

CLM January 17, 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This week I'm excited to announce that the ASCLD Member Resources Committee has published the first ASCLD Model Policy. Below is information from committee co-chairs George Herrin and Stephanie Stoiloff regarding the 1st model policy. The new model policy can be found on the ASCLD website in the Member's Area on the "ASCLD Manager's Toolkit" page ([LINK](#)). Thank you, George and Stephanie, for your work on this and future valuable model policies for our organization.

From the committee:

"The ASCLD Member Resource Committee has completed a model policy on Employee DNA Databases that the Board of Directors has approved. This model policy will be available on the ASCLD website. The committee is beginning work on three additional model policies: 1) Re-examination of evidence analyzed by another forensic laboratory; 2) Dissemination of Reports and Case File Documentation; and 3) Dissemination of Information Related to Laboratory Casework. If you are an ASCLD member and would like to help in drafting these new model policies, please contact the committee co-chairs George Herrin (george.herrin@ascld.org) and Stephanie Stoiloff (stoiloff@ascld.com) to provide examples of these types of policies that your lab may already have or help in the review process. The committee is also interested in gathering information and links from member laboratories that already post their analytical procedures, operational policies, or validation studies to the internet. The goal of this is the development of a single page on the ASCLD website that would include all of these links rather than having to search for each laboratory."

Have a great week.

Kindest regards,
Jeremy



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



The 4th annual Leadership Academy is OPEN and will consist of twelve weekly, online webinars offered from late January to April and will cover a wide range of essential leadership topics for forensic science supervisors and managers.

The Academy will then finish with two intensive days of on-site, hands-on instruction at the ASCLD symposium in Dallas, TX.

The 2017 Academy will again focus on providing quality instruction to new supervisors in the forensic science field and supervisors who have previously had limited opportunity for structured forensic management education and training. Between affordable registration costs and high quality instructors, ASCLD is confident that laboratories will see a valuable return on investment in a time when training budgets are lean across the US.

The registration deadline is January 25, 2017.

For more information, please visit the Academy web page at <http://www.ascl.org/meetings-and-training/ascl-leadership-academy/> or email Training and Education Committee chair Kris Deters at Kristine.deters@state.mn.us.

Registration for the academy is at: <https://www.regonline.com/2017ascldsymposium>



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Breaking News...

PCAST related News

Weekly PCAST news articles:

[In September](#), the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) issued a scathing report on the use of forensic analysis and expertise in the criminal-justice system. The report, "Forensic Science in Criminal Courts: Ensuring Scientific Validity of Feature-Comparison Methods," looked at pattern matching forensic disciplines such as bite mark matching, shoe print matching, blood spatter analysis, fingerprint matching and hair fiber analysis. It also looked at DNA testing when investigators find biological material from multiple sources, a scenario that can bring human subjectivity into the testing. With the exception of single-source DNA testing, the report found serious deficiencies in all areas of forensics it studied.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-watch/wp/2017/01/04/when-obama-wouldnt-fight-for-science/?utm_term=.b94efa86e90c

[On Wednesday](#), I wrote about how President Obama had missed a huge opportunity by not forcing the Justice Department and federal law enforcement agencies to implement the forensics reform recommendations put forth by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Coincidentally, just this morning the Harvard Law Review [published an article](#) on criminal-justice reform authored by Obama himself. Forensics gets only five paragraphs of a very long piece. But it's still worth examining.

National Commission on Forensic Science News

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

The Views document on Statistical Statements in Forensic Testimony is currently open for public comment at regulations.gov, [Docket No. DOJ-LA-2016-0025](#). This comment period will close on January 25, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

NCFS is now soliciting applications for additional Commission membership with subject matter expertise in statistics. Click [here](#) for more information. This application period will close on January 26, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

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](#)

Obama touts what he claims to be a number of success within his administration toward advancing better and more science-driven forensics. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-watch/wp/2017/01/05/obamas-rhetoric-on-forensics-is-at-odds-with-his-record/?utm_term=.dbcec4e806a5

Forensic Science Is a Mess, and the Justice Department Wants to Keep It That Way C.J. Ciaramella from the January 2017 issue - view article in the Digital Edition <http://reason.com/archives/2016/12/22/forensic-science-is-a-mess-and>

On the Admissibility of Expert Evidence a Crime Lab Director's Point of View. Barry A. J. Fisher, M.S., MBA <http://www.judges.org/admissibility-expert-evidence-crime-lab-directors-point-view/>

