

CLM January 9, 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Colleagues,

This week I'm pleased to present to the membership the ASCLD mid-year report for this board year. The mid-year report includes updates from each ASCLD committee and their activities between the 2016 symposium and our mid-year in-person Board of Directors meeting in November. It's my hope that this mid-year report will give you insight into everything that has either been completed or is in-progress at this time and keep you apprised of the direction and status of the organization.

I'm very proud of our Board so far this year. We have quite a few active projects right now and everything is on time or very close. I'm looking forward to seeing many of these projects come to fruition this Spring, and I look forward to sharing with you the final reports at our Symposium in Dallas.

You can download the 2016 ASCLD mid-year report here: [LINK](#)

Have a great week!

Kindest regards,
Jeremy Triplett

Vacancy on the National Commission on Forensic Science

A Federal Register Notice was posted on Tuesday, December 27th for a Statistician vacancy on the [National Commission on Forensic Science](#). The NCFS would like to ensure that the crime laboratory community is aware of the vacancy and encourages anyone with interest in serving on the NCFS and expertise in statistics to apply. Application instructions are included in the notice and should be submitted by Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/27/2016-31232/national-commission-on-forensic-science-solicitation-of-applications-for-additional-statistician?utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email

SAVE THE DATE - 2017 International Symposium on Forensic Science Error Management

NIST will host jointly with the FBI the 2017 International Symposium on Forensic Science Error Management at NIST in Gaithersburg, MD, on July 24-28, 2017. This will be the second error management symposium convened by NIST. The first was in July in 2015, attended by more than 430 professionals, and was considered a huge success by more than 90% of the post-symposium survey respondents.

Please see the official Save the Date announcement at the link below and be sure to mark your calendars!

<http://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/2017-international-forensic-science-error-management-symposium>



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>



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/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. 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=.dbccc4e806a5

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

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 11, 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.

If you would like to receive email updates as new information or new materials are added, please subscribe. ✉ [Email updates](#)

<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](#) 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/>

PCAST Future Meetings

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

[Statewide policy needed to test sexual assault kits, report finds](#)

WBAL Baltimore
 Implement victim notification requirements that mandate investigators notify victims when a kit is sent for testing to the crime laboratory and the results ...

[DNA Helps, But It Doesn't Lock In A Sexual Assault Conviction](#)

KPBS
 But even if a prosecutor has DNA to use in court, that doesn't mean an accused rapist is going straight to jail. The biggest hurdle of all might be how ...

[Alere Laboratory Receives ABFT Accreditation](#)

Yahoo Finance
 4, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- Alere Inc. (ALR), a global leader in rapid diagnostics, today announced that its forensic toxicology division, Alere Forensics at ...

[Austin police DNA lab could remain closed until mid-2018](#)

LubbockOnline.com
 AUSTIN (AP) — Austin leaders are being urged to find a temporary solution to reopen the police DNA crime lab amid concerns that its months-long ...

[Expand DNA testing for justice's sake](#)

Ridgewood Times Newsweekly
 Expanded DNA testing may help bring justice to the family of Karina ... Forensic investigators were able to create a DNA profile from that evidence and ...

[Butte County Evidence Tech Accused Of Stealing Weapons, Drugs From Building](#)

CBS Local
 She had resigned from the department in May 2016 in light of an investigation into her alleged mishandling of property in the evidence building.

[Lagos forensic lab: What the public needs to know](#)

The Punch
 In a few weeks or months to come, the Lagos State Government-owned forensic science/DNA laboratory will come on stream. It's touted to be a ...



Is Some Forensic Science "Junk" Science? Jennifer Mnookin Interview With Malcolm

Malcolm Fleschner of The Young Turks interviews Jennifer Mnookin, Dean of the UCLA School of Law. Malcolm and Dean Mnookin discuss why hopelessly faulty forensic science is going unchallenged in courtrooms across the country and being used to put countless innocent defendants in prison.

Fleschner <https://us6.admin.mailchimp.com/campaigns/wizard/neapolitan?id=1150957#>



[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



Upcoming Webinar on 1/11/17 and Dear Colleague Letter from Director Nancy Rodriguez

NIJ recently released a solicitation for "Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes." In a new Dear Colleague Letter announcing this solicitation, the Director calls attention to NIJ's core program supporting forensic science R&D across a wide range of disciplines, including, but not limited to: forensic biology, chemistry, physics, anthropology, and pathology. NIJ also encourages researchers with expertise in other relevant sciences to partner with forensic scientists to enhance and grow existing research efforts.

[Read the Dear Colleague Letter.](#)

[Register to attend a webinar](#) on this opportunity on January 11, 2017 at 2:00 PM ET, or get notified when the recording is available.

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

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 7.

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.

