Dear Colleagues,

As forensic leaders, we have a lot of duties. We have a duty to our cases, to our science, to our stakeholders and to our dedicated employees. We also have a duty to ourselves. Sometimes we need to take a moment and pause from chopping wood to sharpen our own axe. That is what our Annual Meeting in Atlanta represents, an opportunity to get together with colleagues for a forensic leadership group axe sharpening session.

In our daily routine we look at data and employ tools to help us in interpreting often complex information, and compare it to benchmarks. What if there was a program that would help you look at your case and sample metrics to assist you in improving your crime lab operation? And what if that program helped you look not only at your own progress, but enabled you to compare yourself to other labs and apply their best ideas to your issues? You would want to go pick up that new skill-set.

Great news. ASCLD has arranged for a special workshop that will accomplish just that. Through our ongoing cooperative partnership with West Virginia University Project Foresight, we are working with LIMS vendors to enable more automated reporting of Project Foresight metrics. As we strive to get everyone involved, this workshop will show you how to start gathering this information and reporting it, enabling you to do an even better job in demonstrating your stewardship of precious lab resources.

One more great reason for us to see you in Atlanta!

Ray Wickenheiser
ASCLD President

ASCLD has arranged for a special workshop at the ASCLD symposium this year. We have been working with West Virginia University on Project FORESIGHT for quite some time. ASCLD further has been working on getting the LIMS vendors for more automated reporting of Project Foresight metrics. We want more labs to get involved in this project and we hope to show you how to start gathering this data and reporting it.

FORESIGHT and FORESIGHT 2020: A Formula for Success

How is your lab performing? Do you know—really know? What's your internal progress compared to last year or the year before or the last 5 years? Have you added or changed new processes? Has management or your administration changed and do you need to make arguments for better resources? Where does your lab stand compared to other labs of its size or caseload?

FORESIGHT was created in 2008 as a business benchmarking process for forensic laboratories to analyze, evaluate, and share their performance. Since then, it has been used by hundreds of laboratories around the world to improve effectiveness and efficiency of laboratory services to stakeholders. But many managers are unsure what might be required to participate, how to collect, submit, and (agonizingly) analyze the data they need to be part of FORESIGHT? This workshop will walk you through the process of FORESIGHT.
from start to finish, giving you the tools you need to fill out the Laboratory Reporting and Analysis Tool (LabRAT) and what the FORESIGHT 2020 project means for you. Using FORESIGHT has gotten easier as well and even basic input can yield useful operational information--you don't necessarily need every scrap of data you might think you need. With FORESIGHT 2020, a software project that links LIMS to FORESIGHT, it is now easier than ever to improve a laboratory's function, gain insights to process improvements, and make arguments for resources that persuade decision makers.

This workshop will provide an overview of benchmarking and process improvement, FORESIGHT as a method for laboratory analysis and evaluation, and the uses of FORESIGHT 2020 to provide immediate and clear feedback about laboratory performance. Participants will gain a better understanding of how industries self-analyze, what the forensic enterprise has done to create a culture of improvement through benchmarking, and how FORESIGHT provides superior feedback in context for laboratories to achieve greater efficiencies. No experience with FORESIGHT is necessary--new users, experienced users, and "tire-kickers" are all welcome.

Learn how to use "big data" to your advantage, make the case for the resources you need, and deliver better services with greater efficiency using FORESIGHT. Join us for this workshop!

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**FORESIGHT Overview**

Managers of scientific laboratories see themselves as scientists first and managers second; consequently, they tend to devalue the managerial aspects of their jobs. Forensic laboratory managers are no different but the stakes may be much higher given the importance of quality science to the criminal justice system. The need for training and support in forensic laboratory management has been recognized for many years but little has been done to transition the tools of business to the forensic laboratory environment.

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**Project FORESIGHT Annual Report, 2015-2016**

Forensic Science Initiative, College of Business & Economics, West Virginia University
You are being asked to participate in a research study on forensic reporting practices. The purpose is to understand how forensic results are being reported in crime laboratories right now.

