

CLM August 15, 2016

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Colleagues,

There are a limited number of seats still available for the National Sexual Assault Police Symposium sponsored by the National Institute of Justice through the FTCoe on September 8-9, 2016 in Washington, DC. The symposium focuses on how the nation is moving forward and finding solutions to the complex issues that arise in sexual assault cases and in testing sexual assault evidence.

This unprecedented event, featuring an array of stakeholders including medical staff, law enforcement, crime laboratories, victims' advocates, and prosecution, will highlight current accomplishments and share valuable experiences from jurisdictions throughout the country. The goal is to support our nation's policymakers and practitioners as they drive future efforts to solve sexual assault cases, provide justice to victims, and ultimately improve public health and public safety.

ASCLD has been very involved in the planning of this symposium and invited guests include governors, attorney generals, congressional representatives, federal agencies, stakeholder interest groups, laboratory directors, and more. I would encourage interested ASCLD members to attend this symposium if possible, and also make connections with any local dignitaries from your state or region.

For more information, including the symposium agenda, keynote speakers, and a link to register, please visit the symposium website at: <https://www.forensiccoe.org/Looking-Ahead-The-National-Sexual-Assault-Policy-Symposium>

Have a great week!

Kindest regards,
Jeremy Triplett



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Research Reports

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 5

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

[Justice Department Issues Draft Guidance Regarding Expert Testimony and Lab Reports in Forensic Science](#)

The Justice Department announced today the release of draft guidance documents governing the testimony and reports of the department's forensic experts. These documents, available for public comment through July 8, are designed to ensure that department forensic experts only make statements in the courtroom and in laboratory reports that are supported by sound science.

Using Forensic Botany to Aid Law Enforcement Investigations

The work of NIJ-supported researchers from Sam Houston State University, was recently featured in [Newsweek](#), [Houston Matters](#) and [Forensic Magazine](#). Their study uses DNA genotyping of plants to identify exact DNA fingerprints of specific plant life. For example, identifying the exact DNA of marijuana strains could link samples back to their distributors or the DNA of pollen samples could also be used to link pollen evidence to crime scenes.



[ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board \(ANAB\)](#) ANAB provides accreditation for ISO/IEC 17025 forensic test laboratories and ISO/IEC 17020 forensic inspection agencies and a wide variety of training, workshops, and academic programs.

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Police Agencies
[September 15-16, 2016, Alexandria, VA](#)
Cost: ASQ member \$600, non-ASQ member \$650

ISO/IEC 17025 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Test Agencies
[September 12-14, 2016, Alexandria, VA](#)
Cost: ASQ member \$750, non-ASQ member \$800

[ASCLD-LAB Training](#)

Training classes to help forensic laboratory personnel understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 General Requirements for the Competency of Testing and Calibration

The Use of E-Cigarettes for Illicit Drugs

The work of NIJ-supported researchers from Virginia Commonwealth University, was recently featured on the [university website](#) and in an upcoming NPR interview. Their study explores how drug users are using e-cigarette devices to vape illicit drugs. The team is testing the output of various illicit drugs from an e-cigarette device and whether increasing the voltage on the device would increase the dose delivery. Part of this project will also test claims that e-cigarettes are "safer" than the alternatives.

[Forensic Science: A Time of Transformation](#)

This NIJ Journal article addresses some of the ongoing discussions in the forensic, legal, and law enforcement communities over the roles of science and forensic science and the certainty of testimony presented in the courtroom. The article gives special attention to problems related to expressing certainty in non-DNA forensic evidence fields, such as trace evidence, latent prints, and firearms.

[Error Rates for Latent Fingerprinting as a Function of Visual Complexity and Cognitive Difficulty](#)

Comparison of forensic fingerprint images for purposes of identification is a complex task that, despite advances in image processing, still requires highly trained human examiners to achieve adequate levels of performance. This NIJ-supported project examined the relationship between the measurable, visual dimensions of fingerprint pairs and the level of comparison difficulty for the examiners. The research found that error rates are a function of comparison difficulty and showed that it is limiting and even misleading to talk about an overall error rate for the field as a whole. The researchers noted that one of their experiments provides strong evidence that prints vary in difficulty and that the variations affect the likelihood of error.

