Dear Colleagues,

For each successive annual meeting we strive to evolve, increase participation and provide even more exciting content. A new feature this year is “Bring Your Own Slides” at ASCLD Atlanta 2018. This is an opportunity for crime laboratory leaders to Bring Your Own Slides and participate in an informal, evening discussion on shared challenges and solutions in our laboratories.

The Bring Your Own Slides session will be held on Wednesday evening, May 23. If you would like to share a problem or a novel solution to a problem that you have encountered in your laboratory, please sign up to provide a brief (approximately 5 minutes) overview. Time will then be allotted for questions and discussion on the topic so that all attendees may benefit from each other’s shared expertise.

Bring Your Own Slides topics should be:
- **Brief** – describe the problem or solution in approximately 5 minutes to allow time for questions and/or discussion.
- **Unique** – describe a new/relevant problem or a novel solution to an old problem.
- **Relevant** – topics should apply to managers within a crime laboratory.

Here are just a few of the potential topics:
- Efficiency and resource management improvements.
- Advancement initiatives such as blind proficiency testing, case information management, and public posting of quality-related documents.
- Legal challenges, including FOIA, discovery, and disclosure issues.
- Sexual Assault Kit counting, testing, and tracking.
- Opioid crisis initiatives.

Space is limited to approximately 10-15 topics/presentations. Presentations will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis. If you would like to sign up, please submit the form found [HERE](mailto:Jeremy.triplett@ascld.org) to Jeremy Triplett at [Jeremy.triplett@ascld.org](mailto:Jeremy.triplett@ascld.org).

Please join us for what is sure to prove an excellent interactive session. See you in Atlanta!

Ray Wickenheiser

Register for 2018 ASCLD Symposium
**ASCLD Bring Your Own Slides Sign-up**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018  
**Time:** 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (TENTATIVE – session length may be adjusted)  
**Location:** Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel (Room TBD)

**Bring Your Own Slides at ASCLD 2018**

NEW to the ASCLD symposium in 2018 is an opportunity for crime laboratory leaders to Bring Your Own Slides and participate in an informal, evening discussion on shared challenges and solutions in our laboratories.

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If you would like to sign up, please submit the form found [HERE](mailto:Jeremy.triplett@ascld.org) to Jeremy Triplett at Jeremy.triplett@ascld.org.

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
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." 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 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.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 Scientist, Indiana State Department of Toxicology, Indianapolis, Expires: March 8, 2018
- Forensic Lab Technician – Grant Funded, City of Wilmington, NC, Wilmington, Expires: February 27, 2018
- Forensic Serologist II, Serological Research Institute, Richmond, CA, Expires: March 30, 2018
- Faculty – Forensic Science – College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Expires: May 1, 2018
- Forensic Scientist Trainee – Division of Technical Services, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: February 19, 2018
- Forensic Analyst – Multimedia, Houston Forensic Science Cente, Housotn, TX, Expires: April 30, 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  

OSHA Fact Sheet:  

CHP Template:  

Examples of CHPs:  
University of California, Santa Barbara: http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/labsafety-cho  
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

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 NU 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
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
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.

2018 National Institute of Justice Forensic Science Symposium

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.

Buy Now

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

What Is OSAC Up To?
A Behind the Scenes Look
• February 20, 2018 •

MEETING PLAN:
The Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science works to strengthen the nation’s use of forensic science by facilitating the development of scientifically sound forensic science standards and by promoting the adoption of those standards by the forensic science community. OSAC has over 550 members and 250 affiliates that work together to develop and evaluate forensic science standards via a transparent, consensus-based process that allows for participation and comment by all stakeholders.

This event will feature presentations from the Chairs of the five Scientific Area Committees (SAC), three Resource Committees, Statistics Task Group, and Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB). Each presenter will describe their OSAC unit’s activities including the latest standards under development, research gaps identified, challenges being addressed, and priorities for 2018.

TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 20
8:00 AM – 8:15 AM: Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) Update
Steve Johnson, Chair, FSSB

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM: How Should Standards Minimize the “B-word” (Bias) in Forensic Science
William Thompson, Chair, Human Factors Committee

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM: The Attorneys, Love 'em or Hate 'em, You Can’t (should not) Do Standards Without 'em
Chris Haur, Chair, Legal Resource Committee

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM: The Yellow Brick Road to Standards Development
Karen Rezek, Chair, Quality Infrastructure Committee

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM: Statistics is Never Having to Say You're Certain
Karen Kafadar, Chair, Statistics Task Group

9:15 AM – 9:30 AM: BREAK

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

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

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.

ASCLD Position Statement to the
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.

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.

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 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 65% of users are repeat customers who return for additional products and services.

For more information, please visit www.justicetrax.com or contact us at (866) 233-5990.
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 quality assurance; perceptual, cognitive and psychological factors in expert identifications; and legal issues.

Forensic Identification Using Individual Chemical Signatures

NIJ-funded researchers developed an approach to translate chemical signatures...
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.

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 objects.
Solicitation Announcement

NIJ Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime FY2018


Applications Due: April 25, 2018

NIJ's drugs and crime portfolio supports research on law enforcement efforts to deter, investigate, prosecute, and address illegal drug trafficking, markets, and use. This FY2018 solicitation will seek investigator-initiated proposals to conduct applied research on evidence-based tools, protocols, and policies for State, local and tribal jurisdictions. The two drug priorities are: 1) opioid-related criminal investigation, prosecution, drug intelligence, and community surveillance; and 2) illegal marijuana markets and drug-related violent crime. Opioid research proposals should address narcotics law enforcement, forensic science, and/or medicolegal death investigations; and opioids include heroin, fentanyl, diverted pharmaceuticals, synthetic drugs, and analogues.


General information on applying for NIJ awards can be found at www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/welcome.aspx. Answers to frequently asked questions that may assist applicants are posted at www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/faqs.aspx. For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation (NIJ-2018-13682): toll-free at 1-800-851-3420; via TTY at 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only); email grants@ncjrs.gov; fax to 301-240-5830; or web chat at https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp.

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.