The survey is being administered by The Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence (CSAFE).

As you probably know, CASFE was named a Forensic Science Center of Excellence by the National Institute of Standards and Technology to "support NIST's efforts to advance the utility of probabilistic methods to enhance forensic analysis." CASFE has partnerships with many forensic laboratories including the Midwest Forensic Resource Center.

You will be compensated for your participation in this research study with attractive CASFE mementos.

The results of the survey will be analyzed by CASFE and potentially published. However, individual participants will not be identified. We are required to report the results only in an aggregate manner that prevents associating responses with any particular laboratory or individual.

The survey is expected to take around 1 hour, although that will vary according to the answers given.

Please complete this survey by March 31, 2018
ASCLD is excited to announce the addition of new awards to be debuted at the symposium this year. There are so many wonderful initiatives ASCLD and its members are involved in that we are pleased to be able to recognize more of them.

Awards include:

- **ASCLD Member of the Year** – ASCLD member who has made significant contributions to the organization in the past year. (Nomination form will be distributed to membership in advance of the symposium.)
- **FORESIGHT** – Most innovative success story epitomizing the tenets of FORESIGHT.
- **Symposium Presentations by a member** – The best presentation as voted by the audience.
- **Symposium Attendee with longest membership**.
- **Best Capstone presentation from the Leadership Academy** – voted upon by Leadership Academy participants and instructors.
- **FTCoE / NIJ / ASCLD Webinar of the Year** – Attendance and audience feedback will be key indicators for selection of this award.
- **Briggs White** - Exceptional competence and achievement in any area of public administration, leadership shown in the direction or development of programs, creativity and resourcefulness, adherence to the basic principles of enlightened public service, integrity and dedication to duty. ([https://www.ascld.org/nominations/](https://www.ascld.org/nominations/))

In addition to the existing and new awards, ASCLD will be recognizing members in other new areas. Please be sure to join us for this year’s Awards Banquet in Atlanta!

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Dear Forensic Science Professionals,


The topic of “bias” and its implications for forensic practice has been hotly debated and researched in forensic and academic circles over the last decade. The 2009 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on the state of forensic science in the USA and the 2016 President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) report on forensic science recommend that forensic practitioners address issues relating to bias in forensic science and provide evidence to the fact finder that they have done so.

This workshop uses an engaging and innovative mixture of lectures, case examples, and practical activities to educate participants on the theoretical concepts and practical implications of bias within forensic science. Participants will receive instruction on the various types of bias, how to identify its presence, how to mitigate its influence, methods on how to sequentially unmask data, procedures used to identify task-relevant information, concepts for the appropriate management of case-specific contextual information and how to appropriately document critical decision pathways.

This workshop is primarily aimed at forensic science practitioners both scene or laboratory based, especially those involved in the early identification, collection and interpretation of evidence. It is however designed to benefit anyone who produces, uses or relies upon forensic science for decision making purposes within the justice system, including judges, district attorneys, defense lawyers, and detectives.

The workshop is $395 per person.

For registration, please visit: [http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/18/2.htm](http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/18/2.htm)
45th Annual ASCLD Symposium

Advancing Forensic Science requires leadership, which includes taking initiative, motivating employees, and applying resources creatively to the complex problems presented by today's forensic casework and issues. Leaders lead by example and encouragement, building on success and learning from their past experiences and that of others.

Please join us in Atlanta, Georgia, May 20-24th for the 2018 ASCLD Symposium where you will learn about exciting initiatives to advance forensic science. New and experienced managers and directors will be presented with innovative tools to sharpen their leadership skills. Presentations from experts and leaders, both inside and outside the forensic science community, will cover various aspects of leadership. Our goal is to invigorate you with techniques and information to increase your leadership capacity in both life and occupation.