[Improve the PDQ Database to Enhance Investigative Lead Information from Automotive Paints](#)

In a hit-and-run incident with no witnesses, investigators are often left with automotive paint layers recovered from the victim's clothing as evidence. Modern automotive paint systems consist of several layers – a clear coat over a color coat over two layers of undercoating. In this project, NIJ-supported researchers at Oklahoma State University developed infrared prefilters and a cross correlation algorithm for searching the Paint Data Query (PDQ) automotive database. A prefilter was developed to differentiate automotive paint samples by automobile manufacturer using the clear coat and undercoat paint layers. The algorithm can determine the assembly plant where the vehicle was made.

[Investigating the Impact of Forensic Evidence Testimony on Juror Decisions](#)

Under this NIJ-supported project, Arizona State University researchers conducted three different experiments to study different aspects of forensic expert testimony. In the first experiment, juror responses were analyzed to see if the impact of having the type of method scientifically-validated influenced jurors. They found that experience of the expert influences jurors more than the type of method in terms of credibility; but this may not have been translated into verdicts. The second experiment dealt with the forensic expert's level of certainty over whether there is exculpatory evidence. Researchers found that exculpatory evidence did not weigh heavily on the mock jurors initially, but during the deliberation the presence of exculpatory evidence became equally as influential as other evidence. Finally, the third experiment investigated the influence of whether the forensic expert concedes that the analysis may include errors. The study found when the trial involved bite mark analysis, the concession decreased the value of the evidence; when the case was a fingerprint analysis, the concession actually increased the certainty of the analysis.

Laboratories.

[ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Testing Laboratories](#)
[ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Breath Alcohol Calibration](#)
[ASCLD/LAB-International Internal Auditor Training Course](#)
[ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Testing Laboratories](#)
[ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Calibration Laboratories](#)

[American Association for Laboratory Accreditation \(A2LA\)](#)
 A2LA's Training Program



[Bode Cellmark Forensics](#) provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

Bode's newest offerings include:

[Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction Program](#) streamlines processes to eliminate backlogs of untested sexual assault kits.

[Bode Buccal 2™](#) is uniquely designed to improve DNA databanking collecting and automate processing. The Bode Buccal 2 is a DIRECT COLLECTION SYSTEM that requires minimal training. There is NO Transfer Step Required.

[Independent Validation Services](#) are customized to meet your laboratory's needs. Validation services provide completely unbiased analysis on your equipment, chemistries, or process.

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Forensic DNA Technical Leader](#), Mitotyping Technologies (Division of Health Network Laboratories, State College, PA, Expires: October 17, 2016

[Laboratory Director, Identity Testing](#), Mitotyping Technologies (Division of Health Network Laboratories, State College, PA, Expires: October 17, 2016

[Forensic Scientist- Chemistry Unit](#), Ohio Attorney General's Office- BCI, Richfield, OH or Bowling Green, OH, Expires: August 21, 2016

[Forensic Drug Chemist](#), Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Expires: August 21, 2016

[Toxicologist III](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, TX, Expires: August 19, 2016

[Forensic Scientist – Latent Print Examiner](#), City of Durham Police, Durham, NC, Expires: September 1, 2016

[Forensic Scientist Lead: Latent Print Examiner](#), City of Durham Police, Durham, Expires: August 31, 2016

[Computer Evidence Specialist I, II, or III](#), Onondaga County Forensic Laboratories, Syracuse, NY, Expires: August 26, 2016

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

Synthetic fibers derived from natural, biological sources – known as Manufactured Fibers of Natural Origin (MFNOs) – are becoming increasingly popular in textiles and clothing. NIJ-supported researchers at the McCrone Research Institute theorized that because the underlying polymer in MFNOs is naturally derived, the materials are more likely to be affected by environmental conditions over time, and any changes in their optical and physical properties due to degradation may have consequences in the forensic laboratory. The researchers evaluated three types of MFNOs exposed to six different environments and found that the properties of the materials were largely unchanged. Some samples showed morphological changes when exposed to ultraviolet light or submerged in water, but “these results may potentially strengthen an association if the same optical and morphological changes are seen in both the questioned and known MFNO fibers.”

