Dear Colleagues,

Historic news today. After several years of deliberation, the Rapid DNA Act of 2017 has become law when President Trump signed H.R. 510 on Friday, August 18, 2017. Rapid DNA instruments permit a non-expert user to generate a DNA profile from single source samples using a fully automated process. As you know, ASCLD has been very actively advocating for input into legislation that involves crime labs, ensuring needs of federal, state and local labs and all forensic disciplines are considered. In collaboration with the CFSO, we have actively worked with both the House and Senate on the drafting, editing and passage of this legislation. We would like to particularly acknowledge Senator Orrin Hatch and Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner and their staffs for their leadership in the passage of this legislative effort.

The Rapid DNA Act will authorize criminal justice agencies using Rapid DNA instruments and requisite quality assurance requirements authorized by the FBI to upload reference sample profiles to CODIS. It directs the FBI to issue standards and procedures for use of the Rapid DNA instruments outside of an accredited laboratory environment and the use of DNA analysis for reference samples derived from Rapid DNA instruments. This capability will be limited to governmental law enforcement agencies and provides a measure that all matches be verified by an accredited lab prior to the information being used at a trial.

A large number of our Rapid Task Force met with a full spectrum of interested stakeholders in Alexandria, VA at the Rapid DNA Technology Forum hosted by the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (RTI), funded by NIJ. Applications for Rapid were discussed which included applications in booking stations and in the field where duplicate samples were collected for Rapid DNA analysis, backed up by analysis in an accredited lab to meet court requirements. Additional topics presented and discussed included validations, methods and procedures, mass disaster victim identification, civil rights and legal implications, human trafficking, applications in the field and in the crime lab. Full DNA profiles were developed on site in 90 minutes by multiple vendors. ASCLD is very excited to play a major role in ensuring the roll out of this technology is done right with quality first, to provide an invaluable crime solving, public safety and rights protecting tool.

Ray Wickenheiser
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
Washington, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) issued the following statement upon the signing of the Rapid DNA Act of 2017 (H.R. 510) into law:

"I am extremely proud to see the bipartisan Rapid DNA Act, a product of the House Judiciary Committee, signed into law. While once taking days or weeks, DNA testing can now be completed in a matter of hours. However, a decades-old law prevents the use of Rapid DNA technology in many circumstances, which has created a growing backlog. The Rapid DNA Act remedies this problem so that police stations across the United States can use Rapid DNA technology to quickly identify violent suspects and free the innocent.

“I also want to thank Crime Subcommittee Chairman Sensenbrenner for his years of leadership on this important issue which is a significant component of the House Judiciary Committee’s ongoing efforts on criminal justice reform.” see link for the story....


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 AAFFS 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.”

Looking for a new opportunity?

- **Crime Laboratory Manager**, Division of Police, Columbus, OH, Columbus, OH, Expires: September 28, 2017
- **Quality Assurance Manager**, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS, Expires: September 10, 2017
- **Crime Laboratory Director**, State of Wisconsin-Department of Justice, Wisconsin, Expires: August 21, 2017
- **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
- **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 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
- **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
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

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

DNA - Bode

16<sup>th</sup> Annual DNA & Investigators Conference – Bode East, September 11-14 in Philadelphia, PA
**ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series**
Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series can be found at the following links:
- The Paradox of Backlog Reduction – How Doing Less Can Be Doing More
- Taking the First Steps Toward Backlog Reduction
- Managing Customer Expectations and Education
- How to Increase your Staff without Increasing Budget
- Efficiency Improvements
- Developing a Statewide Approach to Backlog Management
- Case Acceptance Policies and Guidelines

**ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series**
Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series can be found at the following links:
- Rapid DNA: The QAS and NDIS
- Rapid DNA: Arizona DPS and Richland County, SC
- Rapid DNA: Booking Stations and CODIS

**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](http://www.csi-skills.com).
NFSTC online training courses can be found [on their website](http://www.csi-skills.com).

**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

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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](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](http://www.anzpaa.org.au)  | phone: +61 3 9628 7211  | fax: +61 3 9628 7253
August 2017 Newsletter

OSAC Promotes Hundreds of Forensic Science Standards, Guidelines, and Other Documents During 2017

OSAC Public Status Reports & Open Discussions

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

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

New Work Items Initiated

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) American Standards Board (ASB)

Project Initiation Notification System (PINS) link is external) were published on page 16, in ANSI Standards Action on July 14, 2017. This will begin a 30-day period for public comment on the initiation of the ASB’s work on the documents.

