

CLM February 13, 2017

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Colleagues,

I know that we have many ASCLD members attending the American Academy meeting this week in New Orleans. I hope that everyone has safe travels and an enjoyable meeting. With so many of the members out-of-pocket this week, rather than include a new topic, I wanted to remind you of two important and time sensitive ASCLD items, just to keep them on your radar.

- Registration (and the hotel reservation block) for the 2017 Symposium is OPEN! Please don't wait too long – the hotel block is filling up. You can find all the information about the 2017 Symposium including registration and hotel links at: [www.ascldsymposium.com](http://www.ascldsymposium.com)
- The Board of Directors wants your feedback! Last week, I told you about a member survey the Board of Directors has created to gather your feedback prior to our strategic planning meeting in March. Please consider completing this survey as we very much want to consider the membership's input as we constantly seek to improve the organization. The survey can be found at: [www.ascldsymposium.com/2017/02/07/survey/](http://www.ascldsymposium.com/2017/02/07/survey/)

Have a great week.

Kindest regards,

Jeremy Triplett

ASCLD is moving our office in anticipation of ANAB/ASCLD-LAB moving to a new office and selling the building where we currently have our office. Our new address is:

**ASCLD  
65 Glen Road, Suite 123  
Garner, NC 27529**

Please send any correspondence to our new office address effective immediately. The phone number remains the same, [\(919\) 773-2044](tel:9197732044). We no longer have a fax line.

Public Comment Period for the ASB Standard 017, Standard Practices for Measurement Traceability in Forensic Toxicology, is open until February 24, 2017.

From the Academy Standards Board:

"This Standard Practices for Measurement Traceability in Forensic Toxicology was developed to provide guidance on minimum requirements for establishing measurement traceability in Forensic Toxicology laboratories. The fundamental reason for establishing traceability of a measurement is to ensure confidence and reliability in forensic toxicological test results.

Please visit the [Notification of Standard Development and Coordination](#) area of the AAFS Standards Board website to view the draft document and to provide comments.

Please send any questions to [asb@aafs.org](mailto:asb@aafs.org).



### HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATIION

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>

### Preview of Symposium Workshops and Key Note Speakers.....coming soon

### Golf Tournament, May 1st, 2017

Stevens Park Golf Course –  
1005 N Montclair Ave, Dallas, TX 75208

Join us for a round of golf with your colleagues and the symposium sponsors for a Best Ball tournament and a chance to win a prize! The shotgun start will be at 12:30pm, with a buffet lunch provided beforehand.

ASCLD will be assigning teams of 4 ahead of time to allow for networking and new opportunities to be presented for all participants.

You can sign up for the golf tournament through our registration system [here](#). You will need to complete a full registration to be signed up for the tournament. The registration cost of \$80/person includes 18 holes of golf, cart fees and lunch. Golf clubs can be rented for an additional charge at the course. Transportation to and from the course is not included.

See you there!



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## Breaking News...

### Top Stories

#### ['Synthetic marijuana' may cause serious harm to health](#)

Medical News Today  
Synthetic cannabinoids (SCBs) are a type of psychotropic chemical ... On the contrary, SCBs are drugs in their own right, with many toxic - and ...

#### [DNA tests now mandatory in rape cases](#)

The News International  
He said the lab had the capacity of examining 10 DNA samples a day and could provide the most authentic results in cases of criminal forensic ...

#### [Bill to study benefits of expanding state's criminal DNA database halted](#)

University of Virginia The Cavalier Daily  
The Virginia House Rules Committee tabled a proposed bill that would have studied the advantages of expanding the state's DNA databank for ...

#### [Alaska crime lab cutting down backlog of rape kits](#)

The Daily Progress  
ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — The state's crime lab has shown improvements in the time it takes to process sexual assault kits. The Alaska Public ...

#### [NY to hire 26 scientists to test rape kits](#)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle  
That law requires police agencies across the state to send their backlog of untested kits -- which totals thousands statewide -- to forensic labs by the ...

#### [35-year-old cold case re-opened after new DNA developments](#)

ABC Action News  
The St. Petersburg Police Department is re-opening a murder case from 35 years ago thanks to new DNA developments. On Jan. 23, 1982, two men ...

#### [Orange County fingerprint analyst who touched nearly 900 cases removed from job](#)

Orlando Sentinel  
A fingerprint analyst with the Orange County Sheriff's Office has been removed from all open cases following a report that he made mistakes on the job ...