[National Institute of Justice Invests \\$63 Million in Nation's Crime Labs](#)

The National Institute of Justice announced awards of more than \$63 million to 132 state and local jurisdictions to increase laboratory capacity and reduce the number of DNA samples awaiting analysis through its DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program.

[Local cold case victims' buried remains puzzle pieces for renowned forensic expert](#)
Abstract from the Times Leader:

The project, headed by State Police and Luzerne County District Attorney's Office, wasn't going to be cheap. Digging up one body from a single grave can cost upwards of \$10,000, according to Chuck Heurich, a senior scientist and program manager of the Department of Justice's forensics division [the National Institute of Justice].

[Genome-Wide Association Study Reveals Multiple Loci Influencing Normal Human Facial Morphology](#)
NIJ-supported researchers from the University of Colorado Denver recently published an article in PLOS Genetics. Author summary retrieved 10/12/2016:

[Improving the confidence of "questioned versus known" fiber comparisons using microspectrophotometry and chemometrics](#)
NIJ-supported researchers from the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis recently published an article in Forensic Chemistry. Abstract retrieved 10/12/2016:

[A cooperative-binding split aptamer assay for rapid, specific and ultra-sensitive fluorescence detection of cocaine in saliva](#)
NIJ-supported researchers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety recently published an article in Chemical Science. Abstract retrieved 10/12/2016:

[An Examination of the Conditions Affecting Forensic Scientists' Workplace Productivity and Occupational Stress](#)

The NIJ-supported research team at Michigan State University surveyed 899 crime lab technicians and forensic scientists regarding work conditions, job satisfaction, and working relationships with police and prosecutors. By and large, forensic scientists exhibited very high rates of job satisfaction but also exhibited the similar stress levels as other criminal justice professionals.

Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM OSAC Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis Scientific
Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion

(Internal OSAC Meeting) Full OSAC Meeting, April 2017 tentatively in Leesburg, VA.

Dear OSAC Professional Association Representatives:

We understand that your members may have interest in recent OSAC events. If so, we have announced the SAVE THE DATE for the OSAC Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion Events at the 2017 AAFS Conference in New Orleans.

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-newsletter-november-2016#SaveTheDate>

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

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



[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.

Dried Blood Spot Analysis as an Emerging Technology for Application in Forensic Toxicology

Investigators often encounter dried blood spots as they 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.

Development of Individual Handwriting Characteristics in [about] 1800 Students: Statistical Analysis and Likelihood Ratios That Emerge Over an Extended Period of Time

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.



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

[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 – Toxicology](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Norfolk, VA, Expires: January 10, 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

[Forensic Toxicologist or Trainee](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Norfolk, VA, Expires: January 8, 2017

[Chair](#), West Virginia University – Department of Forensic & Investigative Science, Morgantown, WV, Expires: January 9, 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 3, 2017

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Bringing together experts from the forensic, research, legal, and law enforcement communities to strengthen forensic science and create a safer, more just society.

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science>

Events

[Exoskeleton Technical Interchange Meeting](#)

January 26, 2017 to January 27, 2017

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

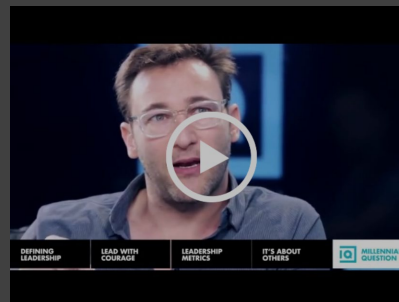
February 15, 2017 to February 17, 2017

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

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



Simon Sinek on Millennials in the Workplace

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](#)
- 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

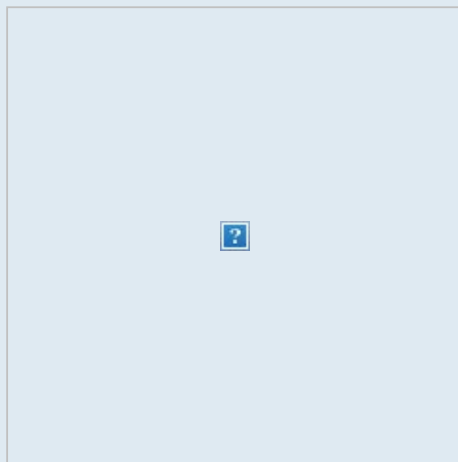
ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series

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](#)

Forensic Science Policy & Management

Current Online Issue [here](#)



<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/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 Czyrca](#)

Pages: 98-105

Published online: 11 Oct 2016

[Risk, Reward, and Redemption: Root Cause Analysis in Forensic Organizations](#)

[Max M. Houck](#)