BSR/ASB Std 038-201x, Standards for Internal Validation of Forensic DNA Testing Methods (new standard)

This document details general requirements for performing an internal validation of all forensic DNA testing
Methods within a forensic DNA laboratory.

BSR/ASB Std 039-201x, Standards for Internal Validation of Human Short Tandem Repeat Profiling on Capillary Electrophoresis Platforms (new standard)

This document details requirements for performing an internal validation of a human short tandem repeat (STR) multiplex kit using capillary electrophoresis (CE).

BSR/ASB Std 040-201x, Standards for Forensic DNA Interpretation and Comparison Protocols (new standard)

This document describes requirements for a laboratory's DNA interpretation and comparison protocol and provides direction for its development in order to consistently produce reliable, repeatable, and reproducible interpretations and conclusions that are supported by internal validation data.

Project Initiation Notification System (PINS) (link is external) were published on page 20, in ANSI Standards Action on July 28, 2017. This will begin a 30-day period for public comment on the initiation of the ASB's work on the documents.

BSR/ASB Std 042-201x, Standard for Disaster Live Human Detection Dogs Programs - Training, Certification, and Documentation (new standard)

To provide a standard for training, certification, and documentation pertaining to canine teams trained to search for live people in disaster environments, including structural collapse.

BSR/ASB Std 043-201x, Standard for Disaster Human Remains Detection Dogs Programs - Training, Certification, and Documentation (new standard)

To provide a standard for training, certification, and documentation pertaining to canine teams trained to search for human remains in disaster environments, including structural collapse.

BSR/ASB Std 046-201x, Wildlife Forensics Validation Standards - New Tests for Validating Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Primers (new standard)

This document provides minimum standards and recommendations for validating new STR (short tandem repeat, nuclear DNA) markers for use against validated wildlife forensic DNA databases.

BSR/ASB Std 047-201x, Wildlife Forensics Validation Standard - Validating New Primers for Sequencing (new standard)

This document provides minimum standards and recommendations for validating new sequencing primers for taxonomic identification and mitochondrial haplotyping in wildlife forensic DNA laboratories where the sequencing (Sanger) method has already been validated. The method of validating the new sequencing primers against a validated database is contained in this standard.

BSR/ASB Std 048-201x, Wildlife Forensic DNA Standard Procedures (new standard)

This standard covers the application of genetic techniques in analyzing wildlife forensic evidence. Also covered are: specific wildlife DNA analyses, such as DNA sequencing for the identification of class characters, DNA fragment analysis of short tandem repeats (STRs) for establishing individual identity, and includes validation of databases for comparison. Of particular concern are phylogeny, taxonomy, and reference collections that are specific to wildlife forensic science.

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Forensic Science in the News

Ohio forensic scientists discover OxiClean can safely clean up Fentanyl spills
Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and Bowling Green State University President Mary Ellen Mazey announced on Thursday that researchers have determined that household cleaner OxiClean Versatile Stain Remover has proven scientifically to be effective in cleaning up Fentanyl spills.

First NSF-NIJ supported forensic science center launched
Florida International University (FIU) is in partnership with four universities to develop the next generation of forensic science tools for government agencies, non-profits and private industry.

Misplaced DNA evidence in sexual assault case found in Houston lab office
DNA evidence linked to a 1998 sexual assault case has been found in a former employee's office at the Houston Forensic Science Center, instead of being frozen for future analysis or stored in the Houston Police Department's property room.

Fighting ivory trafficking with forensic science
Wasser's focus is on DNA; his lab at the University of Washington developed methods for extracting DNA from feces, and later from the tusks themselves. The density of DNA in tusks is low, so typically he needs to take several extracts from a processed sample and pool them together before running them through PCR (polymerase chain reaction) for analysis. From this, he can figure out where an elephant was killed; "often," he told the New York Times in 2016, "to the very park or reserve."