Identifying and Communicating Genetic Determinants of Facial Features: Practical Considerations in Forensic Molecular Photofitting

Researchers at Pennsylvania State University, with NIJ funding, utilize the modeling of human facial features so that they can be analyzed and then related to underlying genetic variation. An important finding of the project is methodology for giving researchers a way to work with facial features to accomplish new analyses especially in helping to identify the roles played by variation at particular genes. By jointly modeling sex, genomic ancestry, and genotype the independent effects of particular alleles on facial features can be uncovered. Results on a set of 20 genes showing significant effects on facial features provide support for this approach as a novel means to identify genes affecting normal-range facial features and for approximating the appearance of a face from genetic markers.

The Effects of Acquisition of Blood Specimens on Drug Levels and the Effects of Transportation Conditions on Degradation of Drugs

NIJ-supported researchers from the Iowa Department of Public Health address the practitioner need of examining three different peripheral blood specimen collection/shipping procedures in order to determine whether significant differences in drug concentration could be detected.

Separation and Identification of Drugs of Abuse Using ESI-IMS-MS

This NIJ-supported research by Florida International University developed a method for performing rapid and inexpensive analyses of seized drugs commonly encountered by law enforcement, particularly controlled amphetamine substances and the emerging designer drugs that are similar in structure to amphetamine-based substances. The results suggest that chiral separation by an achiral modifier in the gas phase and the detection and identification of designer drugs are possible using the ESI-IMS-MS with an optimal solvent system.

Microfluidic System for Automated Dye Molecule Extraction and Detection for Forensic Fiber Identification

This NIJ-supported project succeeded in identifying and creating the optimum extraction conditions for different dyes and fabrics, and it developed an automated microfluidic dye extraction system that produces these conditions. This report provides information on the extraction solvent, the extraction chamber material, cavity shape, valve configurations, extraction temperature, and the macro fluidic extraction and analysis. The developed system enables objective comparisons of fiber dyes and a statistical error calculation useful in court testimony.

Criminalist DNA Analyst, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Crime Lab, Charlotte, NC, Expires: August 29, 2016

Assistant Director of Toxicology, Controlled Substance and Chemistry, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection – Division of Scientific Services, Meriden, CT, Expires: August 31, 2016

Analytical Chemist I – Forensic Chemistry Unit, Delaware Division of Forensic Science, Wilmington, DE, Expires: August 31, 2016

Assistant Director of Toxicology, Controlled Substance & Chemistry, Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection – Division of Scientific Services, Meriden, CT, Expires: October 3, 2016

Forensic Scientist 1 – DNA (2 Sponsored Term Funded Positions), New Mexico DPS Forensic Laboratory, Santa Fe, NM, Expires: August 22, 2016

Forensic Scientist 2 – DNA (3 Sponsored Term Funded Positions), New Mexico DPS Forensic Laboratory, Santa Fe, NM, Expires: August 22, 2016

Supervising Criminalist – Crime Scene Investigations, Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division, Reno, NV, Expires: September 2, 2016

Forensics Manager, City of Omaha – Omaha Police Department, Omaha, Nebraska, Expires: August 22, 2016

Latent Print Supervisor, Montana State Crime Lab, Missoula, Montana, Expires: August 19, 2016

Criminalist (4 available), Ohio State Highway Patrol Crime Lab, Columbus, Ohio, Expires: September 8, 2016

Forensic Scientist 2, New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, Expires: August 17, 2016

Forensic Latent Print Examiner / Crime Scene Technician, Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory, Valdosta, Georgia, Expires: September 5, 2016

Forensic Scientist – Quality Assurance, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: August 31, 2016

Criminalist, Level II, New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York, New York, Expires: December 30, 2016

Forensic Examiner – DNA 1, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: August 31, 2016

Forensic Examiner – Latent Print 1, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: August 31, 2016

Forensic Examiner – Firearms and Tool Marks, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA & (OCONUS), Expires: August 31, 2016

Forensic Chemist, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA & (OCONUS), Expires: August 31, 2016

Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science, Department of Forensic Science, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, Expires: December 31, 2016

Forensic Conferences

WVU Forensic Management Academy
 August 28 – September 2, 2016
 Six days on-site in Pittsburgh, PA
 Click [here](#) for course description and registration.

