Colleagues:

Based on input from the co-chairs and the ASCLD Board, the Member Resources Committee has selected two projects to kick off this new initiative to provide ASCLD members with model documents that can be used as starting points for policies or procedures within individual laboratories. The first project will be related to Employee DNA Databases and the second will be related to Re-analysis of Evidence. If your laboratory has policies or procedures covering these topics that you are willing to share with the committee or if you would like to serve on the committee please contact co-Chairs George Herrin (george.herrin@gbi.ga.gov) or Stephanie Stoiloff (sstoiloff@mdpd.com). The committee will review all submitted documents and draft a model document that incorporates essential points that laboratory management should consider when drafting policy or procedures for their specific laboratory. The goal is to have these first two model documents completed and posted to the ASCLD website by the end of September 2016. Each quarter, two new projects will be identified based upon input from ASCLD members. This is an important new initiative that should help all laboratory managers by providing baseline to improve consistency between laboratories, while still allowing for modifications to address local legal or procedural requirements.

-George Herrin & Stephanie Stoiloff, ASCLD MRC co-chairs"

OSAC Announcement

OSAC Public Comment Period – 4 standards

There are currently 4 standards out for public comment within the OSAC registry approval process as to whether they should be placed on the OSAC Registry of Approved Standards. They are:

- ISO/IEC 17020:2012: Requirements for the Operation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection

The comment period for each standard closes July 21, 2016. Please CLICK HERE to view the documents and provide comments.”

Kind regards,

Jeremy S. Triplett, M.S., F-ABC | Laboratory Supervisor
Kentucky State Police Central Forensic Laboratory
100 Sower Blvd., Suite 102 Frankfort, KY 40601
T: 502-564-5200
F: 502-564-4821
E: jeremy.triplett@ky.gov
www.kentuckystatepolice.org
The Federal Register Notice for the NCFS Digital Evidence Commissioner vacancy was posted. Please spread the word among ASCLD. Application instructions are included in the notice and should be submitted by Wednesday, May 18, 2016. Thanks!


Leadership Academy 2016
Registration for the Leadership Academy 2016 has opened. The attached flyer provides information about the Leadership Academy, as well as the links for registration at the end.

Registration for the Leadership Academy 2016 also includes registration for the ASCLD Symposium. Attending the symposium is a great way to maximize your leadership training opportunities.

Any questions, please email or give a call to Director Kris Deters at Kristine.deters@state.mn.us and 651-793-2994. Additional information about the symposium is also located on the ASCLD Symposium website www.ascldsymposium.com.

“Train the Directors” Webinar Series
ASCLD’s Training and Education Committee is hosting a webinar series titled: ASCLD “Train the Directors” Webinar Series. The series will consist of presentations on six forensic disciplines: Firearms, Toxicology, Controlled Substances, Digital and Multimedia Evidence, Latent Prints and DNA. The goal of the webinar series is to provide education to Directors and Supervisors who may not have performed work in or supervised those disciplines. Each webinar will provide a basic overview of the analysis performed in the discipline. It will also discuss discipline specific administrative/managerial challenges and address current issues and/or challenges facing the forensic science community in the discipline. The webinars will be held Thursdays at 1:00 PM ET from January 14 to February 18, 2016.

The January 14 webinar Firearms speakers will be Deputy Chief Timothy P. Scanlan, Laboratory Services Commander, and Deputy Jene’ D. Rauch of Jefferson Parish Sheriff’s Office.

Link to registration for Firearms Discipline: https://rticqpub1.connectsolutions.com/content/connect/c1/7/en/events/event/shared/1178106013/event_landing.html? sco-id=1186967090&_charset_=utf-8

The January 21 webinar Toxicology speakers will be Ashraf Mozayani, Executive Director of Forensic Sciences & Professor at Texas Southern University and Peter Stout, Houston Forensic Science Center.

Link to the Toxicology Discipline Webinar: https://rticqpub1.connectsolutions.com/content/connect/c1/7/en/events/event/shared/1178106013/event_landing.html? sco-id=1187457664&_charset_=utf-8

Registration Links to follow soon on the ASCLD Website and the Crime Lab Minute:
- The January 28 webinar will be on the Controlled Substances discipline and the speakers will be Nancy Crump, Assistant Crime Lab Administrator, and Roger Schneider, Controlled Substances Supervisor, for Phoenix Police Department.
- Webinars also on February 4 (DME), February 11 (LP) and February 18 (DNA).

