

**CLM February 6, 2017**

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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Colleagues,

Continual improvement is not only something we ask our laboratories to focus on, it's something your ASCLD Board of Directors also believes is important for this organization. As we settle into 2017, the ASCLD Board is looking to measure our successes from last year and determine areas for improvement for this one.

The ASCLD Board of Directors will be meeting March 2-3 in Phoenix, Arizona for our annual strategic planning session and we would sincerely value the membership's input and feedback. The meeting in March is a way to make the final preparations for the 2017 Symposium in April and is a time to refine our 2016-2017 strategic plan that was developed under the leadership of immediate Past-President Jody Wolf last year.

To gain feedback from the membership, we have created a brief, online survey. I know that sometimes we can get "over-surveyed" and we are all very busy. If everyone had a few minutes to complete this one, however, we would be very appreciative. We hope to have survey responses returned by the end of February so that we can sit down and evaluate the membership's comments in March.

The survey can be found at the following link: <http://www.questionpro.com/ASCLDCLM17/>

Thank you in advance to all those members who can provide us helpful feedback as we routinely seek to be responsive to your thoughts and advance this great organization.

I hope you have a great week.

Kindest regards,  
Jeremy Triplett

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@aaafs.org](mailto:asb@aaafs.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...**

As of today, bite mark evidence has led to

**National Commission on Forensic Science News**  
<https://www.justice.gov/ncfs/meetings>

more than two dozen wrongful arrests or convictions. Two men sentenced to death on bite mark evidence were later exonerated by DNA testing. Multiple proficiency tests have shown that bite mark analysts can't even agree on whether marks on human skin were made by human teeth or teeth at all, much less agreement on which set of teeth made them. There are two underlying assumptions that need to be true in order for bite mark evidence to be valid — that the marks we make when we bite are unique to us and that human skin is capable of recording those marks in a way that allows analysts to distinguish them

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-watch/wp/2017/01/30/incredibly-prosecutors-are-still-defending-bite-mark-evidence/?utm\\_term=.a0cebdf12370](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-watch/wp/2017/01/30/incredibly-prosecutors-are-still-defending-bite-mark-evidence/?utm_term=.a0cebdf12370)

#### Top Stories

##### [Drowning in DNA: State's backlog of rape kits grows](#)

MyAJC

These rape kits are stored in a secure vault at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's State Crime Lab.

##### [Family DNA Searches Seen as Crime-Solving Tool and Intrusion on Rights](#)

MSN.com

An unsolved Queens killing has led to calls for widening DNA searches to include relatives of possible suspects. But the method, a frontier in forensic ...

##### [Trauma of witnessing crime often goes undiagnosed](#)

Toronto Star

Officers must be mindful of people in distress when they attend a crime scene or investigation, says Toronto Police spokesperson Meaghan Gray.

##### [Cyber crimes: Centre may soon come out with rules to validate electronic evidence](#)

Hindu Business Line

"Setting up a lab in each district will be a long-term plan. But, to start with, DeitY would validate some authorities or forensic labs to validate cyber ...

##### [Iowa reviews criminal case evidence](#)

Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier

State Public Defender Adam Gregg addresses reporters Monday about Iowa's efforts to review evidence in potential wrongful conviction cases at a ...

##### [Controversial ex-forensic lab analyst focus of another inmate's appeal](#)

Chicago Tribune

The last time controversial forensic analyst Pamela Fish played a role in a prisoner's appeal was close to a decade ago, when DNA testing cleared a ...

##### [Will DNA evidence finally solve the murder of Lisa Ziegert?](#)

wwlp.com

The sketch was generated by Parabon NanoLabs, a DNA technology company that uses DNA evidence to predict the physical appearance of ...

##### [N.J. changes marijuana testing methods amid probe of drug lab scandal](#)

NJ.com

TRENTON -- New Jersey's state-run drug laboratories are changing the way they examine marijuana evidence in criminal cases amid a scandal ...

