Dear Colleagues,

The ASCLD Board has been very busy in the last couple of weeks. On Thursday August 3rd we requested input from you on the Opioid crisis impact on your crime lab jurisdiction and provided an update on NIST revised DNA Population data. Last Monday we provided a position statement in response to US Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein’s announcement at the IAI meeting in Atlanta. On Wednesday, we provide a position statement in support of the release of the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Recovery (SAFER) report. We feel that it is important as lab leadership that we are proactive, getting out in front of forensic issues and leading by example.

I take great pride in announcing another initiative, the ASCLD Opioid Task Force, which is chaired by Bruce Houlihan of Orange County. Bruce brings 31 year of crime lab experience in the Drug and Toxicology Disciplines. The goal for the Opioid Task Force is for ASCLD to make legislative recommendations, funding recommendations, discuss best lab practices, and provide general resources for lab leaders. Please add your talents to the group by getting involved. The commitment is approximately 1 conference call per month along with development of the work products just mentioned. Bruce’s email is BTH@occl.ocgov.com Please contact him to share your energy and expertise to help us meet the Opioid challenge head on.

This is our field, our expertise and our mission to improve.

Ray Wickenheiser

ASCLD President

Be sure to stay up-to-date with our 2017-18 National Priorities and Agenda!

Our NEW mailing address: 65 Glen Road, Suite 123, Garner, NC 27529
Federal authorities will continue to reassess the state of forensic science—but unlike the previous administration, will not dismiss the experience and judgment of experts, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein told the International Association for Identification annual conference on Monday.

For many in the forensic community who have spent entire careers developing expertise, it was a welcome message. Several of the biggest forensic stakeholder groups said they looked forward to taking a bigger role in the "forensic overhaul" of the sciences that has been underway nearly a decade.


**Forensic Community Welcomes New Federal Direction, ‘Common Goals’**

The organizations heard Rosenstein and responded:

- The IAI and other organizations hailed the appointment of Ted Hunt, one of the members of the former National Commission on Forensic Science and longtime Missouri prosecutor, to serve as the DOJ’s senior forensics advisor.
- The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors welcomed the direction, while urging the federal authorities to listen to state and local voices, as well. Since investigators’ demand has outstripped the ability of experts to supply timely analysis (e.g., rape kit testing, opioid drug cases and rapid results from the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network), more centralized leadership and advocacy is needed to get all crime labs on the same level of efficiency, they said.
- “ASCLD believes that (Rosenstein’s) announcement is fully complimentary with ASCLD’s position to further the objective use of science to promote justice and liberty,” the group stated in its position statement. “ASCLD and our membership look forward to advancing forensic science on behalf of the safety and protection of rights of all U.S. citizens.”
- The American Academy of Forensic Sciences saw the new DOJ announcements as developments to complement the statistical and standards work being done at National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Organization of Science Area Committees, or OSAC.
- “Collaboration with the broader scientific community and any endeavors that combine the expertise of forensic science practitioners with the knowledge of other scientists provide the best opportunities to strengthen forensic science,” the AAFS board of directors said in a statement. “Any endeavors related to forensic science should not be limited to crime-laboratory based disciplines and should reflect the diversity of the forensic science community.”
Communications Committee

ASCLD is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist with the following positions on the Communications Committee:

- Crime Lab Minute Design Specialist
- Public Relations Liaison to Industry Partners and University Programs

Please email Ascldpoc@gmail.com for more information or call 202-498-8105. Thank you for your interest.

Looking for a new opportunity?

