President’s Message

Colleagues,

I hope that you had a Merry Christmas and enjoyed some time off with family and friends. I can’t believe we are winding up 2016 and already looking to 2017. It seems like this year has flown by — and what a year it’s been!

There are a lot of items that your Board of Directors is currently working on, and I’m looking forward to sharing a lot of those in the new year. The board is putting some finishing touches on a mid-year report that shows you what each committee accomplished in 2016. President-elect Wickenheiser is furiously working on an amazing program of events for the 2017 ASCLD Symposium in Dallas, Texas and Training and Education chair Kris Deters is currently overseeing registration for the 2017 ASCLD Leadership Academy. Did we mention that the Leadership Academy registration is currently OPEN, and the registration link is at https://www.regonline.com/2017ascldsymposium? (Hint, hint)

There are a lot of items in progress and I’m really looking forward to a great year for ASCLD in 2017. The organization is strong and your Board is busy working on items that provide value for crime laboratory leaders in 2017.

Have a great week and we will see you next year!

Kindest regards,

Jeremy

Dan Nippes - December 13, 2016

ASCLD is saddened to inform our membership of the passing of former member, Dan Nippes, on December 13, 2016, in Fort Pierce, Florida, at the age of 71. Mr. Nippes had retired after 40 years of service with the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office serving as the Director of the Indian River Crime Laboratory before his retirement. Please view Mr. Nippes obituary at the following link:

http://m.legacy.com/obituaries/tcpalm/obituary.aspx?n=daniel-c-nippes&pid=183141740&referrer=0&preview=True
HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

44th Annual ASCLD Symposium, April 30 – May 4, 2017, Dallas, Texas

The theme for the 2017 symposium is “Continuous Improvement – Leading through Continuous Learning.” ASCLD is interested in presentations that focus on innovative techniques to permit managers to mentor and inspire their employees as they strive to continuously improve their organizations. The key goal of 2017 ASCLD presentations is to provide crime lab leadership with actionable tools and transportable information that can be directly applied to improve their operation.

44th Annual ASCLD Symposium hotel room block for the 2017 Symposium is now available!

https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action...
http://www.ascldsymposium.com/hoteltravel

Links can also be found on the ASCLD FACEBOOK page at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010477606575

Sponsorship and Exhibits

The ASCLD Symposium is an opportunity to meet the industry leading Crime Lab Directors from the United States and throughout the globe. We invite you to take the opportunity to participate in the Symposium through networking opportunities in exhibiting.

http://www.ascldsymposium.com/sponsors-exhibitors
Weekly PCAST news articles:


On the Admissibility of Expert Evidence a Crime Lab Director’s Point of View. Barry A. J. Fisher, M.S., MBA  

Forensic evidence largely not supported by sound science – now what? Jessica Gabel Cino  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Law, Georgia State University. Jessica Gabel Cino has received a grant from Georgia Institute of Technology to examine wrongful convictions (2010). She also serves on the American Academy of Forensic Science's Standards Boards for DNA and fingerprints.  

Forensic criminal science based on very few facts  
https://richardbrenneman.wordpress.com/2016/12/07/forensic-criminal-science-based-on-very-few-facts/

PCAST Future Meetings

PCAST will hold a public meeting on January 6, 2017. Online registration for the PCAST public meeting is now CLOSED.

Message from the FSSB: Consolidating OSAC Registries by January 2017

The OSAC Registries are a trusted repository of high-quality, science-based standards and guidelines for forensic science. Since the program inception, the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science has operated with two registries, the OSAC Registry of Approved Standards as well as the OSAC Registry of Approved Guidelines.

All approved documents, whether they are a standard, guideline, test method, or other product, will soon be contained on one registry.

The anticipated timeframe to fully transition to one registry is by January 2017.


Recent OSAC Accomplishments
Registration is required to join this meeting.

**Date:** Friday, January 6, 2017  
**Time:** 8:45am-12:00 pm EDT  
**Location:** National Academy of Sciences  
2101 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20418  
**Room:** Lecture Room

**Social media:** You can join the conversation about PCAST meetings and activities by following OSTP on Twitter @whitehouseostp and tracking the hashtag #PCAST.