Sep 18-23, 2016: [International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences](#) – Auckland, New Zealand
 Oct 3-7, 2016: [Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientist \(MAFS\)](#) – Branson, Missouri
 Oct 2016: [th](#) – Little Rock, AR

[News Around the Globe](#)

[KBI to celebrate role in criminal justice during National Forensic Science Week](#) [Topeka Capital Journal](#)

One of those scientists is Kelly Ohlstein, who works in the latent print unit. The unit receives evidence from across the state, processes and preserves ...

[Ohio Crime Lab Using Battelle DNA Technology to Solve Cold Cases](#) [Signal Magazine](#)

The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) is investing in cutting-edge DNA testing capabilities to bolster its arsenal to solve missing persons ...

[Regional forensic science lab still not fully commissioned](#) [Goa.com](#)

Panaji: The State will have to wait a little longer for the full-fledged functioning of the long-awaited regional forensic science laboratory at Verna even ...

[FARO Releases High-Resolution ScanArm for Forensic Anthropology and Crime Lab Applications](#) [\(SYS-CON Media \(press release\)](#)

The FARO Forensic ScanArm solution is ideally" suited toward the unique requirements of forensic ... anthropologists, crime labs, coroners and medical

[Rape-kit reformers call on Illinois to help victims track cases](#) [Chicago Sun-Times](#)

As the Illinois crime lab struggles to reduce its backlog of DNA tests, a national rape-kit reform group ... on Monday called on states to launch computer

[India Tackles Drug Smugglers Trafficking a New Product: Jihadists](#) [Wall Street Journal](#)

CHANDIGARH, India—Just after midnight, Indian forces patrolling the country's frontier with Pakistan closed in on a group of armed smugglers

[Governor's office acted badly by pressuring and accusing state toxicologist](#) [News & Observer](#)

As the state toxicologist, Ken Rudo tells people what is safe to eat, drink or breathe, but Gov. Pat McCrory's staff wanted him to focus on what is

[No Cymbalta found in accused killer Richard Henry Bain's blood: toxicologist](#) [CTV News](#)

Catherine Lavallee, a forensic toxicologist testifying for the Crown, told jurors she tested two vials of blood ... taken from Bain at a Montreal hospital the

[No Cymbalta found in Richard Bain's blood: forensic toxicologist - CTV News](#)

[KBI celebrates forensic scientists and the role they play in solving crime](#) [WIBW](#)

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation is celebrating National Forensic Science Week Aug. 8- 12. The ... scientific and technical professionals are being

[Alleged Hillier triple murderer Steven Peet's plea delayed to allow for forensic reports](#) [ABC Online](#)

A man charged with murdering a mother and her two young children at a property in Adelaide's north will ... not be required to enter a plea for at least

[State Crime Lab Under Construction](#) [Good4Utah](#)

TAYLORSVILLE (UTAH) -- A sneak peak at the new state crime lab that's ... in forensic analysis will be housed in one location at the new State Crime Lab. ... The state crime lab is expected to be completed in the

[15 Annual AFQAM Conference](#)

Oct 16-21, 2016: [Society of Forensic Toxicologists](#) – Dallas, TX

Oct 2016: [Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists](#) – Galveston, TX

[Training](#)

Ron Smith & Associates Training

National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy APPLY NOW!

2nd Session - OCTOBER 3, 2016 thru MARCH 3, 2017

BUDGET PLANNING REQUIRED?

3rd Session - October 2, 2017 thru March 2, 2018

RS&A now offers an intense 20 week training program designed to provide agencies with a Latent Print Examiner who is trained to competency. This academy, with 800 hours of formal training, will produce graduates that are capable of performing "supervised case work" and once time requirements are met, be ready to apply for IAI Latent Print Certification.

2nd Session is scheduled to begin October 3, 2016 Hattiesburg, MS at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Only 25 academy applicants will be selected to attend so apply today!

The total cost for this program including academy tuition, 20 weeks room and board, and 3 meals per day is \$27,500.00.