- Forensic Scientist – Latent Print Examiner, DuPage County Forensic Science Center, Wheaton, IL, Expires: September 22, 2017
- Crime Lab Director, Office Of Attorney General, Bismarck, ND, Expires: November 30, 2017
- Laboratory Manager 14 (Trace Evidence Unit Supervisor), State of Michigan Department of State Police – Northville Forensic Laboratory, Northville, Michigan, Expires: August 18, 2017
- Forensic Scientist I-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist II-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist III-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist IV-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist II-Trace Evidence, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist III-Trace Evidence, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist IV-Trace Evidence, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist Trainee-Chemistry/Controlled Substances, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist Trainee-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist Trainee-Latent Prints, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Scientist Trainee-Trace Evidence, Nassau County Medical Examiner, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- Forensic Crime Analyst, City of Miami, Miami, Florida, Expires: August 18, 2017
- **Remote DNA Forensic Analyst**, 4814535341, Salt Lake City, Expires: August 31, 2017
- **Biologist**, Bode Cellmark Forensics, Quantico, VA, Expires: September 15, 2017
- **Physical Scientist-Trace**, Bode Cellmark Forensics, Quantico, VA, Expires: September 15, 2017
- **Forensic Analyst – Toxicology**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: October 13, 2017
- **Crime Lab DNA Analyst**, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Crime Laboratory, Charlotte, NC, Expires: August 20, 2017
- **Controlled Substance Analyst**, State of Wisconsin-Department of Justice, Wausau, WI, Expires: August 21, 2017
- **Forensic Serologist**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: September 29, 2017
- **Forensic DNA Technician**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: September 29, 2017
- **Forensic DNA Analyst I / II**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: September 29, 2017
- **Forensic DNA Analyst – Priority DNA**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: August 31, 2017
- **Quality Specialist**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2017
- **Forensic Analyst – Biology/DNA**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2017
- **Crime Scene Supervisor**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2017
- **Latent Print Examiner**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2017
- **Property & Evidence Manager**, NMS Labs, Grand Prairie, TX, Expires: October 18, 2017
- **Forensic Biologist III or IV Trainer**, NMS Labs, Willow Grove, PA, Expires: October 18, 2017
- **Forensic Chemist III or IV**, NMS Labs, Willow Grove/Warminster PA, Expires: October 18, 2017
- **Non-Tenure Track Forensic Science Faculty Position**, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, Expires: October 13, 2017
- **Forensic Science Lecturers (2)**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, Expires: August 31, 2017
- **Staff Chemist**, ORAU (Oak Ridge Associated Universities), Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: September 29, 2017
- **Post doctoral scholar**, The Pennsylvania State University, Forensic Science Program, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University Park, PA, Expires: August 31, 2017
- **Latent Print Laboratory Director**, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Albany, NY, Expires: September 15, 2017
- **Bilingual Accreditation Manager**, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, Cary, NC, Expires: September 14, 2017
- **Audio/Video Forensic Analyst**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2017
- **Staff DNA Analyst (#01611)**, ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: October 2, 2017
- **Senior DNA Analyst (#01607)**, ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: October 2, 2017
- **Principal DNA Analyst (#01604)**, ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: October 2, 2017
The American Board of Criminalistics is looking for DNA screeners, technicians and examiners. This is an opportunity to be a volunteer subject matter expert for creating a new job task analysis in efforts to redevelop the Molecular Biology Certification Examination in Forensic Biology (DNA). Please see the attached document and link if you are interested.

Jason L. Linder, MFS, F-ABC
FORENSIC LAB MANAGER, DNA TECHNICAL LEADER | CRIME LABORATORY DIVISION
Nebraska State Patrol
3977 Air Park Road
Lincoln, Nebraska 68524
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


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. NFSTC online training courses can be found on their website.

ANAB Training

Introduction to ISO/IEC 17025


Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17025

August 21-23, 2017, Memphis, TN; October 3-5, 2017 Riyadh, KSA

Dear colleagues,

Please find a vacancy announcement below:

The School of Natural Sciences at Griffith University is currently advertising for an Associate Professor / Senior Lecturer in Forensic Science.

For further information, see: https://www.griffith.edu.au/future-staff (Job Search - ID 105777). The closing date for the position is the 25th August 2017.

Kind regards

Eva

Secretariat NIFS

Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA)

email: Secretariat.NIFS@anzpaa.org.au | web address: www.anzpaa.org.au | phone: +61 3 9628 7211 | fax: +61 3 9628 7253

June 2017 Newsletter

OSAC Promotes Hundreds of Forensic Science Standards, Guidelines, and Other Documents During 2017
### Forensic Science in the News

**Sessions relaunches Obama-era forensics review months after he shuttered it**
Jeff Sessions slammed the door on a critical reevaluation of CSI-style courtroom testimony. Now he’s opening it again, but how far?

**Human ‘body farm’ for decomposing corpses could be set up by forensic scientists for first time in UK**
Dr Anna Williams, a forensic anthropologist at Huddersfield University, said cases like the murder of Milly Dowler “could have helped” with information of the type that we will get from such centres.

**Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Introduces New 3D Crime Scene Scanner**
It will help to more efficiently and accurately document crime scenes—something that, currently, can take days to do manually. Renee Armstrong, Supervising Criminalist with the Forensic Science Division says, "This will actually speed that up and will actually create 3D models in a quarter of the time. That 30 hours can be an hour."

**DOJ Announces Project Focused on Admissibility of Forensic Evidence**
The DOJ noted in its announcement that it is “fully committed to strengthening forensic science and its use in the courtroom,” despite what it characterizes as “efforts by some to reject reliable and admissible forensic evidence.” The DOJ will develop a “Uniform Language for Testimony and Reports . . . to help guide examiner testimony” as well as a “testimony monitoring program.”

**Solving gun crimes with new approach to forensic investigations**
NIBIN is not a new technology, what has recently changed is how often and how quickly it is used. "This is about the right answer at the right time," said Dr. Peter Stout, president and CEO of HFSC.

**Warrant: Accused robber raped and beat Putnam woman in 2009**
A newly released arrest warrant details how police and crime lab experts were able to tie an accused serial bank robber to an 8-year-old Putnam rape and home invasion cold case with the help of DNA samples.

**The Weakest Link Standard**
The Massachusetts Supreme Court earlier this year interjected itself again in the case of Victor Rosario, a man who spent 32 years in prison for a deadly fire. The justices in May refused to send Rosario back to prison and refused, too, to overturn a trial judge’s 2014 ruling that had set him free in the first place because of new doubts about the 1983 arson and murder conviction against him.