Make your Reservation - https://aws.passkey.com/event/49236454/owner/321/home
https://www.ascldsymposium.com/education
Before the show, get caught up on the latest news: http://www.evidencemagazine.com/
Volunteer Opportunity

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), provider of accreditation to forensic organizations and other testing and testing related providers, is seeking forensic science practitioners to serve on a voluntary basis on the A2LA Forensic Examination Advisory Committee (FEAC) and A2LA Accreditation Council (AC). Participation is primarily through electronic communication (e.g. teleconferences, emails, online portal) and benefits of membership include: networking opportunities with other practitioners and technical experts from other fields, increased knowledge of the accreditation process, ability to provide technical input in areas of accreditation and quality assurance, and an invitation to attend the A2LA Technical Forum and Annual Meeting. Additionally, Accreditation Council (AC) members become honorary members A2LA, the association, and gain access to unique presentations and trainings such as ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and similar. For additional information, please see the https://www.a2la.org/genweb/tac.cfm page to learn about A2LA’s Technical Advisory Committees or https://www.a2la.org/AC/Join-Accreditation-Council.cfm for information on the A2LA Accreditation Council.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES (Hiring now)

Due to an recent upgrade with the newsletter software, visit http://www.ascld.org/jobs2 to link and view details about job announcements listed below.

- Forensic Analyst – Multimedia, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: April 30, 2018
- Forensic Scientist – Trace Evidence Unit, Michigan State Police, Northville, MI, Expires: February 16, 2018
- Forensic DNA Analyst, DNA REFERENCE LAB, Inc., San Antonio, Expires: April 2, 2018
- Forensic Analyst – Biology, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: April 6, 2018
- DNA Supervisor-Principal Executive Manager, Oregon State Police, Portland, OR, Expires: February 19, 2018
- Forensic Examiner DNA 3 01377, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- Forensic Examiner DNA 1 01376, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- Forensic Examiner Latent Print 1 01375, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
The Need for Safety Officers and a Health and Safety Committee

The elements of a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) have been the subject over the last few weeks. Previous topics have been 1) the need for SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures), 2) Criteria for Implementing Control Measures, 3) requirement to ensure that fume hoods and other protective equipment are functioning properly and identify the specific measures the employer will take to ensure proper and adequate performance of such equipment, and 4) Required Information to be provided to lab personnel working with hazardous substances. This week’s topics are 5) the circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer’s designee before being implemented, and 6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee.

5) The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer’s designee before being implemented. Prior to any new work being conducted in a lab that uses a hazardous chemical, prior approval must be acknowledged. Prior approval would normally come from the Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) or Safety Officer in your lab. Many procedures use chemicals that require special considerations. Additionally, some labs may not have the proper storage or work area for its use. Also, the chemical must be added to the chemical inventory, all personnel who will work with or come in contact to the chemical must read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Having a plan where an employee has read the SDS and understands the hazards by signing a review sheet or some other acknowledgement is a good way to improve compliance. Additionally, ordering and purchasing hazardous chemicals should go through one person or a team so that proper storage locations, policies, and procedures can be appropriate for chemicals ordered.

6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee. Designating a person, such as a CHO or Safety Officer for day-to-day administration of chemical issues is paramount and crucial for accreditation. A CHO will provide reports at the department Safety Committee meetings on chemical hygiene activities performed. Additionally, a CHO will work with others to develop, review and approve Standard Operating Procedures which detail all aspects of proposed laboratory activities that involve hazardous materials. A Chemical Hygiene Committee, commonly known as a Safety Committee (or Health and Safety) in forensic labs is also a requirement for accreditation. Health and Safety committee members should establish a committee structure and process and develops an action plan for the year that identifies a few priority health and safety issues to work on. The concerns would be addressed at safety committee meetings and the executive management meeting(s).

Jane B. Northup
Quality Assurance Officer
RI State Crime Laboratory
Certified Chemical Hygiene Officer

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1450

The National Registry of Certified Chemists
http://nrcc6.org/

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Training
In 2018, the Forensic Science Training Institute will be offering a week-long course in Advanced Fabrics Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Training on March 19-23.

The class size is limited to twelve, so please register early to ensure your seat.