Pages: 106-112

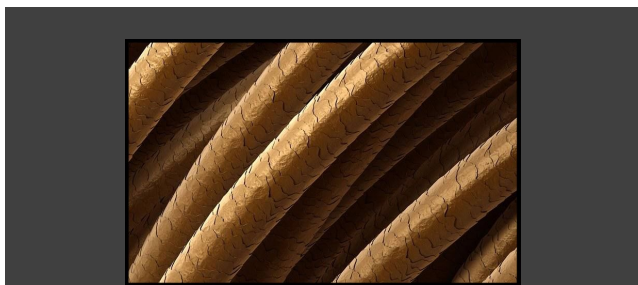
Published online: 11 Oct 2016

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



Hair Analysis Review: Dozen States Looking at Criminal Cases
 Fri, 01/06/2017 - 11:48am

by Seth Augenstein - Senior Science Writer -
 @SethAugenstein
<http://www.forensicmag.com/>

FBI examiners had presented scientifically-flawed hair analysis at criminal cases nationwide for multiple decades, occasionally resulting in innocent people being convicted for crimes they did not commit, the Bureau admitted in 2015.

Nearly two years later, criminal cases in a dozen states over several decades featuring the hair assessments are now being combed through, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers told Forensic Magazine.

Groups in Iowa, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Texas, California, New York, Washington, Virginia, Washington D.C. are currently reviewing criminal cases involving the hair-analysis techniques, said Vanessa Antoun, senior resource counsel with the NACDL, which is keeping track of the efforts, which are done on a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction level.

Coupled with other states monitored by the Midwest Innocence Project, the number of states is roughly a dozen, she added.

But not all those efforts have yet been made public, she told Forensic Magazine in a recent interview.

The vast majority of the cases in which FBI hair examiners testified were at the state as opposed to federal level, according to Antoun.

But some states did have their own examiners trained at a two-week hair and fiber school run by the Bureau, she added. One of those states was Florida, which had its own experts testifying in cases statewide. (Some 48 states had sent experts to the FBI training in the years it was held).

Approximately 3,000 cases involved the flawed FBI hair analysis from 1985 to 1999. The FBI is still reviewing those cases for errors by examiners, who were using subjective measures in testimony and determinations about matches from suspects to crime scenes. That announcement was made by the Bureau in April 2015. But from the outset, the Innocence Project and other defense advocates said the pool of potentially-related criminal cases could be much larger than the initial 3,000. The Bureau said it had difficulties identifying cases prior to 1985, when it started its computer system – and the federal agency initially started its hair analysis program in the 1930s.

FBI Director James Comey sent a letter to U.S. governors in June 2016 in which he assured the states that after 1999, the FBI had added mitochondrial analysis to further validate the testimony of experts.

Comey asked the governors to ask state and local crime labs to review their own cases to validate the hair evidence presented at courts before 2000.

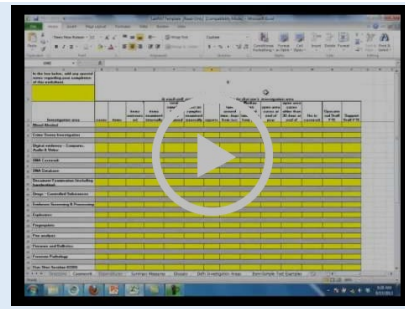
"We want to make sure there aren't other innocent people in jail based on our work," Comey wrote. "Unfortunately, in a large number of cases, our examiners made statements that went too far in explaining the significance of a hair comparison and could have misled a jury or judge."

Nine prisoners were executed in the United States based on cases based at least partly on hair evidence. Another five died while behind bars. However, the Innocence Project, the NACDL and the FBI are not identifying those prisoners, and are instead relying on surviving relatives to decide whether to speak to media.

Douglas W. Deedrick, the chief of the FBI's Trace Evidence Unit, wrote in July 2000 that hair evidence needed to be carefully handled by prosecutors in criminal cases. That admission came months after the FBI apparently changed its flawed methods.

"Although hair evidence is a valuable tool in human identification," Deedrick wrote, "it is difficult to establish a statistical probability for a particular association due in part to the lack of reliable quantitative assessments of the microscopic characteristics present in hairs."

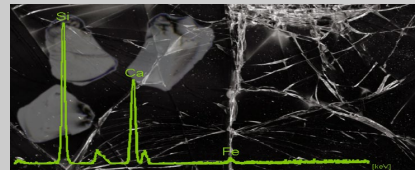
A series of exonerations, retrials, and multimillion-dollar lawsuits



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/>

have resulted in DNA testing of cases featuring the hair evidence. One of the foremost cases was that of Timothy Bridges, who served 25 years in prison based on two hairs found at a rape scene; he was released in 2015, given a full pardon by the North Carolina governor last month, and has a major lawsuit pending.

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
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Florida International University

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

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