



American Society of Crime Lab Directors

"THE CRIME LAB MINUTE" NEWSLETTER



Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce that we have signed a contract for the site of our 2021 meeting. Our annual meeting will be held in Boston at the Westin Copley Place, from April 11 - 16, 2021. Our board and executive director put a great deal of effort into planning our annual meetings, which includes making selections and securing contracts several years in advance. We value the feedback that you have provided at our annual meetings, which always includes a question on choices for future meeting sites. Boston has long been at or near the top of the list of cities our membership has requested to host an annual meeting. Unfortunately, in past years conference locations in Boston have been unable to accommodate us. However, this year, through ongoing patience and persistence, we have secured a contract with the Westin in Boston.

Please visit our annual symposium website at: <http://www.asclد.org/meetings-and-training/asclد-annual-symposium/>. There you will also find links to our upcoming meeting in Atlanta, next year's 2019 meeting in St. Louis, followed by Denver in 2020 and now Boston for 2021. That is an impressive line-up, spanning major cities across North America, ensuring access to world class locations to host our annual meetings. Many thanks to our board and executive director for making this happen. Now, please do your part in promoting, attending and participating in our meetings to share the wealth of your experience to further our forensic community.

Ray Wickenheiser

ASCLD President

ASCLD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



The ASCLD Leadership Academy is a training program offered by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors for managerial personnel in forensic science laboratories. It is designed to deliver training of the highest quality at a cost that recognizes the current strained budgets of labs across the US. The Academy is open to ASCLD members and non-members, alike.

The mission of the ASCLD Leadership Academy is to train *managers* to become *LEADERS*. Back for its second year, the ASCLD Leadership Academy will again offer a 100-level course designed specifically for newly appointed supervisors and supervisors who have had little opportunity for previous formal management training and education. The Academy is a blended training model, combining weekly lecture-style webinars with a "Management Lab" at the annual ASCLD symposium where students will participate in hands-on, practical exercises to develop their skills.

THROUGH

4

YEARS

TOTAL OF

295

STUDENTS

FROM

35

STATES

AND

5

COUNTRIES

ASCLD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

To register, please visit or share the following link: <https://www.regonline.com/ASCLDSymposium2018>.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the 5th annual ASCLD Leadership Academy to be held in Spring 2018. Twelve weekly, online webinars will be offered from February 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 Atlanta, Georgia.

The 2018 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.

2018 Academy Calendar

LEADERSHIP – Ben Swanholm

February 22 – Leadership

March 1 – Leadership

March 8 – Transition from Peer to Supervisor and Conflict Management

March 15 – Cultural Change and Self-Leadership

COMMUNICATION – Col. Tim Scanlan

March 22 – Communication Styles

March 29 – Personality and Conflict Management

April 5 – Team Building

April 12 – Communication as a Leadership Tool for Laboratory Issues

Laboratory Operations – Jody Wolf & Jeremy Triplett

April 19 – Strategic Management

April 26 – Process & Performance Management

May 3 – Quality Management & HR/Legal Management

May 10 – Customer/Stakeholder Management

CAPSTONE

May 20 – 21, 2017: In-person workshop at the 2017 ASCLD Symposium, Atlanta, Georgia

For additional information or to register for the academy, please go to <http://www.asclcd.org/meetings-and-training/asclcd-leadership-academy/>

Message from the Director



It is hard to believe the year is almost over.

It has been a busy and exciting year for the ANZPAA NIFS team. The Institute has celebrated its 25th Anniversary this year. We saw the completion of our first Business Plan under the new

ANZPAA NIFS framework and the team successfully facilitated a Joint Specialist Advisory Group (SAG) meeting of 150 members from a range of forensic science disciplines.

Next year is shaping up to be just as big. The ANZPAA NIFS Groups Review is underway which will consider all of the NIFS groups from a first principles perspective. The Research and Innovation Strategy and Roadmap will provide a mechanism for the provision of funding and support for projects and the NIFS News will be getting a new look in 2018 – we welcome your feedback.

ANZPAA NIFS are excited to support the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) 24th International Symposium on Forensic Science in Perth. The symposium is an invaluable opportunity to stay abreast of current research, engage with forensic partners and network with colleagues. We wish the organising committee all the best in preparing for this big event.