For registration and full details on the course requirements, visit the Forensic Science Training Institute website here: http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/16/1.htm

**Recorded Training:**

**Episode 9 Podcast!!**

Just Blood Spatter

In episode nine of Just Science, funded by the National Institute of Justice’s Forensic Technology Center of Excellence [Award 2016-MU-BX-K110], we spoke with Dr. Marc Smith, from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Smith’s NIJ funded research in blood spatter has connected computational fluid dynamics with empirical studies to improve the understanding of blood spatter onto solid, slanted surfaces. His work looks at many variables, including droplet size, speed, surface roughness and wettability. Listen and Subscribe HERE.

Subscribe to the channel at:

- Google Play
- iTunes
- Stitcher
- Soundcloud

**ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series**

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series can be found at the following links:

- [The Paradox of Backlog Reduction – 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

Quick Links to ANAB

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) is a member of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board family of brands and the new home of ASCLD/LAB. 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.

Introduction to ISO/IEC 17025:2017
April 9-10, 2018, San Francisco
October 10-11, 2018, San Antonio, TX

Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017
March 26-28, 2018, Austin, TX
May 21-23, 2018, Baltimore, MD
September 17-19, 2018, Minneapolis, MN

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Lead Assessor Training
February 12-16, 2018, Tampa FL
August 20-24, 2018, Washington, DC

Fundamentals of Measurement Uncertainty
March 29-30, 2018, Austin, TX
May 24-25, 2018, Baltimore, MD
September 20-21, 2018, Minneapolis, MN

Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17020
March 13-15, 2018, Alexandria, VA

ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Training
April 16-18, 2018, Phoenix, AZ

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Agencies.
October 15-16, 2018, Cincinnati, OH

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Internal Auditor
May 8-11, 2018, Cary, NC

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Assessor Training (Testing)
April 9-13, 2018, Springfield, VA
May 7-11, 2018, Chandler, AZ

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Preparation (Testing)
April 9-11, 2018, Springfield, VA

Forensic Measurement Confidence (MC100)
April 11-13, 2018 (1:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET) - Online

Practical Applications for Forensic Measurement Confidence (MC150)
March 13-14, 2018, Alexandria, VA

Roadmap to Transition: Forensic AR 3028
Available as an on-site course
Contact training@anab.org or 414-501-5466 for more information

For more information about these workshops, contact training@anab.org or 414-501-5466 for more information. For registration, click the links for each training course above.
Forensic Science in the News

Virginia bill would aid people like Keith Harward, wrongfully convicted by 'junk' forensic science
A bill now in the Virginia General Assembly, similar to laws enacted in Texas and California, seeks to give people wrongfully convicted long ago on what has since been found to be faulty forensic science an avenue to challenge their convictions in court.

How good a match is it? Putting statistics into forensic firearm identification
On February 14, 1929, gunmen working for Al Capone disguised themselves as police officers, entered the warehouse of a competing gang, and shot seven of their rivals dead. The St. Valentine's Day Massacre is famous not only in the annals of gangland history, but also the history of forensic science. Capone denied involvement, but an early forensic scientist named Calvin Goddard linked bullets from the crime scene to Tommy guns found at the home of one of Capone's men. Although the case never made it to trial-and Capone's involvement was never proved in a court of law-media coverage introduced millions of readers to Goddard and his strange-looking microscope.

DNA Investigation Underway to Determine if Whydah Remains are Famed Captain
The Whydah Pirate Museum is teaming with forensic scientists to determine if remains recently recovered from the shipwreck site belong to its famed captain. Captain Samuel "Black Sam" Bellamy was killed along with members of his crew when the Whydah sank off the coast of Wellfleet in 1717.

Syracuse University researchers develop new method of identifying evidence in sexual assault cases
A research assistant professor and a graduate student in Syracuse University's Forensic and National Security Sciences Institute are the first people in the world to use a specific cancer research tool to extract evidence in sexual assault cases.

More Than 1,000 Rape Kits Remain Backlogged In PA, Some Dating As Far Back As The 1990s
Since 2016, roughly 700 backlogged rape kits have been tested in Pennsylvania. But the remaining number hovers around 1,200, with some untested kits dating back to the 1990s.