Forensic evidence largely not supported by sound science – now what? [Jessica Gabel Cino](http://theconversation.com/forensic-evidence-largely-not-supported-by-sound-science-now-what-67413) Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Law, Georgia State University. Jessica Gabel Cino has received a grant from Georgia Institute of Technology to examine wrongful convictions (2010). She also serves on the American Academy of Forensic Science's Standards Boards for DNA and fingerprints. <http://theconversation.com/forensic-evidence-largely-not-supported-by-sound-science-now-what-67413>

Forensic criminal science based on very few facts <https://richardbrenneman.wordpress.com/2016/12/07/forensic-criminal-science-based-on-very-few-facts/>

Social media: You can join the conversation about PCAST meetings and activities by following OSTP on Twitter [@whitehouseostp](https://twitter.com/whitehouseostp) and tracking the hashtag #PCAST.

Top Stories

[Live 5 Investigates: Computer trouble causing possible delays in solving crimes](#)

Live 5 News

Because of a computer snafu with the fingerprint ID system, some local police agencies now have to drive all the way to Columbia to get fingerprints ...

[New regional ballistics lab will help solve gun crimes in Cuyahoga County, officials say](#) cleveland.com

Police officers will send shell casings collected at crime scenes to the lab. Guns leave unique identifiers on each casing, so the casings can be ...

[Why did the Innocence and Exoneration projects take this Madison County man's case?](#)

Belleville News-Democrat

They have filed a motion on Prante's behalf in Madison County Circuit Court, asking for DNA testing and fingerprint analysis that was not available at ...

[Coroners could see new protocols and the state would pay](#) WANE

It would also require a toxicology test be done in all coroner cases, and the state would provide reimbursements for those. In a county like Allen ...

[Forensic Nightmare: The Perils of Touch DNA](#)

Marshalltown Times Republican

Detection methods involving tinier and tinier DNA samples have advanced rapidly ... But the mere presence of DNA does not prove a crime happened.

[Is Forensic Science Tipping the Scales of Justice?](#)

Laboratory Equipment

An analyst could compare bite marks or ballistics, link them from a crime scene to a suspect, and tell a jury they matched based on the expert's opinion ...

[KSP Lab Employee Honored by Victim Advocacy Groups](#)

SurfKY News (registration) (blog)

Laura Sudkamp, director of the Kentucky State Police Forensic Laboratory System, received a Champion for Justice Award on Dec. 2, 2016 from the ...

[Crime lab deals with toxicology backlog](#)

Local 12

Toxicology is involved in every death investigation in the Hamilton County Coroner's Crime Lab. It's the testing for



[Message from the FSSB: Consolidating OSAC Registries by 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

toxins, for drugs, or medications that ...

[DNA Upon Arrest: Solving Cold Cases or Presuming Guilt?](#)

The Pew Charitable Trusts
Most states require police to swab people for DNA when they are arrested for a felony, arguing it helps solve cold cases and prevents crime. But foes ...

[Austin crime lab bucked DNA standard for years, yet got passing grades](#)

MyStatesman.com
In 2010, an influential national organization of scientists devoted to ensuring that forensic labs employ only the latest and best methods of analyzing ...

[Despite growing reliance on forensics, crime lab regulation is thin](#)

MyStatesman.com
Jay Janner Boxes of drugs and drug paraphernalia are stacked on the floor of the chemistry vault cabinet at the Austin Police Department's Forensic ...

[Myrtle Beach police say state lab moves slowly on DNA requests](#)

Myrtle Beach Sun News
Police did have DNA evidence, but in working to ensure the attacker did not go free, they faced a hurdle there, too. Using the lab run by the State Law ...

[Forensic science cuts pose risk to justice, regulator warns](#)

The Guardian
A forensic scientist specialising in DNA sequencing points to bands representing nucleotide bases (A,C,T,G) in an X-ray image. Photograph: Alamy.

[Forensic science standards 'at significant risk'](#)

BBC News
The quality of forensic science work in England and Wales is at risk and ... DNA testing had not taken place in the third murder case, that of Daniel ...

[Forensic laboratory to be privatised?](#)

St. Lucia Times Online News (press release)
"There isn't enough business in Saint Lucia itself to keep a forensic lab going, so it is a financial cost – it is a huge financial cost and we think it is going ...