I would also like to congratulate the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) on their 50th Anniversary. What an achievement! The ongoing support by the Australian forensic community, evident at the recent celebratory symposium and dinner in Sydney, is a testament to the academy.

Our 2016-2017 Annual Report is now available online. I invite you to view the report and discover the great work of the Australia New Zealand forensic science community.

<http://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/products/publications>

I would like to thank the ANZPAA NIFS team and all of the forensic stakeholders for their ongoing hard work and dedication. Together we are achieving wonderful things for forensic science.

I wish you and your families all the best for the festive season. We look forward to working with you all in 2018.



Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM
Director, ANZPAA NIFS

<http://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/products/publications>

The ASCLD reps on the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) Quality Infrastructure Committee's (QIC) Impact Assessment Task Group are seeking **informal** feedback from lab directors to assess the laboratory impact of the following proposed standard(s) being considered for inclusion on the OSAC Registry of Standards. This survey should take less than 4 minutes to complete. For further information, and to review each proposed standard, click the appropriate link(s) below. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Impact Assessment Task Group Member Arlene Hall at Arlene.Hall@isp.state.il.us.

Click here for the link to the QIC survey for proposed standard **ASTM E2329-17 Standard Practice for Identification of Seized Drugs**: <https://goo.gl/forms/ScDdQQLSpaDJPeYD3>.

NOTE: Access to this proposed standard and the formal public comment period closes on January 6, 2018. The associated QIC survey will also close at that time. Please participate; your feedback is important.

Dear Forensic Science Professionals,

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

The topic of "bias" and its implications for forensic practice has been hotly debated and researched in forensic and academic circles over the last decade. The 2009 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on the state of forensic science in the USA and the 2016 President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) report on forensic science recommend that forensic practitioners address issues relating to bias in forensic science and provide evidence to the fact finder that they have done so.

This workshop uses an engaging and innovative mixture of lectures, case examples, and practical activities to educate participants on the theoretical concepts and practical implications of bias within forensic science. Participants will receive instruction on the various types of bias, how to identify its presence, how to mitigate its influence, methods on how to sequentially unmask data, procedures used to identify task-relevant information, concepts for the appropriate management of case-specific contextual information and how to appropriately document critical decision pathways.

This workshop is primarily aimed at forensic science practitioners both scene or laboratory based, especially those involved in the early identification, collection and interpretation of evidence. It is however designed to benefit anyone who produces, uses or relies upon forensic science for decision making purposes within the justice system, including judges, district attorneys, defense lawyers, and detectives.

The workshop is \$395 per person.

For registration, please visit: <http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/18/2.htm>

45th Annual ASCLD Symposium

Advancing Forensic Science requires leadership, which includes taking initiative, motivating employees, and applying resources creatively to the complex problems presented by today's forensic casework and issues. Leaders lead by example and encouragement, building on success and learning from their past experiences and that of others.

Please join us in Atlanta, Georgia, May 20-24th for the 2018 ASCLD Symposium where you will learn about exciting initiatives to advance forensic science. New and experienced managers and directors will be presented with innovative tools to sharpen their leadership skills. Presentations from experts and leaders, both inside and outside the forensic science community, will cover various aspects of leadership. Our goal is to invigorate you with techniques and information to increase your leadership capacity in both life and occupation.

Hotel Information

Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, within walking distance to renowned Atlanta attractions including the Georgia Aquarium, World of Coca-Cola and College Football Hall of Fame, the Atlanta Marriott Marquis is unparalleled in its splendor and convenience.

The indoor MARTA access provides fast rail access to the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, while the downtown location offers first-class opportunities for experiencing Atlanta.

During your stay, enjoy the iconic cocktail lounge Pulse, dine at the unique restaurants including Sear and High Velocity, and pamper yourself in the state-of-the-art full service spa.

265 Peachtree Center Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30303

(404) 521-0000

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



Hotel Rate

- The room rate for this event is **\$135.00** plus taxes and fees
- The contracted rate will be available until 5 PM EST, Friday, April 27, 2018

Reservation Process

Online:

- [Click here to book your hotel reservation](#)

Phone:

- Please contact the reservations desk at (404) 521-0000
- Make sure that you reference that you are attending the ASCLD Symposium

**The room rate cut-off date is
5 PM, EST, Friday, April 27, 2018.**

*Last year the room block sold out early, so dont
delay in making your hotel reservations!*

[Make your Reservation - https://aws.passkey.com/event/49236454/owner/321/home](https://aws.passkey.com/event/49236454/owner/321/home)

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

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

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

Thank you to our 2018 Symposium Sponsors and Exhibitors!