### Top Stories

- **Austin police ceases work to reopen DNA lab**
  Austin American-Statesman  
  "We have failed in the area that is under question now with some of our DNA operations and some of the issues that came forward through the ..."

- **Austin police lab rocked by new questions about DWI testing**
  MyStatesman.com  
  A scientist who formerly worked for the Austin Police Department’s embattled crime lab has charged that it’s not only the accuracy of DNA testing that ..."

- **Fox proposes revisions to crime lab after another chief medical examiner leaves post**
  Helena Independent Record  
  Crime Lab Administrator Phil Kinsey described the proposals as clarifications that result in a clearer command structure that should prevent the kinds ...

- **Authorities suspect carfentanil in surge of overdose deaths but a test for the drug is months away**
  Straight.com  
  In a telephone interview, Dr. William Schreiber, medical director of the Provincial Toxicology Centre, told the Straight that testing for carfentanil is far ...

- **Up to 14 people die from drug overdoses in BC within hours**
  CTV News  
  "It will take detailed toxicology testing and further investigation to try to determine that." "We are not sure what has caused this very distressing spike in ...

- **Cyber forensic lab to start functioning in Odisha from March**
  Times of India  
  CUTTACK: A state of the art cyber forensic division will start functioning at the State Forensic Science Laboratory in Bhubaneswar from March 2017, ...

- **Some ‘solace’ for Punjab govt in Justice Isa report**
  DAWN.com  
  "...the most modern laboratory has been set up in a very short period," it ... the forensic lab and that its experts worked in a very professional manner.

- **GAZETTE OPINION: Continuing Montana crime lab turnover**
  Billings Gazette  
  Phil Kinsey, right, Montana Crime Lab administrative director, leads a tour in ... and retain forensic pathologists for the past two years, the Montana Crime Lab is ... The new satellite crime lab that opened in Billings last year to analyze ...

- **Lawyer says district attorney kept quiet on change in DNA evidence; she denies it**
  The San Diego Union-Tribune  
  Lawyer says district attorney kept quiet on change in DNA evidence; she ... that works on forensic DNA testing issues had recommended new standards; ... the May 4, 2011, memo from the crime lab to the District Attorney’s Office.

- **Ohio's crime lab struggles with persistent problems**
  Norwalk Reflector  
  In a crime lab, you can't have mistakes," he said. ... from defense attorneys who were unaware of the forensic scientists' work problems. ... helped write: She handled the evidence before DNA experts could check for blood, semen, ...

- **JonBenet Ramsey murder case: 20 years after her death no arrests, new DNA testing planned**
  The Denver Channel  
  "DNA is a very rapidly developing area of forensic investigation, and of course, it's important for us that any of the evidence in the Ramsey case, and in ...

- **Through DNA technology, the world's smallest spring is created**

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Marshall University Forensic Science is offering the DNA Technical Assistance Program (DNA TAP) again this year. Attached is the DNA TAP Information flyer and the associated DNA TAP Request Form should you have validation or evaluation needs. Beginning this week, a limited number of DNA TAP students are in training at the MU Forensic Science Center from now until May for their summer 2017 DNA TAP assignments. No assignments have been made at this time so please apply early this fall to have the best chance to be assigned a DNA TAP student.

Please feel free to call (304-694-5263) or email (statonj1@marshall.edu) should you have questions or wish to apply but need more information. If you are new to this program, I would be happy to set up a conference call with your group to discuss this further.

Also, please feel free to forward this email and its attachments to a colleague.

Thank you,

Pam

Pamela J. Staton, Ph.D.
Asahi Shimbun
Photo/Illustration A DNA-made spring measuring 100 to 1,000 nanometers long is shown through an electron microscope. (Provided by the Riken ... "Epidemic: DEA chemists race to identify synthetic opioids"

Monroe Evening News

A behind the scenes look at an MSP Forensic Lab
ABC 10 News NOW
The 8th District Headquarters of the Michigan State Police is home to the Marquette Forensic Laboratory. First Lieutenant Jason Welch has spent the ...

