Dear Colleagues,

Our organization has long been a strong proponent of accreditation, with our position statement supporting accreditation for all crime labs. Attaining and maintaining accreditation is a key to demonstrating quality forensic analysis as well as continuous improvement. Moving forward with ever improving standards, one of our next challenges will be progressing from the 2005 to 2017 version of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. ASCLD has partnered with the A2LA forensic accreditation and training program to offer our members and their organizational staff a 4-part series of free educational webinars, focusing on the changes and transition between the two standards.

The information with the registration links has been posted to the ASCLD website: https://www.ascld.org/meetings-and-training/forensic-conferences-training/

This standards update training series is offered from 2:00 to 3:30 EST on April 17, 19, 24 and 26 (register for each separately). We urge you to register and attend the meeting with your senior staff to optimize our web connections so we may serve all interested labs.

Quality must be the foundation for all forensic science work. If we do not have a strong foundation, all subsequent work is for naught. Please join us as we lay the next row of quality bricks.

Ray Wickenheiser
ASCLD President

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**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 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 A2LA forensic accreditation program and A2LA 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 A2LA–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/i4iv3zduv0n&eoem

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/iynpjfc6p6wh&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.

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.
4/26 - https://cc.readytalk.com/r/mtdzpcavazg2&eom

Forensic Science in the News

This forensic science expert has testified in some notorious cases
As director of Boston University’s biomedical forensic sciences program, she teaches her students to be unequivocally ethical, and exacting when it comes to protocol. "Forensic means the application of science to the law. Your science has to be good, and your ability to testify has to be good.

USA forensic science teacher, students help police close cases by unearthing the past
Dr. Lesley Gregoricka never knows when the phone will ring, but every single call from the Mobile Police Department presents an opportunity to provide not only a community service but invaluable field experience for her most promising forensic anthropology students.

The F.B.I. and the Mystery of the Mummy’s Head
Egyptian mummies pose a unique challenge because the desert’s scorching climate rapidly degrades DNA. Earlier attempts at obtaining their ancient DNA either failed or produced results contaminated by modern DNA. To crack the case, the museum turned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
Can New Forensic Tech Win War On AI-Generated Fake Images?
For gun lovers, the image was red meat: A Parkland school shooting survivor tearing the U.S. Constitution in two. It fed the NRA-fueled hysteria that, somehow, calling for tighter restrictions on assault weapons used in mass murders is a threat to the Second Amendment. The GIF went viral last week and conservatives went bonkers.

WWII hero going home to Oregon
Advances in forensic science and scientific technology have made it possible for a team of anthropologists, dental experts and technicians from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to connect once unidentifiable remains to missing service members like Lyle Charplioz, bringing long-awaited closure to families.

SHE'S USING JEWELRY TO HELP SOLVE CRIMES
The 29-year-old Scottish designer is the world's first forensic jeweler, bringing together art and science to explore how jewelry can be used as a method of identification.

Forensic evidence most used in murder, rape cases: Study
A doctoral study from Raksha Shakti University (RSU) exploring the relationship between judgements of Gujarat high court and the use of forensic science evidence can be found in three categories of crime — murder, rape and possession of narcotic substances.

Beyond 'Blurred Lines': How Forensic Musicology Is Altering Pop's Future
When a jury decided in March of 2015 that Robin Thicke, Pharrell Williams and Clifford "T.I." Harris were guilty of copyright infringement in lifting elements of their song "Blurred Lines" from the Marvin Gaye classic "Got to Give It Up," the estate of Marvin Gaye grew several million dollars richer. But according to some industry insiders, the "Blurred Lines" verdict — which was upheld by an appeals court in March — might mean an even bigger windfall for those working in the little-known field of forensic musicology.

Montana crime lab chemist pleads not guilty to stealing meth
A former chemist at Montana's state crime lab in Missoula has pleaded not guilty to charges that he took methamphetamine left over from samples being tested for suspected drugs in criminal cases.