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Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



JOB OPPORTUNITIES (Hiring now)

Due to an recent upgrade with the newsletter software, visit <http://www.asclcd.org/jobs2> to link and view details about job announcements listed below.

- [Forensic Specialist](#), City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica, CA, Expires: January 26, 2018
- [Latent Fingerprint Examiner](#), MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT (MDPD), Doral, Florida, Expires: January 25, 2018
- [Forensic Chemist](#), Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Expires: February 28, 2018
- [Forensic Biologist – Crime Lab Scientist](#), Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, GA & Moultrie, GA, Expires: February 28, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist – Drug Chemistry](#), Sedgwick County, Wichita, Kansas, Expires: January 26, 2018
- [Forensic Toxicologist](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: January 3, 2018
- [Assistant/Associate/Full Professor in Forensic Science](#), Arizona State University, Glendale, Arizona, Expires: January 31, 2018
- [Assistant/Associate Professor](#), University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut, Expires: February 8, 2018
- [Assistant Biometric Records Manager](#), Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Largo, Florida, Expires: February 8, 2018
- [Assistant/Associate Professor](#), University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut, Expires: February 8, 2018
- [Forensic Chemist](#), InCadence Strategic Solutions, Forest Park, GA, Expires: January 31, 2018
- [Senior Firearm/Toolmark Examiner \(Senior Criminalist – Firearms\)](#), Tarrant County Medical Examiner Criminalistics Laboratory, Fort Worth, TX, Expires: January 5, 2018
- [Principal Chemist – Radiological/Nuclear \(01597\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires:

January 2, 2018

- [Senior Chemist \(01603\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Staff Chemist – Radiological/Nuclear \(01610\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Associate Chemist – Radiological/Nuclear \(01591\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Principal Microbiologist \(01601\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Senior Microbiologist \(1609\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Staff Microbiologist \(01596\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Associate Microbiologist \(01595\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist II-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist III-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist IV-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist II-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist III-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist IV-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Chemistry/Controlled Substances](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Latent Prints](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018

The Need for Safety Officers and a Health and Safety Committee

The elements of a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) have been the subject over the last few weeks. Previous topics have been 1) the need for SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures), 2) Criteria for Implementing Control Measures, 3) requirement to ensure that fume hoods and other protective equipment are functioning properly and identify the specific measures the employer will take to ensure proper and adequate performance of such equipment, and 4) Required Information to be provided to lab personnel working with hazardous substances. This week's topics are 5) *the circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer's designee before being implemented*, and 6) *Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee.*

5) *The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer's designee before being implemented.* Prior to any new work being conducted in a lab that uses a hazardous chemical, prior approval must be acknowledged. Prior approval would normally come from the Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) or Safety Officer in your lab.

Many procedures use chemicals that require special considerations. Additionally, some labs may not have the proper storage or work area for its use. Also, the chemical must be added to the chemical inventory, all personnel who will work with or come in contact to the chemical must read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Having a plan where an employee has read the SDS and understands the hazards by signing a review sheet or some other acknowledgement is a good way to improve compliance. Additionally, ordering and purchasing hazardous chemicals should go through one person or a team so that proper storage locations, policies, and procedures can be appropriate for chemicals ordered.

6) *Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee.* Designating a person, such as a CHO or Safety Officer for day-to-day administration of chemical issues is paramount and crucial for accreditation. A CHO will provide reports at the department Safety Committee meetings on chemical hygiene activities performed. Additionally, a CHO will work with others to develop, review and approve Standard Operating Procedures which detail all aspects of proposed laboratory activities that involve hazardous materials. A Chemical Hygiene Committee, commonly known as a Safety Committee (or Health and Safety) in forensic labs is also a requirement for accreditation. Health and Safety committee members should establish a committee structure and process and develops an action plan for the year that identifies a few priority health and safety issues to work on. The concerns would be addressed at safety committee meetings and the executive management meeting(s).