## National Commission on Forensic Science News

<https://www.justice.gov/ncfs/meetings>

Meetings of the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) are held quarterly in Washington, DC. NCFS meetings are open to the public. Public registration for NCFS meetings is available approximately one month in advance of a meeting and can be found under the respective meeting link. NCFS meetings are also webcast.

The thirteenth meeting of the National Commission on Forensic Science will be held April 10-11, 2017 in Washington, DC.

If you would like to receive email updates as new information or new materials are added, please subscribe. ✉  
[Email updates](#)



Register for the [free live webcast \(link is external\)](#) of the OSAC Public Status Reports & Open Discussions at AAFS on February 13-14, 2017.

Thirty OSAC Subcommittee and Scientific Area Committee (SAC) chairs, covering each forensic science discipline, will describe each unit's latest projects, task groups, research needs, and planned outcomes—as well as provide status updates on specific standards or guidelines.

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.

#### [Recent OSAC Accomplishments](#)

Documents Approved for the OSAC Working with an SDO Process

- Validation Standards for Probabilistic Genotyping Systems
- Standards for Validation Studies of DNA Mixtures and Development and Verification of a Laboratory's Mixture Interpretation Protocol
- The Wildlife Forensics Subcommittee sent their Wildlife Forensics Morphology Standards to ASB for review. The document will now move through the ASB process where it hopefully will be converted into an SDO approved standard. It can then be considered by the OSAC for inclusion on the OSAC Registry.

#### [Upcoming Schedule - On the Horizon](#)

(Open to the Public) OSAC Scientific Area Committees Public Status Reports & Open Discussions occur at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) in New Orleans, LA on Feb. 13-14, 2017. (Save the Date)

[9 Investigates evidence backlog at state crime lab](#)

WFTV Orlando  
9 Investigates learned a backlog at state crime labs is delaying justice for families across the ... Figueroa Sr. spotted the crime scene headed to work.

[Appeals Court to issue opinion on possible DNA testing in 35 year old Juneau homicide](#)

KTOO  
During oral arguments, the panel's three judges seemed to doubt that DNA analysis of two potential evidence samples would necessarily lead to ...

[The four decade old cold case that melted in Cleveland thanks to forensic science](#)

WKYC-TV  
Attempts to identify the victim, believed to be of Asian or American Indian descent in his late 20s, were made through the local media, fingerprints and ...

[Cyber crimes increasing in State: DGP](#)

The Sentinel  
Sahay stated that the State Police will establish a mobile forensic lab with the help of Central and the State governments. "Nine cyber labs will be set ...

[Cell phone forensic lab in Assam](#)

Calcutta Telegraph  
Guwahati, Feb. 5: Assam police will set up a "mobile phone forensic laboratory" to help investigate crimes that involve the use of cell phones.

[Staying calm helps police superintendent solve crimes](#)

TODAYonline  
SINGAPORE — Called past midnight last February to a crime scene where a victim in his early twenties was stabbed in a badminton court of a ...

[Forensic DNA profiling might be about to take a big leap forward. Are we ready?](#)

The Guardian  
Advances in epigenetics mean incredibly detailed profiles of criminal suspects might soon be reality. Is the legal system ready to use this information?

[Bill: License crime scene cleaners](#)

Northwest Georgia News  
Companies that clean up messy crime scenes contaminated with body fluids and human waste would have to be licensed by the GBI under legislation ...

[DA's say lab closure will hurt court cases](#)

My Columbia Basin  
Kate Brown's budget that would close down the Oregon State Police Forensics Laboratory in Pendleton. It's the only such lab in Eastern Oregon and ...

[DNA evidence used to link accused killer to murder victim 'scientifically corrupt': Defence expert](#)

CTV News  
The DNA evidence used to link Mark Grant to the murder of 13-year-old Candace Derksen was not properly analyzed, according to a genetics ...

[APD: DNA evidence likely not damaged after freezer malfunction](#)

MyStatesman.com  
The DNA Lab at the Austin Police Forensics Center on July 16, 2010. ... who was recently reassigned to oversee the department's forensic lab.

[ATF Associate Deputy Director: 'Assault Weapons' Import Ban Nonsensical](#)

Breitbart News  
These firearm types are now standard for hunting activities." Because of his paradigm shift regarding the view and usage of "assault weapons," Turk ...