Is Some Forensic Science “Junk” Science? Jennifer Mnookin Interview With Malcolm
Malcolm Fleschner of The Young Turks interviews Jennifer Mnookin, Dean of the UCLA School of Law. Malcolm and Dean Mnookin discuss why hopelessly faulty forensic science is going unchallenged in courtrooms across the country and being used to put countless innocent defendants in prison.

Fleschner https://us6.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/wizard/neapolitan?id=1150957#

National Institute of Justice Invests $63 Million in Nation’s Crime Labs
The National Institute of Justice announced awards of more than $63 million to 132 state and local jurisdictions to increase laboratory capacity and reduce the number of DNA samples awaiting analysis through its DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program.

Local cold case victims’ buried remains puzzle pieces for renowned forensic expert
Abstract from the Times Leader:

The project, headed by State Police and Luzerne County District Attorney’s Office, wasn’t going to be cheap. Digging up one body from a single grave can cost upwards of $10,000, according to Chuck Heurch, a senior scientist and program manager of the Department of Justice’s forensics division [the National Institute of Justice].

Genome-Wide Association Study Reveals Multiple Loci Influencing Normal Human Facial Morphology
NJU-supported researchers from the University of Colorado Denver

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.

Bode Cellmark Forensics
LabCorp Specialty Testing Group

Crime Laboratory Forensic Scientist 1 – Biology
Metro Nashville Police Department Crime Laboratory, Nashville, TN, Expires: December 29, 2016

Criminalist Sr, DNA Analyst
Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, Golden, CO, Expires: January 31, 2017

Forensic Scientist – Toxicology
Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Norfolk, VA, Expires: January 10, 2017

MSP Forensic Scientist Supervisor
Maryland State Police – Forensic Sciences Division, Hagerstown, Maryland, Expires: December 27, 2016

Digital Forensic Analyst
City of Bozeman, Bozeman, MT, Expires: January 2, 2017

Chief Forensic Scientist
Hays Executive, Macon, Expires: December 27, 2016

Forensic Scientist (Firearm Unit)
Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center, Wichita, Kansas, Expires: January 31, 2017

Forensic Scientist
Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: January 2, 2017

Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences Forensic Sciences
Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio, Expires: March 9, 2017

Forensic Toxicologist or Trainee
Virginia Dept. of...
recently published an article in PLOS Genetics. Author summary retrieved 10/12/2016:

Improving the confidence of “questioned versus known” fiber comparisons using microspectrophotometry and chemometrics.

NIJ-supported researchers from the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis recently published an article in Forensic Chemistry. Abstract retrieved 10/12/2016:

A cooperative-binding split aptamer assay for rapid, specific and ultra-sensitive fluorescence detection of cocaine in saliva.

NIJ-supported researchers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety recently published an article in Chemical Science. Abstract retrieved 10/12/2016:

An Examination of the Conditions Affecting Forensic Scientists’ Workplace Productivity and Occupational Stress.

The NIJ-supported research team at Michigan State University surveyed 899 crime lab technicians and forensic scientists regarding work conditions, job satisfaction, and working relationships with police and prosecutors. By large, forensic scientists exhibited very high rates of job satisfaction but also exhibited the similar stress levels as other criminal justice professionals.

Dried Blood Spot Analysis as an Emerging Technology for Application in Forensic Toxicology.

Investigators often encounter dried blood spots as they examine a crime scene, but such evidence often isn’t collected because very little work has been done in the analysis of dried blood for forensic applications. Researchers at RTI International, noting that dried blood spot analysis is well established in newborn testing, conducted this NIJ-supported project to see if newborn testing of dried blood has broader applications in forensic toxicology. After analyzing dried blood samples for 28 drugs, the researchers showed it was comparable to more routine blood tests and useful in forensic investigations.


The researchers found that DNA capable of producing full STR profiles can be extracted from semen and blood impressions, but not from impressions in any biofluid treated with Fluorogenic Enhancement Sprays. The researchers concluded that in many instances, both impression evidence and DNA can be recovered from a single evidentiary item.

Development of Individual Handwriting Characteristics in [about] 1800 Evidence and DNA can be recovered from a single evidentiary item.