Opioid epidemic: Lake Erie College, crime lab teaming up for discussions
Dubbed the Opioid Outreach & Education Evenings, panel discussions with area experts will take place April 10 and April 17 at the college. Question-and-answer sessions will follow the panel discussions. Local addiction treatment and rehabilitation specialists will be on hand to speak with individuals and their families struggling with addiction in the county.

State might combine Milwaukee office building, crime lab projects
In early March, the Department of Administration issued a new request for proposal for its $75 million crime lab (Southeast Wisconsin Law Enforcement Facility) project. The three-story, 150,000-square-foot facility was originally going to be developed by Wangard Partners at 1400 N. 113th St. in Wauwatosa.

Crime Lab results: No presence of controlled substances in New London St. Patrick's Day candy
The New London Police Department received results back from the Crime Lab on the candy and wrappers that were tested. All items came back as: Item did not identify the presence of any controlled substances.

New SDPD Crime Lab Unit Recovers Deleted Data, Restores Damaged Cellphones
The forensic unit, which worked its first case in November 2017, can only use the extraction technology to access mobile data with legal clearance. SDPD criminalists said they do not violate an individual's privacy rights when extracting data from mobile devices, and follow the specific court orders outlined by a judge.

DPS crime lab uses photograph of man's finger in child porn investigation to identify suspect
From the time the image was given to Blackburn and Hall it took roughly 24 hours to identify and take Bossick into custody.

Crime lab says cookies from day care caper were clean
"Those cookies were sent to the state crime lab for analysis and after thorough testing, none of the cookies tested positive for controlled substances," Sgt. Wade Betters said in a news release Monday. "The cause of the staff's feeling of intoxication is currently unknown."

Former drug-addicted state crime lab chemist Sonja Farak makes rare public appearance at Springfield federal court
The former crime lab chemist was in 2014 sentenced to 18 months in prison for drug possession and evidence tampering. She is among 18 defendants named in a $5.7 million complaint by Penate, who served more than five years in prison for drug crimes.

Lake County Crime Lab will turn around cases faster with new equipment, officials say
The Lake County commissioners approved the purchase of a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer with an autosampler at their most recent meeting. The crime lab is purchasing the device from Wilmington, Delaware-based Agilent Technologies for just under $70,000. The device is being paid for with a grant received by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

How Indiana's largest police department tests rape kits
A statewide audit done last year found thousands of rape kits were sitting in evidence storage at law enforcement agencies. Back in December, Republican State Sen. Michael Crider, from Greenfield, promised to do something about the kits.

Bill awaiting Gov. Charlie Baker's signature creates inventory of untested rape kits
Massachusetts has secured a position as a nationwide leader in rape kit reform now that the legislature has passed an omnibus criminal justice bill that will mandate an inventory of all untested sexual assault kits in the state.

Former forensic scientist sues Arizona Department of Public Safety, alleges retaliation
"It was pointed out to you that your opinion ... is contrary to the opinion of the other analysts in the bureau and contrary to the position of the laboratory," the DPS employee performance report stated. "You were advised that testifying about what other agencies in the state do with regards to disclosure or storage of their data is outside of your current qualifications. You are not currently employed by these agencies and are not
aware of their current procedures, protocols or policies."

Georgia Police Investigating Alabama Officer in Sex Crimes
Police in Georgia say a former Alabama prison officer accused of sexually assaulting a woman near Atlanta is also being investigated in connection with a series of assaults.

"Too high to drive?" case ends before trial
...the decision to offer the defendant a deal was largely driven by the fact that the Arkansas Crime Lab does not presently have a way to quantify the amount of marijuana in a driver's system. Vaden says he has been told that this will soon change, but at this time and for this case, such a quantification was not available, which would have made it difficult to prove that James Holt's use of marijuana was the primary factor in the crash that killed two people.
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
Call for Nominations

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!
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.