[UPDATE: Howard Beach continues push for enhanced DNA screening in wake of murder arrest](#)

QNS.com  
Before cops brought in a suspect in Vetrano's case this weekend, the family hoped that the use of familial DNA testing could be used to help find her ...

['It's time,' Utah lawmaker says, to spend \\$2.4 million to test all sexual assault kits](#)

Salt Lake Tribune  
Up to this point, whether a kit was submitted for testing was left up to the law-enforcement agency investigating the crime. Utah crime lab Director Jay ...

February 13, 2017 (Monday)

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM OSAC Digital/Multimedia Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion

10:15 AM – 12:00 PM OSAC Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion  
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM OSAC Crime Scene/Death Investigation Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion

February 14, 2017 (Tuesday)

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM OSAC Physics/Pattern Interpretation Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM OSAC Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion

(Internal OSAC Meeting) Full OSAC Meeting, April 2017 tentatively in Leesburg, VA.

Dear OSAC Professional Association Representatives:

We understand that your members may have interest in recent OSAC events. If so, we have announced the SAVE THE DATE for the OSAC Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion Events at the 2017 AAFS Conference in New Orleans.

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-newsletter-november-2016#SaveTheDate>

## ASCLD DNA Mixtures Webinar (Managers overview)

This webinar is targeted to Laboratory Directors and Managers, Quality Mangers, DNA Supervisors and DNA Technical Leaders.

Presenters: Lynn Robitaille Garcia, General Counsel, Texas Forensic Science Commission and Michael D. Coble, Research Biologist, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Complex DNA mixtures from more than two individuals and/or profiles amplified with low-level quantities of DNA, can be challenging for the analyst to interpret. Dr. Coble first provided an overview of the technical issues with mixture interpretation including statistical analyses. Ms. Garcia will describe the lessons learned in Texas as the state confronted one of the forensic DNA community's elephants in the room—that DNA mixture interpretation is challenging and laboratories have not always interpreted complex mixtures properly. Ms. Garcia described how Texas became aware of the issue, what the Texas Forensic Science Commission did in response and how stakeholders developed a plan to identify and notify potentially affected defendants in literally tens of thousands of cases. She discussed what Texas observed regarding the crucial role of SWGDAM and the accrediting bodies, where the gaps in oversight are and what work remains to be done through the OSAC process. Ms. Garcia made the case for review of DNA mixture cases by any laboratory that may not have applied statistical methods properly (in particular the Combined Probability of Inclusion/Exclusion) and warned against viewing probabilistic genotyping software as a blackbox savior in light of what Texas has already observed for mixture recalculations using the software.

ASCLD DNA Mixtures Webinar: Managers Overview – Archival -

[https://rticqpub1.connectsolutions.com/content/connectc17/en/events/event/shared/1178106117/event\\_landing.html?sco-id=1206197265&\\_charset=utf-8](https://rticqpub1.connectsolutions.com/content/connectc17/en/events/event/shared/1178106117/event_landing.html?sco-id=1206197265&_charset=utf-8)

ASCLD DNA Mixtures Webinar Series : Technical Overview

This webinar is targeted to DNA Technical Leaders, Quality Mangers, DNA Supervisors and DNA Analysts.

Presenters: Joel Sutton, the DNA Casework Technical Leader for the United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory; John Buckleton, Principal Scientist for the Institute of Environmental Science & Research Ltd in Auckland, New Zealand; Bruce Heidebrecht, DNA Technical Leader for the Biology Section at the Maryland State Police, Forensic Sciences Division and Jerilyn Conway, Federal Bureau of Investigations

Complex DNA mixtures from more than two individuals and/or profiles amplified with low-level quantities of DNA, can be challenging for the analyst to interpret. The FBI's Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM) has been crafting a new version of the autosomal DNA STR interpretation guidelines that most of the DNA laboratories in the country look to for guidance in analyzing DNA profiles. Mr. Sutton presented information on the changes to the interpretation Guidelines including the background and scope of the changes. Mr. Heidebrecht and Ms. Conway also answered questions and provided additional comments. Mr. Buckleton spoke about the PCAST report and the impact the report is having on the Forensic DNA community.

