Colleagues,

The 2017 Symposium is fast approaching! I hope you have made plans to attend.

Along with several great days of education and training at the symposium, we will also have our annual business meeting on Thursday where we will vote on new members to the organization, elect 3 new Board Members, and vote on a proposed change to the organization's Bylaws.

The new members candidates were distributed previously via email, but you can find them again at this link: 2017 MEMBER CANDIDATES

We have 4 great candidates who will be running for the Board of Directors this year. Additional information in the form of their candidate questionnaires will be distributed via the Executive Education Digest next week; however, you can view the list of candidates here: 2017 BOARD CANDIDATES

Lastly, the Board of Directors is submitting a suggested bylaws revision to the membership for voting at the business meeting in Dallas. The suggested revision is not a major one. It changes the requirement for new members seeking regular membership to obtain two sponsors who complete a sponsorship form, instead of a "letter." In recent years, the board has found that the "letter" requirement has caused confusion and difficulties for the membership committee. This change also creates some consistency among requirements for different membership types. The suggested bylaws revision also clarifies that if membership is denied to an applicant, the application fee can be refunded. Please take a look at the proposed revision. As always, the Board is available to answer any questions that you have in advance of the symposium, and there will also be an opportunity to ask questions during the business meeting. You can find the proposed bylaw revision wording here: 2017 BYLAWS REVISION

Have a great week.

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.ascld.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.

44th Annual ASCLD Symposium hotel room block for the 2017 Symposium is now available! 
http://www.asclds Symposium.com/

Golf Tournament, May 1st, 2017

Stevens Park Golf Course –
1005 N Montclair Ave, Dallas, TX 75208

Join us for a round of golf with your colleagues and the symposium sponsors for a Best Ball tournament and a chance to win a prize! The shotgun start will be at 12:30pm, with a buffet lunch provided beforehand.

ASCLD will be assigning teams of 4 ahead of time to allow for networking and new opportunities to be presented for all participants.

You can sign up for the golf tournament through our registration system here. You will need to complete a full registration to be signed up for the tournament. The registration cost of $80/person includes 18 holes of golf, cart fees and lunch. Golf clubs can be rented for an additional charge at the course. Transportation to and from the course is not included.

See you there!

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-1/5461b2e508/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-2/54cmq0k133 NIJ Programs for Forensic Laboratories

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.

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”

- 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

Adapting Newborn Blood Testing Procedures to Forensic Toxicology


Degraded Ignitable Liquids Database: An Applied Study


Case Studies ref Arbinger Institute Symposia Workshop
Statistical Methods for Combining Multivariate and Categorical Data in Postmortem Interval Estimation

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

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

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 NDIS
- Rapid DNA: Arizona DPS and Richland County, SC
- Rapid DNA: Booking Stations and CODIS

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.

National Commission on Forensic Science News

Meetings of the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) are held quarterly in Washington, DC. NCFS meetings are open to the public. Public registration for NCFS meetings is available approximately one month in advance of a meeting and can be found under the respective meeting link. NCFS meetings are also webcast.

The thirteenth meeting of the National Commission on Forensic Science will be held April 10-11, 2017 in Washington, DC.

If you would like to receive email updates as new information or new materials are added, please subscribe. Email updates

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.chemicoff@nfstc.org
https://www.nfstc.org/

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...
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.
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.

Complimentary Webinar!

FORENSIC DNA TESTING:

TECHNIQUES FOR OPTIMIZING EVIDENCE COLLECTION AND USING A LOCAL DNA DATABASE TO REDUCE CRIME

Tuesday, April 11, 2017
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Eastern Time
REGISTER ONLINE NOW TO ATTEND

Solving a crime takes a team of experts— at the scene of the crime, in the laboratory and in the courtroom. This webinar will cover:

- The benefits of applying DNA to high-volume crimes
- The impact of DNA on policing
- Techniques for optimizing evidence collection, handling and submission
- How significant client-to-scientist interaction leads to more useful, forensically defensible DNA profiles
- How DNA analysis and DNA databasing make up some of the best crime fighting tools available to law enforcement
- A demonstration of SmallPond™ DNA-Profile matching technology to assist in the generation of investigative leads to help reduce crime

Contact an NMS Labs Representative today for more information.