Jane B. Northup
Quality Assurance Officer
RI State Crime Laboratory
Certified Chemical Hygiene Officer

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1450

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

The National Registry of Certified Chemists

<http://nrcc6.org/>

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Training

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

OSHA Fact Sheet:

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

CHP Template:

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

Examples of CHPs:

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

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

Crime Lab Safety Plans:

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

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



In 2018, the Forensic Science Training Institute will be offering a week-long course in Advanced Fabrics Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Training on March 19-23.

The class size is limited to twelve, so please register early to ensure your seat.

For registration and full details on the course requirements, visit the Forensic Science Training Institute website here: <http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/16/1.htm>

Recorded Training:

Episode 9 Podcast!!
Just Blood Spatter

In episode nine of Just Science, funded by the National Institute of Justice's Forensic Technology Center of Excellence [Award 2016-MU-BX-K110], we spoke with Dr. Marc Smith, from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Smith's NIJ funded research in blood spatter has connected computational fluid dynamics with empirical studies to improve the understanding of blood spatter

onto solid, slanted surfaces. His work looks at many variables, including droplet size, speed, surface roughness and wettability. [Listen and Subscribe HERE.](#)

Subscribe to the channel at:

- [Google Play](#)
- [iTunes](#)
- [Stitcher](#)
- [Soundcloud](#)

ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series can be found at the following links:

- [The Paradox of Backlog Reduction – How Doing Less Can Be Doing More](#)
- [Taking the First Steps Toward Backlog Reduction](#)
- [Managing Customer Expectations and Education](#)
- [How to Increase your Staff without Increasing Budget](#)
- [Efficiency Improvements](#)
- [Developing a Statewide Approach to Backlog Management](#)
- [Case Acceptance Policies and Guidelines](#)

ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series can be found at the following links:

- [Rapid DNA: The QAS and NDIS](#)
- [Rapid DNA: Arizona DPS and Richland County, SC](#)
- [Rapid DNA: Booking Stations and CODIS](#)

ASCLD /RTI DNA Standards and Guidelines Webinar Series

SWGDM Interpretational Guidelines

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

Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes

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



Forensic Training in 2018!

Quick Links to ANAB

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

[ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board \(ANAB\)](#) is a member of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board family of brands and the new home of ASCLD/LAB. ANAB provides accreditation for ISO/IEC 17025 forensic test laboratories and ISO/IEC 17020 forensic inspection agencies and a wide variety of training, workshops, and academic programs.

[Navigating the New ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – Comparison to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 \(Web-based\)](#)

ONLINE
Cost: \$200

[Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Internal Auditor Training](#)

February 6-9, 2018
San Diego, CA
Cost: \$850

May 8-11, 2018
Cary, NC
Cost: \$850

[Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Assessor Training \(Testing\)](#)

January 8-12, 2018
Largo, FL
Cost: \$1,195

April 9-13, 2018
Springfield, VA
Cost: \$1,195

[Practical Applications for Forensic Measurement Confidence](#)

March 13-14, 2018
Alexandria, VA
Cost: \$600

[Root Cause Analysis for Forensic Service Providers \(Web-based\)](#)

January 29- February 1, 2018
ONLINE
Cost: \$395

[Forensic Measurement Confidence \(Web-based\)](#)

January 16-18, 2018
ONLINE
Cost: \$140 per day, or \$395 for all 3 days

[Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Preparation for Testing Laboratories](#)

January 8-10, 2018
Largo, FL
Cost: \$695

April 9-11, 2018
Springfield, VA
Cost: \$695

Web-based courses also available.

[ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Agencies](#)

April 11-12, 2018
San Francisco, CA
Cost: ASQ member \$650, non-ASQ member \$700

October 15-16, 2018
Cincinnati, OH
Cost: ASQ member \$650, non-ASQ member \$700

[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

Forensic Science in the News

[Cities sue after Pentagon failed to report crimes to FBI gun check system](#)

New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco seek to have the Defense Department (DOD) "fulfill their long-standing legal obligation to report all service members disqualified from purchasing and possessing firearms to the FBI's national background check system," according to a statement from the law firm filing the case.

[Sale of Child Abusers' Home Benefits Organization that Serves Victims](#)

Because the property played a central role in the crimes—including facilitating the movement of minors across state lines—local investigators and prosecutors worked with the U.S. Attorney's Office to seize the property under federal asset forfeiture laws. The effort set in motion a novel approach to supporting a program for young victims like those the Cassidy brothers abused from 1963 to 1986.