[State forensic science lab 'at crisis point', warns Tánaiste](#)

Irish Independent
Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald warned a Cabinet colleague that the State's forensic science laboratory was at "crisis point" due to inadequate facilities ...

[Family-member DNA searches could help crack Canadian cold cases](#)

Ottawa Sun
Harmon discovered the Morrisseau case the same way he's stumbled across dozens of others – through a daily Google search for "DNA evidence" ...

[Editorial | National security and the budget](#)

Jamaica Gleaner
And if improved infrastructure enhances capacity of the police to communicate, and scientists at the forensic lab have adequate facilities with which to ...

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>

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) 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.
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staton1@marshall.edu
www.marshall.edu/forensics



LOOKING AHEAD
THE NATIONAL Sexual Assault POLICY SYMPOSIUM

NIJ National Institute of Justice
STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE.

NIST National Institute of Standards and Technology
Center of Excellence

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



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Bode Cellmark Forensics provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

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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

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) 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](#)
[VersionASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 - Archival VersionASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 3 - Archival VersionASCLD Webinar Series:](#)

Conferences

January 17-19, 2017: [3rd Annual Middle East Congress of the International Association of Law and Forensic Sciences \(IALFS\)](#) - Cairo, Egypt

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](#)

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.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS
 "Excellence through leadership in forensic science management"

[DNA Analyst](#), Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory, Vernon Hills, IL, Expires: January 31, 2017

[Forensic Photographer](#), Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office, Cleveland, Ohio, Expires: January 27, 2017

[Director, Forensic Sciences Graduate Program](#), UC Davis Extension, Davis, CA, Expires: January 16, 2017

[Forensic Laboratory Director](#), Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS, Expires: February 3, 2017

[Criminalist Sr. DNA Analyst](#), Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Golden, CO, Expires: January 31, 2017

[Forensic Scientist \(Firearm Unit\)](#), Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center, Wichita, Kansas, Expires: January 31, 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: January 20, 2017

[Forensic Scientist - Biology/DNA](#), St. Louis County Police Crime Laboratory, St. Louis, MO, Expires: January 31, 2017

[Forensic Scientist I/II \(Latent Print Examiner\)](#), Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory, Denver, Colorado, Expires: February

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>

Events

[Exoskeleton Technical Interchange Meeting](#)

January 26, 2017 to January 27, 2017

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

February 15, 2017 to February 17, 2017

[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>

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



Simon Sinek on Millennials in the Workplace

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.

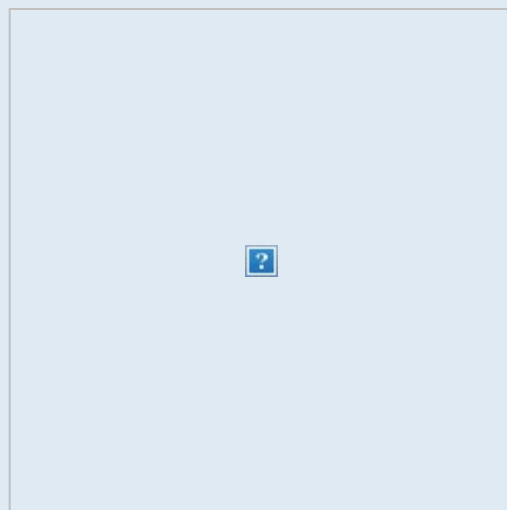
If you have any questions please feel free to email me at jperr@fiu.edu.

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

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 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

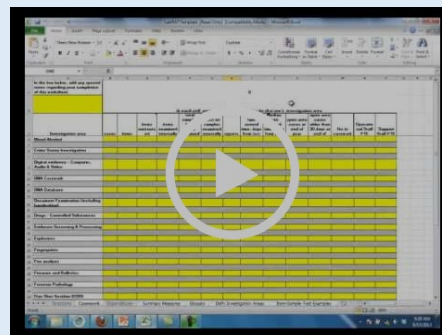
Published online: 11 Oct 2016

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. 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>.

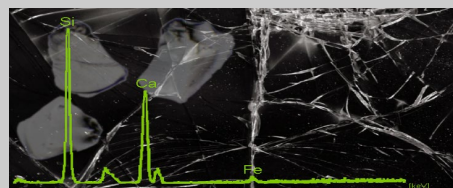
We are targeting a submission date of December 15, 2016.

Regards,
Paul J Speaker



LabRat Tutorial

LabRat Form



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/p609pi5sjsm/>

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

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