Machine learning speeds up forensic fingerprint matching
Fingerprinting is one of the mainstays of forensic science, but despite what we see on TV and in movies, analyzing and matching latent prints is a difficult business and still the province of experts. But now scientists from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Michigan State University are using algorithms and machine learning as a way to automate the process and make fingerprint matching more efficient.
‘Forensic Science Lab to improve NAB's performance’
Islamabad: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Qamar Zaman Chaudhry on Monday said Forensic Science Lab (FSL) would help investigate corruption cases not only for Bureau but also for other law enforcement agencies.

Chinese Writer Who Wrote of Killings Arrested for Murder
“I've been waiting for you here this entire time,” he reportedly told police, according to state-run media, as well as the outlets The Sixth Tone and The Paper.

AFTAC, University of Texas to Partner on Nuclear Forensics Research
The Air Force Technical Applications Center will collaborate with the University of Texas at Austin to conduct research in the field of nuclear forensics.

Body Scanners Being Piloted in Los Angeles Subway System
Aiming to stay ahead of an evolving threat against transit systems worldwide, officials in Los Angeles are testing out airport-style body scanners that screen subway passengers for firearms and explosives.

Oregon Downgrades Drug Possession from Felony to Misdemeanor
A bill signed by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Tuesday makes personal-use possession of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and other drugs a misdemeanor, not a felony.

Natalee Holloway's dad having human remains found in Aruba DNA tested
The father of Natalee Holloway, the American teenager who disappeared in Aruba 12 years ago, revealed that he and a private investigator recently discovered human remains behind a house on the island.

Cold case solved with forensic evidence
In 2015 and 2016, the victim's items of clothing and other belongings were taken by OCSO in 1979, Lee explained, were submitted to the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory in Georgia, and using DNA technology not available in 1979, were compared to DNA samples from Pollard.

FIGHTING WORDS WITH THE UNABOMBER
Murder! Mystery! Mayhem! These are not generally words one associates with linguistics. And yet it turns out in some of the world’s most baffling criminal cases—notorious kidnappings, domestic terrorism, thinly veiled threats and collusion, false confessions, mysterious deaths—it was not the chance appearance of some wayward DNA, CSI-style, that finally cracked the code, but some seemingly harmless point about language.

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

Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes

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.

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

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

Formed in 2000, CFSO is an association of six forensic science professional organizations: American Academy of Forensic Sciences; American Society of Crime Lab Directors; International Association for Identification; International Association of Forensic Nurses; National Association of Medical Examiners; and Society of Forensic Toxicologists - American Board of Forensic Toxicology. These professional organizations together represent more than 21,000 forensic science professionals across the United States.

Read the CFSO Newsletter here.

Grant Assistance for DNA
provides a dashboard of the labs' own stats and FORESIGHT stats, among other information. The information, formatting, and interface may vary somewhat by vendor.

An opportunity to work at JusticeTrax doesn't come around very often. We have a Software Tester position open! This one is going to go fast! Please read about the opening at https://justicetrax.com/employment/

The Software Tester basic function is to validate the quality of JusticeTrax products. The Software Tester finds weaknesses in the products in an efficient and timely manner so Software Developers can resolve them before customers experience a problem.

Experience with JusticeTrax applications, especially LIMS-plus, may be substituted for experience as a software tester.

Following a number of requests from recipients for a direct link to the digest, I am in the process of creating a webpage on the ChemCentre web-site (www.chemcentre.wa.gov.au) for you to directly link to. I am hopeful that this will be active when the next issue of the digest is published and I will notify you accordingly. Please also continue providing me with feedback that enhances the value of this publication.

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/
Using the PCAST to Exclude, Limit, or Minimize Expert Testimony and Opinion
Eric Alexander Vos
Criminal Justice; American Bar Association; Summer 2017
Download the article here

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

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 11

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.

NIJ-FBI Fingerprint Partnership Identifies 200 Missing Persons
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
Development, design, and realization of a proficiency test for the Forensic Determination of Shooting Distances – FDSD 2015
Ludwig Niewöhner, Martin Barth et al.
Forensic Chemistry 1 (2016) 22–30
Download the article 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

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 method with the twofold purpose of producing a novel, reliable, and useful microfluidic system for fabric dye extraction and increasing the knowledge needed to guide criminal justice policy and practice related to the forensic analysis of dyed fabric.

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 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 topographies as a substitute for physical casings.