##### [Funding a study on expanding DNA databank](#)

The Charlottesville Newsplex

ALBEMARLE COUNTY, Va. (NEWSPLEX) -- Several people are pitching in some money to help fund a study on expanding the DNA databank to ...

##### [Indiana Senate panel considers adding drone-related crimes](#)

WHIO

Indiana Senate panel considers adding drone-related crimes ..... Crime scene tape is going up around the scene, where the vehicle shows the front ...

##### [Cumbersome process slows rate for examining sexual assault kits](#)

Alaska Public Radio Network

A recent legislative audit of the state's Crime Lab said the facility isn't meeting its target speed for processing Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) ...

##### [Rape cases: Amended bill makes DNA report compulsory](#)

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](#)



##### [Message from the FSSB: Consolidating OSAC Registries by January 2017](#)

##### [New OSAC Newsletter January 2017](#)

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-newsletter-january-2017>

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

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

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

Once consolidated, the three OSAC-approved documents: NFPA 921: National Fire Protection Association Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations, ISO/IEC 17025 2005: General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories, and ASTM E2329-14 Standard Practice for Identification of Seized Drugs, as well as any new documents that are approved, will be located in one place.

##### [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)

##### 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 Managers, 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.

## Geo News, Pakistan

KARACHI: The provision of **DNA** report in rape cases has been stated compulsory in an amendment to the Criminal Amendment Bill, 2015.



[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**  
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**

ASCLD DNA Mixtures Webinar: Managers Overview – Archival - [https://rticqpub1.connectsolutions.com/content/connect/c17/en/events/event/shared/1178106117/event\\_landing.html?scoid=1206197265&charset=utf-8](https://rticqpub1.connectsolutions.com/content/connect/c17/en/events/event/shared/1178106117/event_landing.html?scoid=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/connect/c17/en/events/event/shared/1178106117/event\\_landing.html?scoid=1206191684&charset=utf-8](https://rticqpub1.connectsolutions.com/content/connect/c17/en/events/event/shared/1178106117/event_landing.html?scoid=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

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**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.



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- [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 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 (E&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, 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

- [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
- [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-nssl>

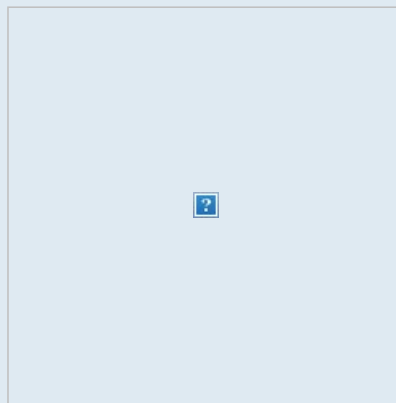
Events

[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>

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 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

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 Stotesbury, 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

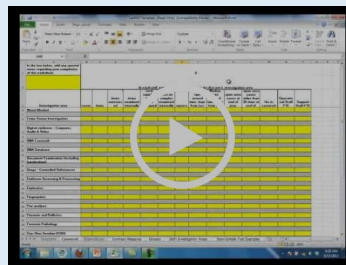
Published online: 11 Oct 2016

**Project FORESIGHT**

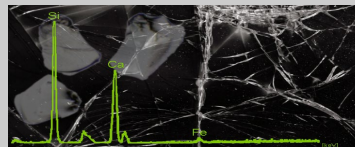
FORESIGHT is a business-guided self-evaluation of forensic science laboratories across the globe. The participating laboratories represent local, regional, state/provincial, and national agencies. Faculty from the WVU College of Business and Economics provide assistance, guidance, and analysis. We link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

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

Regards,  
Paul J Speaker



LabRat Tutorial



The NIJ Forensic Science Research and Development Symposium is a free and open meeting where attendees can learn about NIJ-funded research across a variety of forensic science areas.