[Second Woman Sues Houston Over Rape Kit Inaction](#)

A second woman has joined a class-action lawsuit against Houston, alleging that her rapist never would have been free to attack her in her own bed while her children were present if law enforcement had tested the "backlog" of rape kits.

['All pieces of puzzle fell together': Familial DNA helps crack case of woman murdered on Mother's Day, police say](#)

A man has been charged in the death of Nataliya Shal, whose body was found lying on the floor of her Baytown apartment on Mother's Day 2016. The case went cold for more than a year until forensic evidence, much like that seen on a CSI television show, helped lead investigators to her alleged killer.

[Lab testing drugs brings increasing dangers for forensic scientists](#)

We know that drugs are dangerous to the users, but they're also becoming increasingly dangerous to law enforcement, and even to forensic scientists who work in laboratories. Those dangers are creating a backlog of

testing.

[Soering adds to petition for pardon, expresses frustration that decision was punted to Northham](#)

"It was really common to overstate testimony," Garrett said, adding that the FBI has since audited hundreds and hundreds of cases, only to find that some of their forensic evidence was not presented in a proper scientific context at trials.

[The Top Criminal-Justice Wins of 2017](#)

In November, prosecutors dismissed another 6,000 cases because of chemist Sonja Farak's illegal activity in another crime lab. In addition to tampering with evidence, Farak stole and used drugs from a lab at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and conducted most of her work over eight years while high.

[El Paso County approves funding for crime lab chemist to help with DWI case backlog](#)

El Paso County commissioners approved close to \$160,000 Thursday(?) for a crime lab chemist. It's a position Judge Robert Anchondo said will help with the major DWI case backlog in El Paso.

[Update: Paris Man Causes House Explosion to Cover Child's Death](#)

A residential fire in Paris was started by a man who intended to cover up a child's death, court documents state.

[Exonerated Tennessee man seeks \\$1M after 31 years in prison](#)

A Tennessee man who spent more than 31 years in prison before new DNA evidence led to his rape and burglary conviction being overturned is asking the state for \$1 million in damages.

[Young forensic scholar wins best research award](#)

PATIALA: Amandeep Kaur, a research scholar in the Department of Forensic Science at Punjabi University has won the 'best research paper award' in the national conference on Forensic Science, organised by the Government Institute of Forensic Science, Nagpur.

[Massachusetts prosecutors to throw out 8,000 convictions in second drug lab scandal](#)

Prosecutors from across Massachusetts have tallied more than 8,000 convictions they say will be dismissed because they are tainted by a scandal at the state drug lab, according to new court filings by the Massachusetts attorney general.

[Trial in 1987 Billings rape case on hold as Montana Supreme Court considers statute of limitations](#)

The Montana Supreme Court is now reviewing whether charges against a man accused of raping a Billings girl in 1987 were filed outside the statute of limitations.

