PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Colleagues,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2017! I’m always excited by the New Year as a time to set new goals, make changes, and look forward to the future. I am excited about many things in store for ASCLD this 2017 and I know that your Board of Directors is eager to kick things into gear between now and our Symposium in April/May.

This week I want to draw your attention to a National Institute of Justice grant solicitation that is currently open and specifically designed to solve the real world crime laboratory problems of testing and evaluation of evidence in publicly funded labs. Now in its 3rd year, NIJ’s Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories program is intended to meet the goals of:

- Assessing Existing Laboratory Protocols – Improving the understanding of the scientific rationale underpinning existing laboratory processes
- Evaluating Emerging Methods – Assessing the value of emerging laboratory processes

This solicitation is a little different from NIJ’s Basic and Applied Research grants in that it looks at the processing of evidence instead of scientific advancement. I’m particularly excited about this solicitation and hope that many ASCLD members will consider submitting a proposal. This type of program, in my own opinion, seems to be directly in line with some of ASCLD’s key objectives and I hope that NIJ and ASCLD can continue to work together to highlight many of the successful grant projects through ASCLD distribution channels so that the ASCLD membership can be made aware of the great projects that result from this program and we can learn from each others’ successes.

The deadline for applications under this funding opportunity is February 27. You can find more information about the specifics of the solicitation at:

https://www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/current.aspx

Have a great week!

Kindest regards,

Jeremy

“Dream big. Start small. But most of all... start.” -Simon Sinek
HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

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.asclds symposium.com/hoteltravel

Links can also be found on the ASCLD FACEBOOK page at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10001047606575

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.asclds symposium.com/sponsors-exhibitors

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.

Registration for the 2017 Leadership academy is $550 for ASCLD members and $650 for non-members and includes all 12 online sessions, the on-site capstone course at the ASCLD Symposium, all the training materials for the academy, AND complementary registration to the entire 2017 ASCLD Symposium (travel and lodging not included). The registration deadline is January 25, 2017.

For more information, please visit the Academy web page at http://www.ascld.org/meetings-and-training/ascld-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/2017asclds symposium

**PCAST related News**

**Weekly PCAST news articles:**


- Forensic evidence largely not supported by sound science – now what? By Jessica Gabel Cino, 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](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/](https://richardbrenneman.wordpress.com/2016/12/07/forensic-criminal-science-based-on-very-few-facts/)

**PCAST Future Meetings**

- PCAST will hold a public meeting on January 6, 2017. Online registration for the PCAST public meeting is now CLOSED. Registration is required to join this meeting.

---

**National Commission on Forensic Science News**

[https://www.justice.gov/ncfs/meetings](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.](https://www.justice.gov/ncfs/meetings)

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

- If you would like to receive email updates as new information or new materials are added, please subscribe. Email updates
NIJ is accepting applications for funding opportunities listed below in order of application deadline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solicitation Title</th>
<th>Date Posted</th>
<th>Application Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories</td>
<td>December 29, 2016</td>
<td>February 27, 2017 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date: Friday, January 6, 2017
Time: 8:45am-12:00 pm EDT
Location: National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20418
Room: Lecture Room

Social media: You can join the conversation about PCAST meetings and activities by following OSTP on Twitter @whitehouseostp and tracking the hashtag #PCAST.

**Top Stories**

Nearly half of Idaho's rape kits not sent to lab

Post Register

The law implemented a timeline for police who decide to send the evidence to a state forensic laboratory for testing, unless the victim requests...

Police: Nearly half of Idaho's rape kits not sent to lab - Tri-City Herald

Ashland, Oregon lab is only one in world dedicated to wildlife crime

Metro

The lab, which is based in Ashland in the US state of Oregon, was set up in 1988 by the US Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement...

Top 10 Criminal Justice Stories The biggest stories from local cops, courts, and criminals

Austin Chronicle

1) Crime Lab Shutdown Longstanding malpractice at APD's forensic lab led to a June shutdown that continues to stall the prosecution of many...

Montana Editorial Roundup

Washington Times

After struggling to recruit and retain forensic pathologists for the past two years, the Montana Crime Lab is expecting more turnover. The state lost three...

Civil aviation authority for forensic audit

Stabroek News

The comments section is intended to provide a forum for reasoned and reasonable debate on the newspaper's content and is an extension of the...

Necrobiome' Could Change the Game for Forensic Scientists

Newser

“By knowing which microbes take over a dead body and how long it takes, forensic scientists might be able to use this technique to determine time of ...

Message from the FSSB: Consolidating OSAC Registries by January 2017

The OSAC Registry is 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.