ASCLD DNA Mixtures Webinar: Technical Overview – Archival -

[https://rticqpub1.connectsolutions.com/content/connectc17/en/events/event/shared/1178106117/event\\_landing.html?sco-id=1206191684&\\_charset=utf-8](https://rticqpub1.connectsolutions.com/content/connectc17/en/events/event/shared/1178106117/event_landing.html?sco-id=1206191684&_charset=utf-8)

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 (304-634-5263) or email ([staton1@marshall.edu](mailto:staton1@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.  
Professor & Graduate Programs Coordinator  
Marshall University Forensic Science  
1401 Forensic Science Drive  
Huntington, WV 25701  
Ph: 304-634-5263 Mobile: 304-691-8931 Office  
[staton1@marshall.edu](mailto:staton1@marshall.edu)  
[www.marshall.edu/forensics](http://www.marshall.edu/forensics)



[Two new medical examiners to help with demands from rising opioid deaths](#)

Calgary Sun  
The \$20.6-million, multi-year project included construction of a larger toxicology laboratory, expansion of the autopsy space and morgue and ...

[Proposal would give forensic labs more money to investigate violent crimes](#)

Columbia Missourian  
According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, state forensic labs are having a difficult time keeping investigators in the department and requested ...

[Arrest in Jogger's Murder Doesn't Alter Push for Family DNA Searches](#)

New York Times  
When law enforcement officials began a push to use an ethically complicated forensic technique involving DNA in New York, they based their appeal ...

[County commissioners OK public defender's bill for DNA testing](#)

Williamsport Sun-Gazette  
A previously tabled \$14,347 bill payment for defense DNA testing in a criminal case was approved unanimously by the Lycoming County ...

[State forensics looking to streamline rape kits in Texas](#)

KXAN.com  
The Texas Forensic Science Commission wants to know how the lab's technicians were able to examine a large number of cases if there were so ...



[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.



[Review the solicitation](#), "Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes." Proposals are due February 28, 2017.

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 9

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.

**Funding Opportunity for Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes**

NIJ has released a solicitation seeking proposals for basic and applied research and development projects. The goal of this solicitation is to direct the findings of basic scientific research, research and development in broader scientific fields applicable to forensic science, and ongoing forensic science research toward the development of accurate, cost-effective, and rapid methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes. Deadline: February 28, 2017 Learn more about this solicitation in a webinar recording available soon.

**Funding Opportunity: Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program – Competitive**

NIJ is seeking proposals for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program (the Coverdell program), which awards grants to states and units of local government to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner/coroner's office services. Among other things, funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog. This funding opportunity is only for competitive funds. Deadline: March 10, 2017 Learn more about this and other funding opportunities for crime labs in a webinar recording available soon.

**Funding Opportunity: Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program – Formula**



[Forensic Scientist 1](#), ARP Sciences, Dover, DE, Expires: February 19, 2017

[Forensic DNA Analyst](#), Signature Science, LLC, Austin, TX, Expires: February 17, 2017

[Forensic Chemist 2](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA & OCONUS, Expires: May 4, 2017

[Laboratory Manager/Theater Liaison](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA & OCONUS, Expires: May 4, 2017

[Criminalist III \(Firearms and Tool Mark Examination\)](#), Broward County Sheriff's Office, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Expires: February 10, 2017

[Forensic Scientist – Forensic Biology](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: February 21, 2017

[Analytical Chemist I – Forensic Chemistry Unit](#), Division of Forensic Science, WILMINGTON, Expires: March 31, 2017

[Forensic Scientist – Forensic Biology](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Roanoke, VA, Expires: February 16, 2017

[Forensic Scientist – Controlled Substances](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Roanoke, VA, Expires: February 24, 2017

[Criminalist DNA analyst](#), Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, Charlotte, NC, Expires: February 16, 2017

[DNA Analyst III](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, TX, Expires: February 28, 2017

[DNA Analyst III – Serology / DNA Operations Technician](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, Texas, Expires: March 23, 2017

[Forensic Scientist – Forensic Biology – CF632](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: February 10, 2017

[Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences Forensic Sciences](#), Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio, Expires: March 9, 2017

[Forensic Scientist 1](#), ARP Sciences, Dover, DE, Expires: February 19, 2017

[Forensic DNA Analyst](#), Signature Science, LLC, Austin, TX, Expires: February 17, 2017

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[DNA Analyst III](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, TX, Expires: February 28, 2017

[DNA Analyst III – Serology / DNA Operations Technician](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, Texas, Expires: March 23, 2017

[Forensic Scientist – Forensic Biology – CF632](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: February

NIJ is seeking proposals for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program, which awards grants to states to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner/coroner's office services. Among other things, funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog. This funding opportunity is only for the formula ("base") funds. Deadline: March 10, 2017 Learn more about this and other funding opportunities for crime labs in a webinar recording available soon.