The researchers concluded that in many instances, both impression evidence and DNA can be recovered from a single evidentiary item.

Extended Period of Time


For decades, questioned document examiners (QDE) have conducted handwriting comparisons based on the assumption that no two people write the same way and no one person writes exactly the same way twice.

Analysis of Drugs of Abuse in Human Hair: Surface Contamination and Localization of Analysis.

For more than two decades, researchers and scientists have utilized hair testing for drug abuse in addition to blood and urine tests. Despite considerable research and current analytical technologies and interpretive methods, environmental contamination remains an unresolved issue for hair, and controversy exists over the source of drug residues found in hair and the potential for environmental contamination to cause false-positive test results.

Characterization of Designer Drugs: Chemical Stability, Exposure, and Metabolite Identification.

Designer drugs, such as synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones have become increasingly prevalent, as have their health and societal consequences. Currently, little is known about the pharmacological and toxicological profiles of these products. The consequences of long-term usage have not yet to be studied, and behavioral and metabolic studies have only been performed on a relatively limited number of compounds. The objective of this research is to gain a more thorough understanding of designer drugs with respect to their chemical exposure profiles and biological elimination pathways.

Separation and Identification of Drugs by Electrospray Ionization-Ion Mobility Spectrometry-Mass Spectrometry.

Ion mobility spectrometry (IMS) has been described in scientific literature as both a stand-alone separation technique and as a hyphenated technique to enhance other analytical determinations. Despite this flexibility and versatility, the applications of IMS have not grown as quickly as those of gas chromatography (GC) or liquid chromatography (LC). This research describes the use of IMS as a lab-based analytical technique able to perform separations on par with GC and LC separations.


The 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 by researchers at the University of California aims to determine more about the relationship between the measurable, visual dimensions of fingerprint pairs and the level of comparison difficulty for human examiners, both experts, and to a lesser degree, novices.

Fighting Bias - Self-Paced Online Professional Training

This self-paced online professional training program focuses on Minimizing bias in Forensic Decision Making. This program covers brain and cognitive issues relating to bias and cognitive processing. It then connects the cognitive science issues to practical and specific issues in forensic decision making. In addition to knowledge about the cognitive factors in forensic decision making, the program also provides practical solutions to address weaknesses as well as best practices to enhance forensic practices.

This program is directly relevant to the document recently adopted by the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS). The practical implementation of this document ("Ensuring That Forensic Analysis Is Based Upon Task-Relevant Information") is presented and discussed, as are the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences report on forensic science.

Minimizing Bias in Forensic Decision Making

Learning Objectives:
- Describe background information regarding the human mind and cognitive system
- Describe how information and knowledge is acquired, processed, represented, encoded, stored, utilized, retrieved, compared, and evaluated
- Describe how decisions are made
- Demonstrate the connection between information and a variety of forensic decision making processes that forensic examiners typically use
- Describe how cognitive factors can be utilized to make forensic experts' work more efficient
- Describe the pitfalls and errors that can occur in forensic decision making

http://concept.leadpages.co/minimizing-bias-forensic-science/

Visit the website for registration or abstract submission:

or contact Glenn Langenburg (glenn.langenburg@state.mn.us) for more information.

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


Risk, Reward, and Redemption: Root Cause Analysis in Forensic Organizations

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

The NIJ Forensic Science Research and Development Symposium is a free and open meeting where attendees can learn about NIJ-funded research across
Project FORESIGHT

FORESIGHT is a business-guided self-evaluation of forensic science laboratories across the globe. The participating laboratories represent local, regional, state/provincial, and national agencies. Faculty from the WVU College of Business and Economics provide assistance, guidance, and analysis. We link financial information to work tasks and functions. Laboratory managers can use these functions to assess resource allocations, efficiencies, and value of services—the mission is to measure, preserve what works, and change what does not. To participate, simply complete the LabRAT workbook and submit to Paul Speaker at email paul.speaker@mail.wvu.edu. Please send any questions to the same email address. For additional information, please visit the program website http://be.wvu.edu/forensic/foresight.htm.

We are targeting a submission date of December 15, 2016.

Regards,
Paul J Speaker

LabRat Tutorial