologist](#), Cuyahoga County, Cleveland, OH, Expires: May 15, 2017
- [Executive Director](#), Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory, Vernon Hills, IL, Expires: April 30, 2017
- [Criminalist](#), County of Los Angeles – Medical Examiner Coroner, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: June 9, 2017
- [Forensic Biologist](#), Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Georgia, Expires: April 30, 2017
- [Physician Specialist](#), County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: May 19, 2017
- [Chief Forensic Laboratories](#), Los Angeles County – Medical Examiner- Coroner, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: May 17, 2017
- [Forensic Chemist 2](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA & OCONUS, Expires: May 4, 2017
- [Laboratory Manager/Theater Liaison](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA & OCONUS, Expires: May 4, 2017



Simon Sinek: If You Don't Understand People, You Don't Understand Business

"We're not good at everything, we're not good by ourselves," says Simon Sinek at the 99% Conference. Our ability to build trust and relationships is the key to our survival as a race, and to thriving as ideamakers.

NFSTC News

NFSTC is now offering online proficiency testing in crime scene investigation to agencies across the globe. After the Fact has been used as the competency standard since 2011 and is a cost-effective training tool. Assessments are \$250 and available at www.csi-skills.com.

michelle.chernicoff@nfstc.org
<https://www.nfstc.org/>

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

Evidence Technology Magazine



Forensic Crime Lab Strategic Business Plan

We develop and write Strategic Business Plans for forensic crime labs. Here are the type of questions and challenges we can help answer and overcome:

- Multiple Crime Lab Consolidation
- Medical Examiner Office and Crime Lab Mergers
- Multi Agency Regional Partnerships
- New Lab Considerations; Equipment Planning, Operational Cost Planning, Workload Measurement, Staff Planning
- New Equipment Forecasting and Funding Justification
- Operational Cost Forecasting
- Long Term Budget Forecasting

We can, together, develop a Forensic Crime Lab Strategy Plan that will make your lab more efficient, work within your operational budget, and deliver flawless work.

<http://www.theinteractgroup.com/crime-laboratory-strategic-business-plan/>

FORESIGHT 20./20

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) has received funding from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to develop software that will transfer data from forensic Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) to FORESIGHT, a business quantitative process tailored to forensic laboratories



OSAC Promotes Hundreds of Forensic Science Standards, Guidelines, and Other Documents During 2017 OSAC Public Status Reports & Open Discussions

The webcasts and PowerPoint presentations are available for public viewing on the NIST OSAC website."

The OSAC Registry is a trusted repository of high-quality, science-based standards and guidelines for forensic sciences.

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-newsletter-march-2017>

E30.01 Criminalistics

The following work items are underway:

WK58027 - Standard Practice for Preserving Ignitable Liquids and Ignitable Liquid Residue Extracts from Fire Debris Samples (link is external) is a work item revision to existing standard E2451-13

WK58028 - Standard Guide for Forensic Examination of Non-Reactive Dyes in Textile Fibers by Thin-Layer Chromatography (link is external) is a work item revision to existing standard E2227-13

New Approved Standards

ASTM E2926 - 17 Standard Test Method for Forensic Comparison of Glass Using Micro X-ray Fluorescence (μ -XRF) Spectrometry (link is external)

ASTM E1588 - 17 Standard Practice for Gunshot Residue Analysis by Scanning Electron Microscopy/Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometry (link is external)

E30.12 Digital and Multimedia Evidence

The following work item is underway:

WK58084 - Standard Practice for Computer Forensics (link is external) is a work revision to existing standard ASTM E2763-10

Learn more about **ASTM E30 (link is external)**.

OSAC Subcommittees



The goal of the project, called FORESIGHT 20/20, will be to allow laboratories to easily upload business-relevant information from their individual LIMS to the FORESIGHT project, hosted at West Virginia University.

Software development and installations for JusticeTrax Alpha labs is progressing. The software provides a dashboard of the labs' own stats and FORESIGHT stats, among other information. The information, formatting, and interface may vary somewhat by vendor.