**Funding Opportunity: Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories**

NIJ is seeking proposals for research and evaluation projects that may: 1.) Identify and inform the forensic community of best practices through the evaluation of existing laboratory protocols; and 2.) Have a direct and immediate impact on laboratory efficiency and assist in making laboratory policy decisions. The intent of this program is to identify the most efficient, accurate, reliable, and cost-effective methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes. Deadline: February 27, 2017 Learn more about this and other funding opportunities for crime labs in a webinar recording available soon.

**Funding Opportunity: Forensic DNA Laboratory Efficiency Improvement and Capacity Enhancement Program**

Demands for forensic DNA analysis increased every year from 2009 to 2014, with a 28 percent increase in cases submitted to forensic DNA laboratories during that time period. Often, a single case submission includes requests for forensic analyses in DNA and non-DNA disciplines. Enhancing capacity and improving efficiency in the processing and testing of non-DNA evidence from cases that also involve a request for DNA analysis will ultimately reduce the backlog of DNA evidence. NIJ's Forensic DNA Laboratory Efficiency Improvement and Capacity Enhancement (EI&CE) program is intended to help address that gap. Deadline: March 13, 2017 Learn more about this and other funding opportunities for crime labs in a webinar recording available soon.

**Funding Opportunity: DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program**

The goal of NIJ's FY 2017 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) program is to assist eligible states and units of local government to process, record, screen, and analyze forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples and to increase the capacity of public forensic DNA and DNA database laboratories. Under this program, in general, eligible applicants are given the opportunity to determine what portion of their anticipated funding should be used for capacity building purposes and what portion should be used for analysis of forensic DNA and/or DNA database samples. Deadline: March 13, 2017 Learn more about this and other funding opportunities for crime labs in a webinar recording available soon.

**Funding Opportunity: Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System Program**

Death investigations performed by medical examiners or coroner (ME/C) offices are vital to criminal justice. Of the 2.6 million deaths annually, ME/C offices investigate nearly 500,000 cases in approximately 2,400 jurisdictions, but many communities lack adequate personnel, infrastructure, and resources to address medicolegal death investigation (MDI) needs. NIJ's Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System Program is a competitive program designed to enhance of MDI services and increase the supply of forensic pathologists nationwide by supporting forensic pathology fellowships as well as ME/C office accreditation. Deadline: March 20, 2017 Adapting Newborn Blood Testing Procedures to Forensic Toxicology  
A recent article on NIJ.gov describes a procedure known as dried blood spot (DBS) testing that can be used in forensic toxicology examinations and would benefit both forensic laboratories and the judicial system. The researchers examined dried blood spots for evidence of 28 drugs and metabolites. The specific goal of their work was to determine if DBS analysis could produce results comparable to traditional drug analysis and,

10, 2017

[Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences Forensic Sciences](#), Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio, Expires: March 9, 2017

[Criminalist II-Forensic Breath Alcohol](#), San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco, CA, Expires: February 17, 2017

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Bringing together experts from the forensic, research, legal, and law enforcement communities to strengthen forensic science and create a safer, more just society.  
<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science>

Welcome to the National Software Reference Library (NSRL) Project Web Site.

This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, federal, state, and local law enforcement, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to promote efficient and effective use of computer technology in the investigation of crimes involving computers. Numerous other sponsoring organizations from law enforcement, government, and industry are providing resources to accomplish these goals, in particular the FBI who provided the major impetus for creating the NSRL out of their ACES program.

