



American Society of Crime Lab Directors

"THE CRIME LAB MINUTE" NEWSLETTER



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

Register for 2018 ASCLD Symposium

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!



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.

Project FORESIGHT Annual Report, 2015-2016

Forensic Science Initiative, College of Business & Economics, West Virginia University

Welcome to the Laboratory Reporting and Analysis Tool (LabRAT), part of the FORESIGHT project. The following worksheets address a variety of questions regarding the allocation of resources within your laboratory. With each worksheet, the requested items are highlighted in the yellow shaded cells. Other cells, with white background, may have data in the form of automated calculations. Do not worry about completion of items in those white background cells.

Organization (Data Source) Competing the Lab Rat

Initial Day of Fiscal Year (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

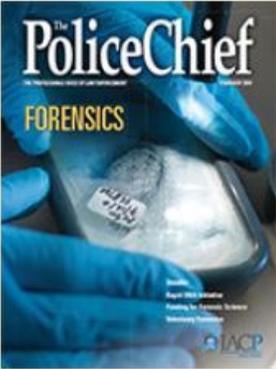
Final Day of Fiscal Year (dd/mm/yyyy) _____

Laboratory Detail		Laboratory LabRAT project man	
Jurisdiction (federal, state, local, private)	_____	Phone	_____
Size Population Served	_____	Fax	_____
Geographic Size Served	_____	email	_____
Number of separate facilities	_____	Mailing Address	_____



The Police Chief

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FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE

Forensics

Forensic science dates back well over 200 years, when Scotland Yard first connected a bullet to the murder weapon (1835) and the first fingerprint classification system was developed (1892). The field has advanced significantly since then, and, when used effectively, forensic science-in all its many forms-can provide valuable contributions to law enforcement's pursuit of justice and public safety.

READ CURRENT ISSUE



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Developing training, education and online modules relevant to the diverse forensic and applied forensic sciences communities.

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Subject: CSAFE Survey on Current Forensic Reporting Practices

[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." CSAFE 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 CSAFE mementos.

The results of the survey will be analyzed by CSAFE 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.asclcd.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!

Dear Forensic Science Professionals,

The Forensic Science Training Institute is offering a workshop titled "Contextual Bias in Forensic Science" March 13-15, 2018.

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>

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://aws.passkey.com/event/49236454/owner/321/home>

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/atlmq-atlanta-marriott-marquis/>

<https://www.ascldsymposium.com/education>

Before the show, get caught up on the latest news: <http://www.evidencemagazine.com/>

Thank you to our 2018 Symposium Sponsors and Exhibitors!

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Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



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 a recent upgrade with the newsletter software, visit <http://www.ascl.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-Principle Executive Manager E](#), 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

- [Forensic Examiner Latent Print 3 01374](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- [Forensic Chemist 2 01373](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- [Forensic Examiner Fire Arms & Toolmarks 01378](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- [Laboratory Manager/Theater Liason 01365](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA, Expires: April 26, 2018
- [Experienced Crime Scene Investigator](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: March 31, 2018
- [Quality Specialist](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: March 31, 2018
- [Assistant Technical Lead – Forensic Biology](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: March 31, 2018
- [Latent Print Examiner](#), InCadence Strategic Solutions, Forest Park, GA, Expires: May 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist – Digital & Multimedia Evidence](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: February 15, 2018
- [Faculty Position in the MS Program in Biomedical Forensic Sciences](#), Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, Expires: April 10, 2018
- [Forensic Chemist I/II](#), NMS Labs, Fayetteville, NC, Expires: April 1, 2018
- [Forensic Chemist](#), Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Expires: February 28, 2018
- [Forensic Biologist – Crime Lab Scientist](#), Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, GA & Moultrie, GA, Expires: February 28, 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

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2011-title29-vol6/CFR-2011-title29-vol6-sec1910-1450/content-detail.html>

The National Registry of Certified Chemists

<http://nrcc6.org/>

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Training

https://www.osha.gov/dep/facosh/osha_training_guidelines2014.pdf

OSHA Fact Sheet:

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/laboratory/OSHAfactsheet-laboratory-safety-chemical-hygiene-plan.pdf>

CHP Template:

http://www.dsps.wi.gov/Documents/Industry%20Services/Forms/Public%20Sector%20Employee/Template-Chemical_Hygiene_Plan.pdf

Examples of CHPs:

University of California, Santa Barbara: <http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/labsafety-chp>

University of Rhode Island: <http://web.uri.edu/ehs/files/ChemicalHygienePlan.pdf>

Crime Lab Safety Plans:

Raleigh/Wake City County, Bureau of Identification: <https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2004/06/osha-and-forensic-laboratory>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



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

SWGDM Interpretational Guidelines

<https://forensiccoe.org/webinar/ascl-d-webinar-dna-standards-and-guidelines/>

Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes

<https://forensiccoe.org/webinar/ascd-webinar-series-dna-standards-and-guidelines-webinar-part-2/>



Forensic Training in 2018!