Contact has been made with Porter Lee and connections are being created for TOMIKO to test software for that vendor. Similar set up work is being done with STaCS DNA. A conference call was held with StarLIMS to orient them to the project. Forensic Advantage has been contacted twice with no response; their participation as a vendor has been shelved until and unless they respond. The only Forensic Advantage Alpha lab, Las Vegas PD, has been contacted and a conference call is scheduled for 29 MAR to provide some advice and assistance to them so they can participate in FORESIGHT 20/20 to the extent possible.

The FORESIGHT Users meeting is scheduled for April 30 and a plenary presentation on FORESIGHT 20/20 is scheduled for the ASCLD meeting in May.

Foresight 20/20



Just Science Podcast Interviews

RTI International in partnership with the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, a program of the National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice, is producing 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, RTI 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 the 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 Dallas, Texas.

The available dates are Tuesday, May 2nd and Wednesday, May 3rd, and we can

[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.

Featured Article:

His name was Wilmer Souder. A physicist at the National Bureau of Standards, now known as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Souder played an important role in the early days of forensic science. He helped send countless murderers, bootleggers, gangsters and thieves to prison, and he kept such a low profile partly out of concern for his and his family's safety. Perhaps as a result, he was not long remembered for his forensic work, and his influence on the developing field of forensic science was not as great as it might have been.

NIST Library just finished scanning Souder's nine notebooks and has made them available for anyone to view via the NIST Digital Archives:

<http://nistdigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16009coll67>

Bringing together experts from the forensic, research, legal, and law enforcement communities to strengthen forensic science and create a safer, more just society.
<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science>

Upcoming Events

- [International Forensic Science Error Management Symposium](#), July 24-28, 2017
- Technical Colloquium: Quantifying the Weight of Forensic Evidence, June 27-29, 2017



Establishment of an Office of Forensic Sciences and a Forensic Science Board Within the Department of Justice

Revision 2/14/17

http://thecfso.org/advocacy/20170214_CF_SO_OFS_Proposal_Rev.pdf

Formed in 2000, CFSO is an association of

accommodate your schedule. Please e-mail Lauren Mangum from RTI International at lmangum@rti.org with 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 here. You can change the position of the caption and set styles in the block's settings tab.

NEWS STORIES

[Albany State University's Forensic Science program gains reaccreditation](#)

The Albany Herald

Albany State University professor and director of the university's **Forensic Science** program Zachariah Oommen, right, assists an ASU student in the ...

[Justice demands fair access to DNA testing](#)

Philly.com

Six of those years were spent fighting in court for **DNA** testing, which was finally conducted in 2013. The results excluded Wright and matched the ...

[Chemist admits botching crime lab results for nearly a decade](#)

New York Post

More than 20,000 drug convictions in Massachusetts will be tossed out after a lab chemist admitted she intentionally botched evidence for nearly a ...

[Barreto thinks crime lab is safe for now](#)

My Columbia Basin

SALEM, Oregon – Gov. Kate Brown proposed closing the Oregon State Police **Crime Lab** in Pendleton in her budget, as part of dealing with a deficit.

[Arizona police chief swears-in drug-sniffing bearded dragon](#)

UPI.com

April 16 (UPI) -- An Arizona police department shared photos from the swearing-in of its newest and most unusual officer -- Iroh the **drug**-sniffing lizard.

[How a drug is reclassified?](#)

KREM.com

What once was seen as just a street **drug**, is now legal to some extent in more than two dozen states. But at the federal level it is still classified in the ...

[State Police Crime Lab eyes familial DNA searching, a controversial crime-solving tool](#)

The Advocate

Forensic scientist Morgan Sandifer conducts DNA testing of a sexual assault kit in the Louisiana State Police **Crime Lab** on Thursday, April 13, 2017, ...

six forensic science professional organizations: American Academy of Forensic Sciences; American Society of Crime Lab Directors; International Association for Identification; International Association of Forensic Nurses; National Association of Medical Examiners; and Society of Forensic Toxicologists - American Board of Forensic Toxicology.

These professional organizations together represent more than 21,000 forensic science professionals across the United States.

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is local, state and national policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

CFSO Newsletter

NIFS Newsletter

Coming soon..... The Forensic Research Committee

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

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