<https://www.forensiccoe.org/2017-NIJ-Forensic-Science-Research-and-Development-Symposium>

**Agenda**

<https://rti.connectsolutions.com/p609pi5jsjm/>

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

### **Fighting Bias - Self-Paced Online Professional Training**

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

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

Minimizing Bias in Forensic Decision Making

Learning Objectives: Describe background information regarding the human mind and cognitive system

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

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

Visit the website for registration or abstract submission:

<http://www.cvent.com/events/icfis-2017-international-conference-on-forensic-inference-and-statistics/event-summary-6d357a9583224144866d64f44de367a2.aspx>  
or contact Glenn Langenburg ([glenn.langenburg@state.mn.us](mailto:glenn.langenburg@state.mn.us)) for more information.

**The American Society of Crime Lab Directors, along with RTI, have made the below webinars available.**

[ASCLD Train the Directors Latent Prints Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors DNA Discipline Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Controlled Substance Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Digital Multimedia Evidence Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Toxicology Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Firearms Webinar - Archival](#)

[False-Positive/Negative Error Rates in Cartridge Case Comparisons](#)

[ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 1 – Archival Version](#)  
[ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 – Archival Version](#)  
[ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 3 – Archival Version](#)  
[ASCLD Webinar Series:](#)

#### 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](#)

#### Loyola University Program Survey

Loyola University Chicago's Forensic Science Program is conducting a short survey (7 questions) evaluating the expansion of the Program. Your insights and thoughts will assist the University and the Program in meeting the needs of the forensic science community. The survey can be completed on a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Link to the survey is: <https://surveys.luc.edu/opinio6/s?s=66565>

Greetings!

**The International Forensic Research Institute at Florida International University is now accepting applications for the Fall 2017 Professional Science Master in Forensic Science (PSMFS) cohort.**

An online information session is scheduled for Monday January 23rd at 7PM EST using Adobe Connect: <https://connect.fiu.edu/psmfs012317/>.

The PSMFS degree is a Master's degree focusing on advanced forensic science and leadership/management courses taught by FIU's premiere forensic faculty and business school. The requirements for admittance are a BS in a physical science such as chemistry or biology, an upper level GPA of 3.0 or higher, and an informal interview. The GRE is also required and is used to rank applicants.

The PSMFS degree prepares graduates to move into a management/leadership position within forensic science. The PSMFS Program is a cohort starting in Fall 2017 and graduating Fall 2018 for under \$22,000 (estimation based on domestic students).

An internship is required and can be completed at the current home office or outside and can focus on pressing research needs or a lean six sigma project. The course requires a summer workshop in Miami Florida while the rest of the classes are taught online using Adobe Connect and Blackboard.

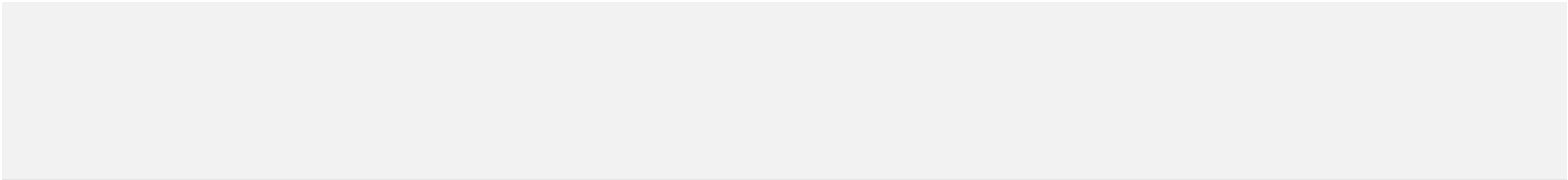
If you have any questions please feel free to email me at [jperr@fiu.edu](mailto:jperr@fiu.edu).

Sincerely,

Dr. Perr

Jeannette Perr, PhD  
Graduate Program Director  
Professional Science Masters in Forensic Science  
International Forensic Research Institute  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Florida International University





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