NEWS STORIES

Personnel file shows extent of Orange County fingerprint examiner's alleged mistakes
Orlando Sentinel
In his role, Palacio acted as an expert examiner of crime scene fingerprints and handprints to determine whether they matched those of suspects

Search for justice: State chops away at rape kit testing backlog
Standard-Examiner
Forensic analyst Karen Gincoo checks a tray of evidence vials from rape kits in the biology lab at the Houston Forensic Science Center in Houston on ...

Many Pitt County drug cases to be delayed after crime lab chemist leaves

Establishment of an Office of Forensic Sciences and a Forensic Science Board Within the Department of Justice
Revision 2/14/17

Formed in 2000, CFSO is an association of 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
WNCT
“Now everything is going to be going to the SBI instead of our local lab, ... Sheriff Neil Elks said Pitt County is one of the only forensic labs in the East ...

UCLA researchers make DNA detection portable, affordable using cellphones
UCLA Newsroom
Nucleic acids, such as DNA or RNA, are used in tests for infectious diseases, genetic disorders, cancer mutations that can be targeted by specific ...

Shifting fingerprints could aid forensic teams in their fight against crime, study shows
The National
FINGERPRINTS left at the scene of a crime can move after they are deposited, research reveals. Forensics experts from Abertay University in Dundee, ...

GBI funding to help clear backlogged test kits handed over since last year's SB 304
The Signal
“The budget will afford the division four new forensic scientists and two new lab technicians. This will increase the lab's capacity to process 1,320 kits ...

Austin will fund legal review of past DNA case criminal convictions
Community Impact Newspaper
APD's forensics lab was shut down in May 2016 after it was cited in an audit by the Texas Forensic Sciences Commission for outdated equipment and ...

Kentucky State Police Lab becoming training ground for other state labs because of low pay, lab,...
Spectrum News
Analysts in Kentucky are now ranked as the lowest paid in the entire United States, and KSP Forensic Laboratory System Director Laura Sudkamp told ...

Forensic errors trigger reviews of DC crime lab ballistics unit, prosecutors say
Washington Post
District crime lab officials are reviewing more than 150 firearm examinations for accuracy after the lab discovered errors by three D.C. forensic analysts ...

DNA Murder Case Charts New Ground in Canada
Courthouse News Service
“In other countries, there is authority, there are statutes or policies about post-conviction disclosure and DNA testing," Campbell said. “In Canada, we ...

Familial DNA testing OK'd by state forensics sub-panel
Queens Chronicle
The DNA subcommittee of the state Commission on Forensic Science Monday unanimously approved the use of familial testing in New York and ...

NY mulls use of DNA familial matching
Police News
NEW YORK — A state panel of DNA
experts approved on Monday a draft policy allowing familial searching, a new and controversial form of genetic ...

Stunning' Drug Lab Scandal Could Overturn 23000 Convictions
NBCNews.com
About 23,000 people convicted of low-level drug crimes are expected to have ... "This drug lab scandal is another example of why the criminal justice ...

APD to hire forensic scientist for first time
KFDA
With a forensic scientist working directly for the department, narcotics cases ... This forensic scientist will still work at the DPS crime lab, but will focus ...

DNA expert sacked over evidence blunders
The West Australian
Convictions in some of WA's highest-profile murder cases may be thrown into doubt following the sacking of one of the State's leading DNA scientists ...

Familial DNA Approved By Senate Subcommittee
The New York State Senate
"Today, I commend the Subcommittee on the Commission on Forensic Science for hearing the advantages of proper use of familial DNA and ...

Leading DNA scientist sacked, 27 criminal cases in doubt says WA Attorney General
ABC Online
The sacking of WA's leading DNA scientist over allegations he breached testing protocols is an "unprecedented disaster" in the state's criminal history, ...