The National Software Reference Library (NSRL) is designed to collect software from various sources and incorporate file profiles computed from this software into a Reference Data Set (RDS) of information. The RDS can be used by law enforcement, government, and industry organizations to review files on a computer by matching file profiles in the RDS. This will help alleviate much of the effort involved in determining which files are important as evidence on computers or file systems that have been seized as part of criminal investigations.  
<https://www.nist.gov/software-quality-group/national-software-reference-library-nsrl>

Events

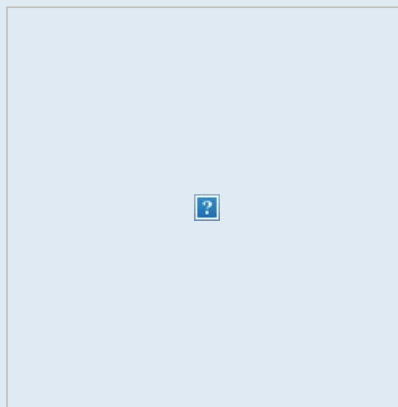
[NIST Exhibits at the 69th AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting](#)

February 15, 2017 to February 17, 2017

2017 69th AAFS Annual Meeting Credit: <https://www.aafs.org/> 1 NIST will exhibit at the 69th AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting. Hyatt Regency New Orleans Elite... Publications

## Forensic Science Policy & Management

Current Online Issue [here](#)



<http://www.tandfonline.c/toomc/ufpm20/current>

Editorial

[Moving Toward New Requirements for the Admissibility of Evidence](#)

[Barry A. J. Fisher](#)

Pages: 51-53

Published online: 11 Oct 2016

Articles

[Design Considerations for the Implementation of Artificial Fluids as Blood Substitutes for Educational and Training Use in the Forensic Sciences](#)

[Theresa Stolesbury](#), [Cathy Bruce](#), [Mike Illes](#) & [Robyne Hanley-Dafoe](#)

Pages: 81-86

Published online: 11 Oct 2016

[Proficiency Testing Trends Following the 2009 National Academy of Sciences Report, "Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward"](#)

[Jason Kolowski](#), [Catherine Barden](#), [Catherine Brown](#), [Janine Leete](#) & [Christopher Czyryca](#)

Pages: 98-105

Published online: 11 Oct 2016

[Risk, Reward, and Redemption: Root Cause Analysis in Forensic Organizations](#)

[Max M. Houck](#)

Pages: 106-112

Published online: 11 Oct 2016

when combined with mass spectrometry, be sensitive enough for quantification of "drugs of abuse" typically encountered in forensic labs.

#### **Degraded Ignitable Liquids Database: An Applied Study**

Identification of ignitable liquid residues in fire debris is complicated by weathering that causes the loss of ignitable liquid components and the presence of microbes that alter the residue's composition. In this NIJ-supported project, researchers from the University of Central Florida analyzed the effects of weathering and biological degradation on 50 different ignitable liquids taken from each of the ATSM E1618 designated classes and selected from the Ignitable Liquids Reference Collection (ILRC). The results of this project led to an upgrade of the ILRC Database and provided fire debris analysts with hundreds of examples of weathered and biologically degraded ignitable liquid samples.

#### **Statistical Methods for Combining Multivariate and Categorical Data in Postmortem Interval Estimation**

Inferring the time since death is routine in death investigations, but basing such post-mortem interval (PMI) numbers on the developmental stages of maggots and other insects is less than straightforward. The biological clock provide by insect appearance and growth in a dead body comes with a great deal of uncertainty because the sizes and succession combinations of insects differ even when observed under identical conditions. Researchers at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, working with NIJ support, developed a statistical method using inverse prediction to assess the time since death with a reasonable confidence level, most commonly set at 95 percent. The research demonstrated the value of inverse prediction in forensically important settings and how it can be performed with programs in widely available statistical computing packages.

#### **Citrate Content of Bone: A potential Measure of Post Mortem Interval**

A constant concern for forensic practitioners is the determination of the post-mortem interval (PMI) in questioned death cases. A number of methods have been tried to better determine PMI, but all have proven problematic. NIJ-supported researchers at the SUNY Brockport Research Foundation evaluated the citrate method for determining PMI based on a 2010 study that indicated citrate content in bone could be potentially useful in estimating PMI. The researchers, with the College at Brockport, SUNY, analyzed more than 30 human bone samples and determined that the "theoretical correlation between citrate content of bone and PMI is much weaker than reported [in the earlier study]. They also tested porcine bone samples, but in the end concluded that, "citrate is not a reliable and validated method for determining PMI in bone."

#### **Evaluation of Osteometric Measurements in Forensic Anthropology**

Emphasizing the accuracy of collecting data and improving error rates for forensic anthropologists working with skeletons, NIJ-supported researchers from Lincoln Memorial University had four "observers" with different experience levels measure elements of 50 skeletons. The error data resulting from the measurements was used to determine the efficacy of commonly used skeletal measurements and to evaluate alternatives for problem measurements.