New Narcotics Protection Kit as You Face the Dangerous Opioid Epidemic

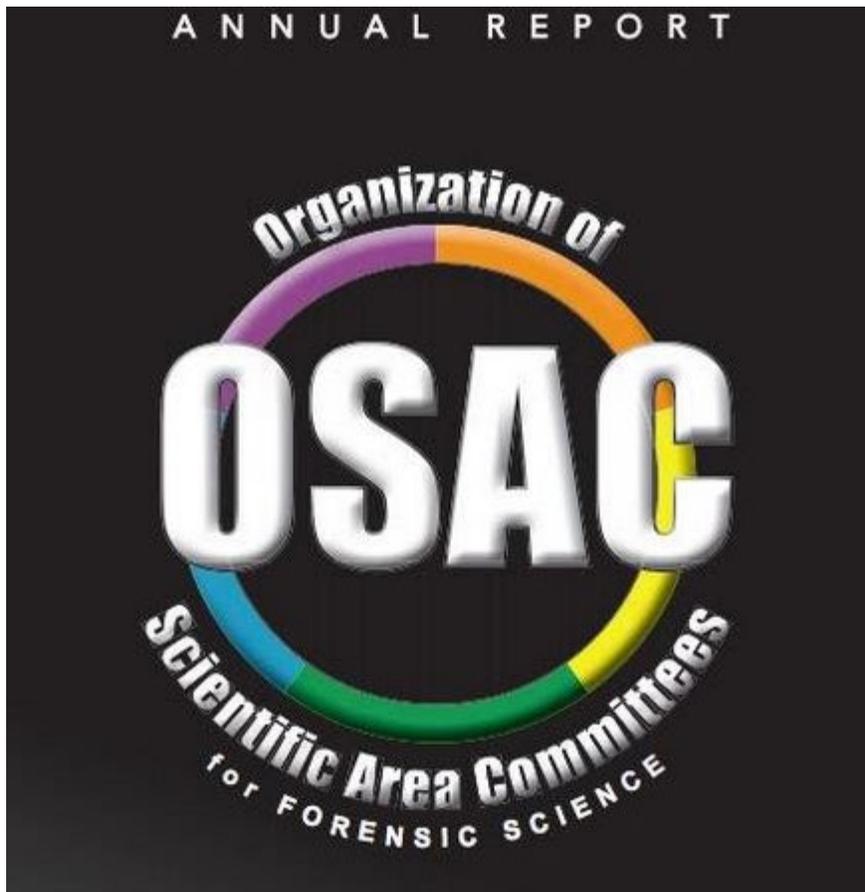
We designed this single-use kit following DEA & CDC guidelines

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](#)



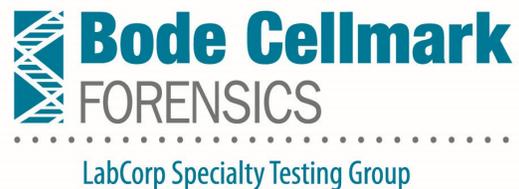
<http://www.sirchie.com/nark-ppe-kit-available-in-med-large-x-large-2xl.html#.WaNzc-mQxPb>



Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science
Annual Report 2017

 Forward

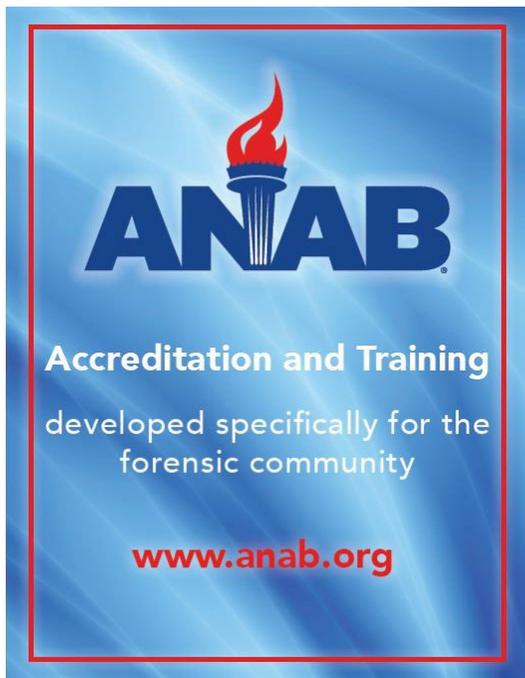
OSAC Subcommittees
<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-subcommittees>



[Bode Cellmark Forensics](#) provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

Bode's newest offerings include:
[Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction Program](#) streamlines processes to eliminate backlogs of untested sexual assault kits.

[Bode Buccal 2™](#) is uniquely designed to improve



DNA databanking collecting and automate processing. The Bode Buccal 2 is a DIRECT COLLECTION SYSTEM that requires minimal training. There is NO Transfer Step Required.

[Independent Validation Services](#) are customized to meet your laboratory's needs. Validation services provide completely unbiased analysis on your equipment, chemistries, or process.



Genetics in Forensics Congress

Oxford Global Conferences: www.oxfordglobal.co.uk

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



Establishment of an Office of Forensic Sciences and a Forensic Science Board Within the Department of Justice
Revision 2/14/17

http://thecfso.org/advocacy/20170214_CFSO_OFS_Proposal_Rev.pdf

Formed in 2000, CFSO is an association of six forensic science professional organizations: American Academy of Forensic Sciences; American Society of Crime Lab Directors; International Association for Identification; International Association of Forensic Nurses; National Association of Medical Examiners; and Society of Forensic Toxicologists - American Board of Forensic Toxicology. These professional organizations together represent more than 21,000 forensic science professionals across the United States.