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](#)

Pakistani 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 Wyomondham 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 backlog 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 Eisenhower trial](#)

Prosecution and defense continued to duel over the fate of David Edmond Eisenhower 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 kit following 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.

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<http://www.sirchie.com/nark-ppe-kit-available-in-med-large-x-large-2xl.html#.WaNzc-mQxPb>

OSAC News



Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science

February 9, 2018 - [OSAC Standards Bulletin, February 2018 Now Available](#)

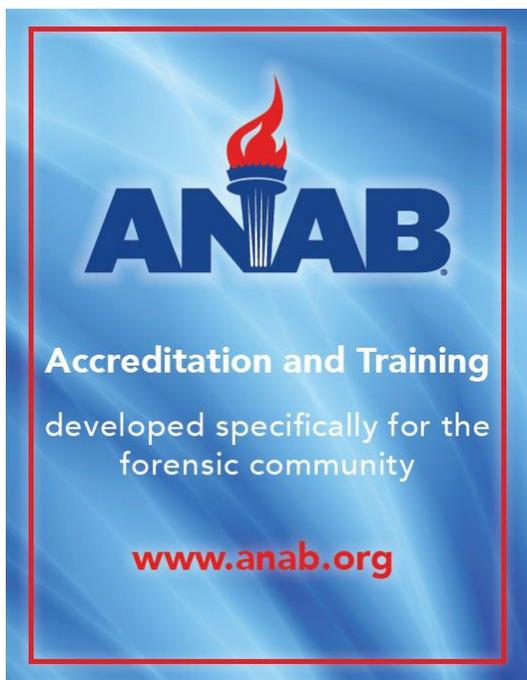
February 6, 2018 - [Don't Forget to Register for the "What is OSAC Up To? A Behind the Scenes Look" Meeting and Webcast](#)

January 19, 2018 - [Register Now for the "What is OSAC Up To? A Behind the Scenes Look" Meeting and Webcast](#)

January 11, 2018 - [OSAC Publishes Technical Series 0002 -- A Framework for Harmonizing Forensic Science Practices and Digital/Multimedia Evidence](#)

January 4, 2018 - [OSAC Standards Bulletin, January 2018 Now Available](#)

January 3, 2018 - [SAVE THE DATE: What is OSAC Up To? A Behind the Scenes Look. Join us at AAFS](#)



ANAB
 Accreditation and Training
 developed specifically for the
 forensic community
www.anab.org

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



NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

The summary for the NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics grant is detailed below. This summary states who is eligible for the grant, how much grant money will be awarded, current and past deadlines, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers, and a sampling of similar government grants. Verify the accuracy of the data. FederalGrants.com provides by visiting the webpage noted in the *Link to Full Announcement* section or by contacting the appropriate person listed as the *Grant Announcement Contact*. If any section is incomplete, please visit the website for the National Institute of Justice, which is the U.S. government agency offering this grant.

- Start-Up Business Funding
- Federal Grant For Single Moms
- Apply For College Grants
- Grants For Education
- Apply For Free Grants
- Free Money Grants
- Bad Credit Personal Loans

NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics: The Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (GRF-STEM) provides awards to accredited academic institutions to support graduate research leading to doctoral degrees in topic areas that are relevant to ensuring public safety, preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States.



Bode Cellmark
 FORENSICS
 LabCorp Specialty Testing Group

[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.



Genetics in Forensics Congress

Oxford Global Conferences: www.oxfordglobal.co.uk

Oxford Global Training Seminars: www.oxfordglobaltraining.co.uk

The Forensic Science Leadership Series at Cedar Crest College
 2018 Workshops



Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pennsylvania
 March 19th to 23rd, 2018

Course Instructors
 Dr. Mark Reynolds
 Mr. Edmund (Ted) Silenieks

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



CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS (CFSO)
FLASH BRIEF
 FALL 2017/WINTER 2018

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level, and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is local, state, and national policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

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

Evidence Technology Magazine
<http://www.evidencemagazine.com>

Foresight 20/20

The new year is upon us. Invest in yourself in 2018 by attending one of the upcoming programs hosted by the WVU Center for Executive Education

Forensic Management Academy
 September 9 - 14, 2018
 Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office
 Pittsburgh, PA

Lean Six Sigma Certification for Forensic Science Professionals
 March 20 - September 11, 2018
 Via online webinar with one face-to-face class held on September 11, 2018 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. in Pittsburgh, PA at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport.