#### **Graphical User Interface for a Multi-Factorial Age-At-Death Estimation Method Using Fuzzy Integrals**

Most forensic anthropologists develop their own guidelines, typically based on past experience, for combining multiple indicators to determine an individual's age-at-death based on a skeleton. Researchers in this NIJ-supported project note that such results are not standardized or reproducible. To address this problem the researchers, from Texas State University, developed a graphical user interface (GUI) with algorithms based on "fuzzy integrals" that provide forensic scientists with a multifactorial age-at-death estimation, confidence in the estimation, informative graphs, and a standardized, reproducible method for age-at-death estimations. The researchers intend to make the interface available free online.

#### **Microspectrophotometry of Fibers: Advances in Analysis and Interpretation**

Microspectrophotometry is a standard forensic laboratory technique for the

#### **American Academy of Forensic Science - New Orleans this week**

NIST will exhibit at the 69th AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting.

- Hyatt Regency New Orleans
- Elite Hall A&B, Booth Number 701

For sixty-nine years, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) has served a distinguished and diverse membership. Over 7,000 members are divided into eleven sections spanning the forensic enterprise. Included among the Academy's members are physicians, attorneys, dentists, toxicologists, anthropologists, document examiners, digital evidence experts, psychiatrists, engineers, physicists, chemists, criminalists, educators, and others. Representing all 50 United States, Canada, and 70 other countries worldwide, they actively practice forensic science and, in many cases, teach and conduct research in the field as well. Each section provides opportunities for professional development, personal contacts, awards, and recognition. Many sections publish periodic newsletters and mailings which keep their members abreast of activities and developments in their fields.

#### **New IAI Position Statement - February 5, 2017**

#### **Position Statement on Conclusions, Qualified Opinions and Probability Modeling**

[www.theiai.org/president/20170205\\_IAI\\_PositionStatementConclusionsQualified OpinionsProbability Modeling.pdf](http://www.theiai.org/president/20170205_IAI_PositionStatementConclusionsQualified%20OpinionsProbability%20Modeling.pdf)

comparison of fibers, however, there are concerns about its discriminating power and significance in a field that is moving toward statistical interpretation of data. In this NIJ-supported project, researchers with the forensic laboratory Microtrace conducted an extensive review of microspectrophotometry to present investigators with a context for relating spectral differences to colorant concentrations in fibers and illustrate cases in which similar, but different, fiber populations could not be discriminated.

#### **Massively Parallel Sequencing: Application to Forensics**

Massively parallel sequencing (MPS), also called next-generation sequencing, is an exciting technology that holds promise for enhancing the capabilities of forensic DNA laboratories. However, several challenges confront the implementation of an MPS system in a crime laboratory. This report, by NIJ's Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE), provides forensic DNA scientists with a comprehensive resource on the fundamentals of current platforms and chemistries and summarizes a series of MPS related webinars hosted by the FTCoE in conjunction with the University of North Texas Health Science Center's Institute of Applied Genetics.

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

Synthetic fibers derived from naturally derived biological polymers are used in textiles and clothing.

With the production of these manufactured fibers of natural origin (MFNOs) increasing in recent years, they are likely to become more common in regular case work in the forensic science laboratory. However, little is known about the changes occurring in their optical and physical properties as a result of exposure to moisture, sunlight, and various temperatures. This NIJ-supported study investigated the effects of such degradation on three types of MFNOs. The results indicate that forensic fiber comparison can be conducted on such fibers exposed to different environments, while highlighting possible explanations for some observed morphological differences.

#### **Transition Metal Cluster Compounds for the Fluorescent Identification and Trace Detection of Substances of Abuse**

This NIJ-funded research project focused on fluorescent indicators for substances of abuse with enhanced specificities. These new fluorescent indicators are based on d10 metal complexes and allow greater detection sensitivity and flexibility. The indicators are shelf stable and low cost, and the complexes formed can be stored for long periods without loss of fluorescence. Combining new sources, fluorescent indicators, and digitizing systems will produce systems capable of positively identifying compounds rapidly both in the field and in the lab. Ultimately, the procedure will be implemented in a hand-held system that will allow assessment of multiple indicators in the field.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### **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](#)



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