DNA from Parsippany murder found at convicted killer's request
DNA evidence from the 1982 murder of a Parsippany teen has been found and will be examined at the request of her convicted killer, who maintains he didn't do it.

Bullet hole, pellets in dead animals at Premchai's campsite
Police have found a bullet hole in the dead endangered black leopard and shotgun pellets in the protected pheasant found at the illegal campsite of construction tycoon Premchai Karnasuta in a Kanchanaburi...

Pakistan arrests two in rape and murder of 4-year-old girl
Pakistan police have arrested two teenagers, including a close relative, for their involvement in the alleged rape and murder of a four-year-old girl in the country's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, triggering massive protests.

Nearly 70 jobs in doubt as Wymondham forensics company goes into administration
Administrators have been called in after the company saw a cashflow crunch while expanding into new markets. However, they say an agreement has been reached between the key stakeholders of the company to ensure a period of stability while they search for a buyer.

New evidence in the search for Amelia Earhart
JULY 2nd of last year marked the 80th anniversary of the disappearance of Amelia Earhart, a pioneering aviatrix (pictured above), and her navigator Fred Noonan over the Pacific Ocean, as they attempted a circumnavigation of the globe in a twin-engined Lockheed Electra monoplane.

Western Maryland Regional Crime lab backload growing while waiting for new equipment
The Western Maryland Regional Crime Laboratory has a backlog of approximately 120 drug cases after equipment used to identify suspected drugs broke down the week before Christmas.

Crime lab aims for accreditation
Lt. Stephen Thompson, criminalist supervisor for the laboratory, said police send the lab used cartridges found at crime scenes to analyze and store in a nationwide database. Later, police might find a suspect with a gun, which would be sent to the crime lab to be fired.

Accused East Contra Costa child murderer enters plea
It took eight weeks and three court hearings, but a man charged the 1980 kidnapping, rape, and murder of 14-year-old Suzanne Bombardier entered a not guilty plea Thursday.

Attorneys duel over presentation of evidence in third day of Eisenhauer trial
Prosecution and defense continued to duel over the fate of David Edmond Eisenhauer Wednesday — with blood, a shovel and a trail through snowy woods appearing in the growing pile of evidence surrounding the death of 13-year-old Nicole Madison Lovell.

Buffalo man, no longer convicted of wife's murder, awaits possible release
The judge picked apart the evidence and criticized the credentials/competence of two Missouri State Highway Patrol investigators in the case — including the lead detective.

New lab tests send convicted serial rapist back to prison

The Jackson Hole News and Guide reports Donald Kenneth Pack Jr., who was convicted and sentenced to prison in the late '70s for kidnapping and raping a young woman, was sentenced again Friday to eight to 12 years after lab tests linked him to another victim.

Bay City man gets prison for role in sex offender's killing
A Bay City sex offender is going to be spending up to four decades in prison for his role in the slaying of another sex offender in rural Michigan.

New Narcotics Protection Kit as You Face the Dangerous Opioid Epidemic

We designed this single-use follow DEA & CDC guidelines
Small amounts of Fentanyl can cause an overdose, a significant threat to you & your department. We designed this kit to help you stay safe.

Buy Now

OSAC News

Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science

February 9, 2018 - OSAC Standards Bulletin, February 2018 Now Available
February 6, 2018 - Don't Forget to Register for the "What is OSAC Up To? A Behind the Scenes Look" Meeting and Webcast
January 19, 2018 - Register Now for the "What is OSAC Up To? A Behind the Scenes Look" Meeting and Webcast
Introduction

This course is designed primarily for practitioners who routinely examine blood stained clothing and other textiles and are required to assess, interpret, and report on bloodstain patterns as part of those investigative tasks.

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.
examinations. The course is delivered through a combination of “face to face” instruction and self-directed learning. A minimum 80 hours of structured learning activities is required, inclusive of a 40 hour “face to face” residential component. The course will review the underpinning principles of BPA, and apply these principles to the analysis and interpretation of bloodstains on clothing and other textiles.