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

February 14, 2017 (Tuesday)
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM OSAC Crime Scene/Death Investigation Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM OSAC Physics/Pattern Interpretation Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion
Ratios That Emerge Over an Extended Period of Time

ASCLD Crime Lab Minute January 3, 2017

Ratios That Emerge Over an Extended Period of Time

1800 Students: Statistical Analysis and Likelihood

Impression Evidence

Enhancing, and Preserving Bloody and Proteinaceous Developing DNA Friendly Fluorogenic Methods for Detecting, investigations. After analyzing dried blood project to see if newborn testing of dried blood has broader established in newborn testing, conducted this NIJ-supported International, noting that dried blood spot analysis is well blood for forensic applications. Researchers at RTI examine a crime scene, but such evidence often isn't collected because very little work has been done in the analysis of dried blood for forensic applications. Researchers at RTI International, noting that dried blood spot analysis is well established in newborn testing, conducted this NIJ-supported project to see if newborn testing of dried blood has broader applications in forensic toxicology. After analyzing dried blood samples for 28 drugs, the researchers showed it was comparable to more routine blood tests and useful in forensic investigations.

Developing DNA Friendly Fluorogenic Methods for Detecting, Enhancing, and Preserving Bloody and Proteinaceous Impression Evidence

The researchers found that DNA capable of producing full STR profiles can be extracted from semen and blood impressions, but not from impressions in any biofluid treated with Fluorogenic Enhancement Sprays. The researchers concluded that in many instances, both impression evidence and DNA can be recovered from a single evidentiary item.


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,
Paula

Pamela J. Staton, Ph.D.
Professor & Graduate Programs Coordinator
Marshall University Forensic Science
1401 Forensic Science Drive
Huntington, WV 25701
Ph: 304-634-5263 Mobile; 304-691-8931 Office
staton1@marshall.edu
www.marshall.edu/forensics

Marshall University Forensic Science provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

Bode Cellmark Forensics is uniquely designed to improve DNA databanking collecting and automating 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
For decades, questioned document examiners (QDE) have conducted handwriting comparisons based on the assumption that no two people write the same way and no one person writes exactly the same way twice.

Analysis of Drugs of Abuse in Human Hair: Surface Contamination and Localization of Analysis

For more than two decades, researchers and scientists have utilized hair testing for drug abuse in addition to blood and urine tests. Despite considerable research and current analytical technologies and interpretive methods, environmental contamination remains an unresolved issue for hair, and controversy exists over the source of drug residues found in hair and the potential for environmental contamination to cause false-positive test results.

Characterization of Designer Drugs: Chemical Stability, Exposure, and Metabolite Identification

Designer drugs, such as synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones have become increasingly prevalent, as have their health and societal consequences. Currently, little is known about the pharmacological and toxicological profiles of these products. The consequences of long-term usage have yet to be studied, and behavioral and metabolic studies have only been performed on a relatively limited number of compounds. The objective of this research is to gain a more thorough understanding of designer drugs with respect to their chemical exposure profiles and biological elimination pathways.

Separation and Identification of Drugs by Electrospray Ionization-Ion Mobility Spectrometry-Mass Spectrometry

Ion mobility spectrometry (IMS) has been described in scientific literature as both a stand-alone separation technique and as a hyphenated technique to enhance other analytical determinations. Despite this flexibility and versatility, the applications of IMS have not grown as quickly as those of gas chromatography (GC) or liquid chromatography (LC). This research describes the use of IMS as a lab-based analytical technique able to perform separations on par with GC and LC separations.

Error Rates for Latent Fingerprinting as a Function of Visual Complexity and Cognitive Difficulty

The comparison of forensic fingerprint images for purposes of identification is a complex task that, despite advances in image processing, still requires highly trained human examiners to achieve adequate levels of performance. This NIJ-supported project by researchers at the University of California aims to determine more about the relationship between the measurable, visual dimensions of fingerprint pairs and the level of comparison difficulty for human examiners, both experts, and to a lesser degree, novices.

FOR JOURNALISTS - ACCESS TO NIST Databases

NIST is committed to providing the most reliable and accurate databases to support research and development in the forensic science community. To access NIST databases, please visit the NIST Databases website:

https://www.nist.gov/databases

This initiative is part of NIST's mission to promote the nation's measurement standards, systems, and technology, and to enhance the quality of life for all Americans. By providing access to NIST databases, we aim to support the scientific community in their efforts to improve forensic science practices and to advance the understanding of complex forensic issues.

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:
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
False-Positive/Negative Error Rates in Cartridge Case Comparisons
Version 1

ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 1 – Archival Version
ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 – Archival Version
ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 3 – Archival Version

ASCLD Webinar Series:
Conferences
January 17-19, 2017: 3rd Annual Middle East Congress of the International Association of Law and Forensic Sciences (IALFS) – Cairo, Egypt
Conferences

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

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 perr@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

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

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.


Agenda

https://rti.connectsolutions.com/p609pi5jsm/