[Read the CFSO Newsletter here.](#)

The Forensic Science Leadership Series at Cedar Crest College
2018 Workshops

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

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

Introduction

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

Grant Assistance for DNA

analysis and interpretation of bloodstains on clothing and other textiles.

When examining clothing, the practitioner must be mindful of influences such as the fibre type, texture, treatments, all of which may affect the final appearance of bloodstains. The primary focus of the course is to develop those skills required for the examination of bloodstain patterns found on clothing items, including the use of microscopy to discriminate between spatter and transfer bloodstains

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

FORESIGHT 20/20

Greetings from the Project FORESIGHT team. We invite you to join us and submit data for the past fiscal year. 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. **FORESIGHT is open to any forensic laboratory that completes and submits a LabRAT form. There is no charge for participation.** Attached you will find an example of an individualized report prepared for a participating laboratory.

To participate, simply complete the attached 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, 2017.

Foresight 20/20

Impression, Pattern and Trace Evidence Symposium January 22-25, 2018

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



Two excellent job opportunities are available at JusticeTrax; Come join our Great Team! We have a Software Tester position and a Customer Care IT Support Specialist II position open.

Please read about the openings at <https://justicetrax.com/employment/>

Also, please consider attending the 2017 User Group Meeting: <https://justicetrax.com/sales/2017-user-group-meeting/>

www.JusticeTrax.com
 (800) 288-5467

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

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 11

These research reports have been submitted by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) especially for their relevance to crime laboratory activities. ASCLD has not reviewed nor does it necessarily endorse the findings of this research.

[NIJ-FBI Fingerprint Partnership Identifies 200 Missing Persons](#)

In March of this year, a new collaboration began between the National Institute of Justice and the FBI Laboratory. Fingerprints

Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel<<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/waspy-renaissance-arlington-capital-view-hotel/>>
2800 South Potomac Ave Arlington Virginia 22202 USA
<<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/waspy-renaissance-arlington-capital-view-hotel/>>

CALL for ABSTRACTS and CALL for WORKSHOPS are now open

Call for ABSTRACTS closes October 13th, 2017<x-apple-data-detectors://3>

Call for WORKSHOPS closes October 18<x-apple-data-detectors://4>th<x-apple-data-detectors://4>, 2017<x-apple-data-detectors://4>

Registration for attendees and presenters is FREE!

Attendee Registration will be opening soon.

All selected domestic presenters, except federal employees, will be funded for this event. Funding includes airfare and lodging that is arranged and prepaid by RTI. Other travel related expenses such as meals (at per diem rate), taxi, mileage and parking will be reimbursed following the workshop. Further detail will be provided to those selected with acceptance letters. International travel will not be funded.

For more information and to submit your abstract(s) or workshop proposal(s) please go to<<http://www.forensiccoe.org/workshop/18-IPTES>><<http://www.forensiccoe.org/workshop/18-IPTES>><<http://www.forensiccoe.org/workshop/18-IPTES>>

For questions please contact forensicCOE@rti.org<<mailto:forensicCOE@rti.org>>

West Virginia University Forensic Management Academy

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

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[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.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

from unidentified missing persons are sent to the FBI where a new technology, known as Next Generation Identification, along with enhanced processing protocols, is improving the odds of identification. Identifications are increasing even with poor quality prints or with those that have been searched in the past.

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

The National Institute of Justice recently released a report on National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach in response to the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act of 2013, which focuses on the accurate, timely, and effective collection and processing of DNA evidence in sexual assault investigations. A practitioner working group developed 35 recommendations that provide a roadmap for collecting, transferring, preserving, storing and analyzing sexual assault kits. The recommendations apply to medical professionals, members of law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors and laboratories. A coordinated, collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to sexual assault investigations helps reassure and support victims of sexual violence, encourages victim engagement and increases the potential for just legal resolutions.

[The Fingerprint Sourcebook is Now Available in Spanish](#)

NIJ has released a Spanish-language version of The Fingerprint Sourcebook, which aims to be the definitive resource on the science of fingerprint identification. The Sourcebook was prepared by the International Association for Identification and topics covered include the anatomy and physiology of friction ridge skin; techniques for recording exemplars from both living and deceased subjects; AFIS; latent print development, preservation and documentation; equipment and laboratory quality assurance; perceptual, cognitive and psychological factors in expert identifications; and legal issues.