Click here for complete details, photos, and the admission applications. (Link to: [Ron Smith And Associates LP Academy](#))

Ron Smith & Associates National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy

March 20, 2017 - March 31, 2017 in Pearl, MS

It is truly amazing that, until now, there has never been a national training academy specifically designed for Quality Managers. Forensic Quality Managers have been expected to learn from "on the job" training that they may receive from a variety of sources, but none of this training has been consistent in the industry. Organizations like the Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers have been huge in taking up the mantle of providing various workshops and classes, but it was never intended to take the place of a complete training program. With forensics being under such intense scrutiny these days, agencies who perform forensic analysis must ensure that their work is performed under the guiding principles and standards which are now becoming more clearly defined each day. We, in the forensic should.

Ron Smith & Associates, Inc. is known as one of the premier forensic training companies in the world. Our teams of subject matter experts and support staff have successfully designed and offered hundreds upon hundreds of highly sought after training opportunities all across the United States and abroad. RS&A is now ready to take on the challenge of building a National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy which will soon become the cornerstone of forensic training in this very critical area.

Academy tuition is \$2,500.00 with only 25 seats available.

Click here for complete academy details and to complete an academy application today! (Link to: [Ron Smith And Associates QMAcademy](#))

National Footwear & Tire Track Training Academy

SEPTEMBER 5-16, 2016 (2 weeks Footwear)

OFF (September 19-30, 2016)

OCTOBER 3-14, 2016 (2 weeks Footwear)

OFF (October 17-28, 2016)

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 11, 2016 (2 weeks Tire Track)

.early part of 2017

[DNA Evidence In Decades Old Case](#)
[WMUK](#)

But following a motion by Harris, who has been appealing his cases for decades, an Ingham County ... court granted Harris' request to test DNA found in

[DNA Testing Identifies Remains As Tulsa Woman Missing Since 1981](#)
[News On 6](#)

DNA testing has identified skeletal remains as a woman missing from Tulsa since 1981. The Muskogee County District Attorney's Office said ... Francine

[DNA links body in Muskogee to woman missing 35 years - KOKI FOX 23](#)
[DNA test identifies remains of Muskogee woman, Francine Frost, who went missing in 1981](#)

[DNA teams assess the scene where Dalian Atkinson died](#)
[Daily Mail](#)

Dalian Atkinson, 48, died around 90 minutes after he was hit by a stun gun in Meadow Close in .Telford. Forensic teams can be seen assessing the

[Amarillo Crime Lab celebrates National Forensic Science Week](#)
[Amarillo.com](#)

As Brandon Conrad, the regional lab manager of Amarillo's Crime Lab, welcomed visitors to the .. laboratory's open house, one of the first sights they

[Nurse examiners critical in sex assault cases](#)
[Herald & Review](#)

SANE examiners are trained in conducting forensic interviews with victims, ... which may later provide .DNA evidence when examined at a crime lab

RS&A now offers a Footwear and Tire Track Training Academy which includes 4 weeks of footwear examination training followed by 2 weeks of tire track examination training. Applicants can elect to complete the entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy or break it up and choose only the 4 weeks of footwear training or the 2 weeks of tire track training. The academy graduates of this 6 week program will learn the skills necessary to complete supervised footwear and tire track casework and will be ready to apply for a IAI Footwear Certification once time requirements have been met.

It is scheduled to begin September 5, 2016 in Hattiesburg, MS at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Only 20 academy applicants will be selected to attend.

The entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy the cost is set at \$11,250.00.

The 4 week footwear only academy is set at \$7,500.00. The 2 week tire track only academy is \$3,750.00.

Cost includes academy instruction, room and board, and 3 meals per day according to training selection.

Click here for complete details and to apply for admission today. (Link to: <http://www.RonSmithandAssociates.com/Footwear>)

The American Society of Crime Lab Directors, along with RTI, have made the below webinars available.

[ASCLD Train the Directors Latent Prints Webinar - Archival](#)
[ASCLD Train the Directors DNA Discipline Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Controlled Substance Webinar – Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Digital Multimedia Evidence Webinar – Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Toxicology Webinar – Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Firearms Webinar – Archival](#)
[False-Positive/Negative Error Rates in Cartridge Case Comparisons](#)

[ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 1 – Archival](#)

[VersionASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 – Archival](#)

[VersionASCLD](#)

[Rapid DNA Webinar 3 – Archival VersionASCLD Webinar Series:](#)