**Penguin forensics: Tracking the winter whereabouts of penguins by analyzing tail feathers**
Knowing where and how Antarctic penguins, and other seabirds and marine predators, migrate is critical for conservation efforts. Although electronic tracking devices have helped scientists track marine animals’ migration patterns, the devices can be expensive, invasive for the animal and challenging to retrieve. Scientists have discovered a new and potentially better way to track where penguins go over the winter using forensics.

**$75 million State Crime Lab, forensic science center proposed for Wauwatosa**
The state Justice Department's Milwaukee Crime Laboratory would move out of its overcrowded building on the south side by 2020 and relocate to a new $75 million forensic science center to be built in Wauwatosa, as part of a proposal to be discussed at a Sept. 20 public meeting.

**Council funds 2 new crime lab hires**
Much of the need, Shepherd said, is for preparing for the future. The crime lab currently sends about 20 percent of its reports to outside agencies for peer review, at a cost of roughly $20,000 per year. He said federal standards require all cases to go through peer review by 2020, and it would cost about $325,000 to outsource those reviews.
BCI Crime Lab outsourcing opiate drug tests
The number of drug cases the Ohio BCI crime lab investigates has reached a record high and the opiate epidemic is to blame.
“It’s a real concern. When you have these drug cases, you want to get them prosecuted and so we don’t want to hold up the testing of the drugs,” said BCI Superintendent Tom Stickrath.

Progress Being Made at APD Crime Lab
According to Forensic Unit Commander Mike Eveleth, there was an overall reduction of 95 kits in the month of July, despite the 26 new rape kits submitted to the department for testing.

FBI matches fingerprint to Mansfield teen's 1981 murder
The Mansfield Police Department has found a match to a fingerprint collected at the scene of a 1981 homicide. The print belongs to a dead man, who police have declined to identify.

Justice Department creates in-house team to monitor accuracy of forensic testimony in criminal cases
The Justice Department has created an internal team led by a former state prosecutor to monitor the accuracy of forensic testimony in criminal cases over an outside advisory group of experts and stakeholders, which the Wall Street Journal (sub. req.) described as a victory “over academics and defense attorneys”

The Brazos County DA's Office looking to cut forensic lab delays
“I think it is slowing down justice,” says Jarvis Parsons, District Attorney of Brazos County. “It makes the criminal justice system screech a little bit to a halt. Many times the case has already been reviewed by prosecutors and were just waiting on a lab result.”

ASCLD /RTI DNA Standards and Guidelines Webinar Series
SWGDAM Interpretational Guidelines

Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes
Next Professional Orientation Schools Scheduled

The next Professional Orientation Schools for New Crime Laboratory Scientists have been scheduled to begin on August 14 and October 9th. Laboratory directors and supervisors with new employees are encouraged to have them enroll as soon as possible. For more information or to enroll, please visit www.jmcollinsjr.com/pos.html. To reach the instructor, John Collins, please call (517) 803-4063 or email at forensicdirector@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Grant Assistance for DNA

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.

Read the CFSO Newsletter here.

ASCLD Crime Lab Minute August 14, 2017

Since 2010, Joyful Heart has advocated for the swift testing of all rape kits connected to a reported crime. A federal report released this week supports our test all kits approach.

The National Institute of Justice’s “National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach” are the first federal guidelines for handling rape kits in jurisdictions nationwide. The report includes 35 recommendations outlining a victim-
centered, multidisciplinary approach to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases, including best practices for forensic evidence collection and analysis. The best practices reflect the principles we have advanced in our work to end the backlog; testing all sexual assault kits, following up on investigations, and engaging with survivors using a trauma-informed approach.

The recommendations in this report reinforce the six legislative pillars of rape kit reform Joyful Heart has identified in our national campaign to enact comprehensive rape kit reform, and the final report incorporates the feedback that Joyful Heart provided in public comments submitted last September.

We are grateful to the experts who contributed to these recommendations. This document will provide much-needed guidance to law enforcement agencies and state legislatures working to open a path to justice for sexual assault survivors and take dangerous offenders off the streets.

Joyful Heart is leading a national campaign to enact legislative rape kit reform in all 50 states by 2020. http://joyfulheartfoundation.org/
This was the case that made criminologist Paul Kirk a household name for his investigation of the murder, and his 1956 Affidavit is a required document in many bloodstain pattern analysis training programs.

This collection presents trial transcripts, Kirk’s own investigation photos and court testimony, coroner photos and reports, and a multitude of other documents.

Link to the collection here

Jeff Teitelbaum, MLIS | Forensic Science Library Services
Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau
Washington State Patrol

2203 Airport Way S * Seattle WA  98134 * 206.262.6027

Interpreting Blood Cannabinoids: Markers of Recent Cannabis Use

Presented by
Professor Dr. Dr. (h.c.) Marilyn A. Huestis
Senior Scientific Advisor, NMS Labs

Thursday, August 17th, 2017
1:00pm – 2:00pm Eastern Time

Register online now to attend
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 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.