When examining clothing, the practitioner must be mindful of influences such as the fibre type, texture, treatments, all of which may affect the final appearance of bloodstains. The primary focus of the course is to develop those skills required for the examination of bloodstain patterns found on clothing items, including the use of microscopy to discriminate between spatter and transfer bloodstains.

Grant Assistance for DNA

- **Central Grant Assistance for Rapid DNA**
  - Award DNA is included to law enforcement.
  - Authorized Equipment List (DEL) available.
  - FAIR Act and other funding.
  - DRAFT: DNA Standards.
  - The course is a combination of "face to face" instruction and self-directed learning.
  - A minimum 80 hours of structured learning activities is required, inclusive of a 40 hour "face to face" residential component.
  - The course will review the underpinning principles of BPA, and apply these principles to the analysis and interpretation of bloodstains on clothing and other textiles.

- **State Grant Assistance for Rapid DNA**
  - Find state assistance for forensic science professionals.
  - Call your state legislature offices.
  - Visit your state forensic science commission.
  - Visit the WVU Center for Executive Education.

Opioid Responses

- **Health Committee Opioid Testimony** — November 29, 2017
- **ASCLD Position Statement to the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis** — October 27, 2017
- **Statement of the AAFS Board Of Directors on the Opioid Crisis Response** — October 31, 2017
- **National Assn of Medical Examiners Opioid Response** — October 26, 2017
- **College of American Pathologists Opioid Comments** — October 31, 2017

Since 1995, JusticeTrax has produced a suite of products geared specifically toward the law enforcement and forensic community. Over the years, our applications have gained increasing acceptance among city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Our applications are designed by forensic scientists and are the most comprehensive case.
National Institute of Justice’s latest Graduate Research Fellowships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. NIJ has made 20 new awards in 2017 for STEM fellows, totaling $960,861 for graduate students working towards advancing NIJ’s mission. The GRF-STEM program funds dissertation research across a wide range of topics to criminal justice, including the forensic sciences.

See a full list of awards and descriptions, awardees, and dollar amounts. Sign up to get email notices when NIJ releases GRF and other funding solicitations.

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 management tools available.

With installations ranging from small, single-site laboratories of five users, to extremely large multi-site installations with 500+ users, we are honored to serve some of the most sophisticated crime laboratories in North America, Australia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. Of these 175+ laboratories, greater than 95% are accredited to the ISO/IEC 17025 International Standard.

JusticeTrax is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company.

The JusticeFacts newsletters are found at http://JusticeTrax.com/sales/newsletters

https://forensiccoe.org/leadership-series/

Leadership series instructors and modules available.

Jody Wolf
Modules: Generations, Cultural Diversity, Leadership Principles and Concepts

Dr. Terry Anderson
Modules: Personal Leadership, Practical Emotional Intelligence, Moral Compass

Dean Gialamas
Modules: Leadership and Ethics, Leadership and Power

Deputy Chief Timothy P. Scanlan

psychological factors in expert identifications; and legal issues.

**Forensic Identification Using Individual Chemical Signatures**

NIJ-funded researchers developed an approach to translate chemical signatures recovered from personal objects such as phones into a lifestyle sketch of the owner, using mass spectrometry and informatics approaches.

**Quantifying Error Rates for the Measurement of Human Skeletal Remains**

NIJ-funded researchers revised forensic anthropology procedures to include an “error metric” for the measurement of human skeletal remains. This article summarizes findings from that study.

**Designing Methods to Identify Evolving Designer Drugs**

This article describes an NIJ-supported research project focused on issues of resolution and discriminatory capabilities needed to increase the reliability and selectivity of forensic evidence and analytical data for new bath salt-type drugs of abuse.

**Standardized Process Developed for Identifying Dyes in Fibers**

This article summarizes a method with the twofold purpose of producing a novel, reliable, and useful microfluidic system for fabric dye extraction and increasing the knowledge 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 topographics as a substitute for physical casings.