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

- **Forensic Account Manager or Forensic Account Representative**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Utah, Expires: June 1, 2018
- **Forensic Technician**, Broward County Sheriff’s Office, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Expires: April 20, 2018
- **Forensic Latent Print Examiner I**, City of Mesa, Mesa, AZ, Expires: April 12, 2018
- **Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science**, University of New Haven, West Haven, CT, Expires: May 22, 2019
ASCLD Crime Lab Minute April 9, 2018

- **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, Alaska, Expires: April 18, 2018
- **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
- **Latent Fingerprint Examiner**, MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT (MDPD), Doral, Florida, Expires: April 16, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist – Firearms & Toolmarks**, Virginia Departement of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: April 13, 2018
- **ICITAP Worldwide Forensics Advisor 15 -Washington DC**, 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
- **Forensic Analyst – Multimedia**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: April 30, 2018
- **Forensic Examiner DNA 3 01377**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- **Forensic Examiner DNA 1 01376**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- **Forensic Examiner Latent Print 1 01375**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- **Forensic Examiner Latent Print 3 01374**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- **Forensic Examiner Fire Arms & Toolmarks 01378**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- **Laboratory Manager/Theater Liason 01365**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- **Latent Print Examiner**, InCadence Strategic Solutions, Forest Park, GA, Expires: May 31, 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-Firesarms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist II-Firesarms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist III-Firesarms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist IV-Firesarms/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,
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:
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

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
- iTunes
- Stitcher
- Soundcloud

ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series can be found at the following links:
- The Paradox of Backlog Reduction is 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

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
OSAC Catalog of External Standards and Guidelines

The OSAC Catalog of External Standards and Guidelines is a collection of standards, guidelines and other documents applicable to forensic science. None of the documents in the catalog have been developed or approved by OSAC (the Organization of Scientific Area Committees). The catalog was compiled by NIST staff in early 2015 for OSAC members to assess existing standards, guidelines and best practices that are already publicly available.

The catalog was updated in April of 2017. The catalog is available to download as a sortable Excel spreadsheet (link opens an Excel .xlsx file). It contains the titles and source information for more than 700 standards, guidelines and related documents. The catalog also lists web addresses for documents that are available online.

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).


OSAC Subcommittees
https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-subcommittees

Accreditation and Training
developed specifically for the forensic community

www.anab.org

Bode Cellmark
LabCorp Specialty Testing Group
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.

BodeCellmark’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/

Membership:
For Membership information: matthew.gamette@thecfso.org

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Grant Assistance for DNA

West Virginia University Forensic Management Academy
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.
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
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,

The Most Important Features for an Effective Sexual Assault Response Team
Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) hold the promise of improving victim experiences, increasing prosecution rates, and reducing the prevalence of sexual assault. To understand how an effective SART works, NIJ-funded researchers studied the structure and operations of SARTS across the United States.

Identifying Ignitable Liquids in the Aftermath of A Fire
In a wide-ranging analysis of the effects of weathering and biological degradation on ignitable liquids, NIJ-supported researchers at the University of Central Florida’s National Center for Forensic Science studied and classified 50 liquids in the Ignitable Liquids Reference Collection database.

Scale Modeling in Fire Reconstruction
After reviewing scaling theory used in fire research, this project developed scaling rules for design fires and enclosure material boundaries, followed by the full-scale testing of a gas burner, heptane pool fire, pine wood crib, and polyurethane foam, and the scaling theory was applied to the full-scale scenario and a 1/8 scale compartment.

Evaluation of the Use of a Non-Contact 3D Scanner for Collecting Postmortem Fingerprints
Historically, the recording of postmortem fingerprint impressions from decedents is a manual and labor-intensive process. 3D scanners are potentially an important tool to help forensic scientists address the challenges of postmortem fingerprint recovery due to the contactless scanning capabilities, as well as the ability to scan complex surfaces and capture scale. This NIJ-supported study evaluated the potential for using a contactless, 3D fingerprint scanner to capture examination-quality postmortem fingerprints and facilitate rapid identification of the deceased.

Evidential Value of Particle Combination Profiles on Common Items of Evidence
This project used the analytical tools and statistical methods developed in previous research funded by NIJ to measure the evidential value of very small particle (VSP) profiles found on four common types of physical evidence: handguns, cell phones, drug packaging, and ski masks.

Method Development and Validation of Toolmark Imaging, Virtual Casing
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 301-240-5830 (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.