For more information on the Forensic Management Academy and Lean Six Sigma programs, please visit business.wvu.edu/execed or email Martina Bison-Huckaby at Martina.Bison-Huckaby@mail.wvu.edu.

West Virginia University Forensic Management Academy

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](#)

Grant Assistance for DNA

Federal Grant Assistance for Rapid DNA	State Grant Assistance for Rapid DNA
<p>Rapid DNA is included in two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Authorized Equipment Lists (AEL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07BD-02-DNRN: Analysis, DNA/RNA Detection • 09MY-01-DNAK: Kit, DNA Tools <p>These AEL's are in these FEMA grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Stonegarden • Fort Security Grant Program • Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program • Transit Security Grant Program • Urban Areas Security Initiative Program • Homeland Security Grant Program • State Homeland Security Program <p>Grants.gov discusses these FEMA Grants and other Federal Grant opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of these are submitted through your State – see other side of this card <p>How to find applicable Grants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On Grants.gov, under Search Grants <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Keyword search with terms: DNA, identity, biometric, security, mass casualty, etc. b. Use checklists to limit number of grants, e.g., Eligibility, Category c. Select a grant by Opportunity Number. View Grant Opportunity page for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Synopsis - key information, e.g. dates, POC ii. Package – under Actions-Apply provide email to get info on application package 2. On Grants.gov, under Search Applicants <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use Register to apply for Workspace as either Organizational or Individual b. Get your DUNS number from your organization's finance office or call DUNS at: 1-866-705-5711 c. Use Apply tab under Applicants for Workspace instructions d. Complete required forms e. Submit and track application 3. Get alerts for new or revised grants at: app07.arams.gov/search/subscribeAll.do 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find contact information for your State Emergency Management (EM) Office at: www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies 2. Call or go to the website of your State EM Office. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Request information on FEMA and other Federal grants. b. Request a contact in the EM Office for grants. 3. If EM Office cannot help, find a contact who works with grant applications in your State. Key offices to contact: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administration b. Finance c. Budget 4. Identify appropriate grant(s). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Apply under all applicable grants. b. Comply with Open-Close times. 5. Request proper forms. 6. Complete forms. Cite the proper FEMA AEL Item ID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07BD-02-DNRN - Analysis, DNA/RNA Detection • 09MY-01-DNAK - Kit, DNA Tools 7. File forms on time 8. Periodically monitor <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Call or email your State contact b. Call or email the contact given in the grant announcement 9. Request feedback on your application and apply the next year. Many are successful on their 2nd or 3rd year <p>Contact the Rapid DNA vendors for assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANDE (NetBio): www.ANDE.com sales@ANDE.com 817-705-4055 • IntegenX www.IntegenX.com sales@IntegenX.com



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.](#)

Sexual Assault Cases: Exploring the Importance of Non-DNA Forensic Evidence Investigating and prosecuting sexual assault crimes is much more complicated than simply performing DNA testing.

Canadian Forensic Science Journal



Forensic Technology Leadership Series

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

Leadership series instructors and modules available.

Jody Wolf
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Modules: Personal Leadership, Practical Emotional Intelligence, Moral Compass

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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>

ChemCentre Expert Solutions
<http://www.chemcentre.wa.gov.au/Our-Services/Forensic-Science>

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.

[National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach](#)

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

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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 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.



The goal of the Laboratories and Educators Alliance Program (LEAP) is to facilitate collaborative research between academia and forensic science laboratories. This joint effort between the American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD) and the Council of Forensic Science Educators (COFSE) identifies forensic science needs and provides a platform for laboratories, researchers, and students to seek projects aligning with their mutual research capabilities.

Laboratories	Academia
Expands the research climate within the laboratory, leading to meaningful contributions to forensic science practices.	Promotes impactful research by providing a list of forensic science needs and research interests that can lead to future collaborations.
Provides educational opportunities, such as conference presentations and guest lectures.	Enriches the knowledge base of university faculty with limited or no prior forensic laboratory experience.
Supports the laboratory through hosting student interns to assist in validation and evaluation projects.	Enhances academic achievements through the valuable internship experiences provided to students.
Facilitates the connection between the laboratory and university programs, potentially assisting with future hiring actions and research needs.	Streamlines vital connections and collaborations between universities and forensic science laboratories as required for accreditation.

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 Casings 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.

NIFS Newsletter --
<http://www.anzpa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/newsletters>

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

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