[Forensic Identification Using Individual Chemical Signatures](#)

NIJ-funded researchers developed an approach to translate chemical signatures recovered from personal objects such as phones into a lifestyle sketch of the owner, using mass spectrometry and informatics approaches.

[Quantifying Error Rates for the Measurement of Human Skeletal Remains](#)

NIJ-funded researchers revised forensic anthropology procedures to include an "error metric" for the measurement of human skeletal remains. This article summarizes findings from that study.

[Designing Methods to Identify Evolving Designer Drugs](#)

This article describes an NIJ-supported research project focused on issues of resolution and discriminatory capabilities needed to increase the reliability and selectivity of forensic evidence and analytical data for new bath salt-type drugs of abuse.

[Standardized Process Developed for Identifying Dyes in Fibers](#)

This article summarizes method with the twofold purpose of producing a novel, reliable, and useful microfluidic system for fabric dye extraction and increasing the knowledge needed to guide criminal justice policy and practice related to the forensic analysis of dyed fabric.

[The Most Important Features for an Effective Sexual Assault Response Team](#)

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.



National Institute of Justice's latest Graduate Research Fellowships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. NIJ has made 20 new awards in 2017 for STEM fellows, totaling \$960,861 for graduate students working towards advancing NIJ's mission. The GRF-STEM program funds dissertation research across a wide range of topics to criminal justice, including the forensic sciences.

[See a full list of awards and descriptions, awardees, and dollar amounts.](#)
[Sign up to get email notices when NIJ releases GRF and other funding solicitations.](#)

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

National Institute of Justice Awards

National Institute of Justice's latest Graduate Research Fellowships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. NIJ has made 20 new awards in 2017 for STEM fellows, totaling \$960,861 for graduate students working towards advancing NIJ's mission. The GRF-STEM program funds dissertation research across a wide range of topics to criminal justice, including the forensic sciences.

[See a full list of awards and descriptions, awardees, and dollar amounts.](#)
[Sign up to get email notices when NIJ releases GRF and other funding solicitations.](#)

Canadian Forensic Science Journal

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 physical evidence: handguns, cell phones, drug packaging, and ski masks.

[Method Development and Validation of Toolmark Imaging, Virtual Casings Comparison, and In-Lab Verification using a GelSight-Based Three Dimensional Imaging and Analysis](#)

Stemming from a previous project that developed a 3D surface topography imaging and analysis system for casings based on the GelSight scanning technology and custom feature-based image comparison, this NIJ-supported project aimed 1) to develop the ability to scan and compare firing pin impressions; 2) to examine the use of the imaging and analysis technology in a live lab experiment; and 3) to investigate Virtual Microscopy, the use of measured 3D surface topographics as a substitute for physical casings.

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



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

Leadership series instructors and modules available.

Jody Wolf

Modules: Generations, Cultural Diversity, Leadership Principles and Concepts

Dr. Terry Anderson

Modules: Personal Leadership, Practical Emotional Intelligence, Moral Compass

Dean Gialamas

Modules: Leadership and Ethics, Leadership and Power

Deputy Chief Timothy P. Scanlan

Modules: Leadership and Change, First-Line And Mid-Level Supervision

Jeremy Triplett

Modules: Leadership Theories and DiSC Styles, Founding Fathers on Leadership



NFSTC Celebrating 2018

[December 17, 2017 Michelle Chernicoff](#)

As we close out 2017, we're looking back at some of our accomplishments. Through our 22 year history, we have learned it's our customers and colleagues truly share in our success.

Here are just a few of our team's favorite 2017 accomplishments:

- NFSTC's first ever [U.S. Department of State training](#) for more than 50 DNA and crime scene analysts from Central America
- Hosted annual [ROTC internship](#) for 12 Cadets
- Enrolled more than 145 people in our [online courses](#)
- Trained 148 military students at our facility
- Published the [Crime Scene Investigation Guide in Spanish](#)
- Released a second season of the [award-winning series Fauxrensic](#)

And that's just a small portion of our work.

As we look forward to 2018 and our future with [Florida International University](#), we know we'll continue to offer the highest quality training and support to our customers.

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

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