Kris Deters
ASCLD Training and Education Chair

“FREE Digital Edition of Evidence Technology Magazine

Evidence Technology Magazine is offering a free issue to ASCLD members. CLICK HERE to view their summer 2016 issue and sign up for a free subscription.”
Research Reports

News: Details will aim to enhance NIJ's approach in studying these areas of national concern.

Detail Applications are due by July 28, 2016.

Detail 1: Sexual Assault and Forensics Research

NIJ has steadily built both forensic laboratory capacity and foundational knowledge on issues such as sexual assault evidence collection, processing, and testing, through efforts spanning both the social and forensic sciences. This detail will work to ensure these research portfolios are well coordinated and aligned.

Read the job description.

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 5

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.

Justice Department Issues Draft Guidance Regarding Expert Testimony and Lab Reports in Forensic Science

The Justice Department announced today the release of draft guidance documents governing the testimony and reports of the department's forensic experts. These documents, available for public comment through July 8, are designed to ensure that department forensic experts only make statements in the courtroom and in laboratory.

ASCI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) 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.

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Police Agencies

September 15-16, 2016, Alexandria, VA

Cost: ASQ member $600, non-ASQ member $650

ISO/IEC 17025 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Test Agencies

September 12-14, 2016, Alexandria, VA

Cost: ASQ member $750, non-ASQ member $800

ASCLD-LAB Training

Training classes to help forensic laboratory personnel understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 General
reports that are supported by sound science.

Using Forensic Botany to Aid Law Enforcement Investigations
The work of NIJ-supported researchers from Sam Houston State University, was recently featured in Newsweek, Houston Matters and Forensic Magazine. Their study uses DNA genotyping of plants to identify exact DNA fingerprints of specific plant life. For example, identifying the exact DNA of marijuana strains could link samples back to their distributors or the DNA of pollen samples could also be used to link pollen evidence to crime scenes.

The Use of E-Cigarettes for Illicit Drugs
The work of NIJ-supported researchers from Virginia Commonwealth University, was recently featured on the university website and in an upcoming NPR interview. Their study explores how drug users are using e-cigarette devices to vape illicit drugs. The team is testing the output of various illicit drugs from an e-cigarette device and whether increasing the voltage on the device would increase the dose delivery. Part of this project will also test claims that e-cigarettes are "safer" than the alternatives.

Forensic Science: A Time of Transformation
This NIJ Journal article addresses some of the ongoing discussions in the forensic, legal, and law enforcement communities over the roles of science and forensic science and the certainty of testimony presented in the courtroom. The article gives special attention to problems related to expressing certainty in non-DNA forensic evidence fields, such as trace evidence, latent prints, and firearms.

Error Rates for Latent Fingerpinting as a Function of Visual Complexity and Cognitive Difficulty
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 examined the relationship between the measurable, visual dimensions of fingerprint pairs and the level of comparison difficulty for the examiners. The research found that error rates are a function of comparison difficulty and showed that it is limiting and even misleading to talk about an overall error rate for the field as a whole. The researchers noted that one of their experiments provides strong evidence that prints vary in difficulty and that the variations affect the likelihood of error.

Improve the PDQ Database to Enhance Investigative Lead Information from Automotive Paints
In a hit-and-run incident with no witnesses, investigators are often left with automotive paint layers recovered from the victim's clothing as evidence. Modern automotive paint systems consist of several layers – a clear coat over a color coat over two layers of undercoating. In this project, NIJ-supported researchers at Oklahoma State University developed infrared prefilters and a cross correlation algorithm for searching the Paint Data Query (PDQ) automotive database. A prefilter was developed to differentiate automotive paint samples by automobile manufacturer using the clear coat and undercoat paint layers. The algorithm can determine the assembly plant where the vehicle was made.

Investigating the Impact of Forensic Evidence Testimony on Juror Decisions
Under this NIJ-supported project, Arizona State University researchers conducted three different experiments to study different aspects of forensic expert testimony. In the first experiment, jurors were asked to mock search for a lost item and then analyze the evidence. The second experiment dealt with the forensic expert's level of certainty over whether there is exculpatory evidence. Researchers found that exculpatory evidence did not weigh heavily on the mock jurors initially, but during the deliberation the presence of exculpatory evidence became equally as influential as other evidence. Finally, the third experiment investigated the influence of whether the forensic expert concedes that the analysis may include...
Examining the Effects of Environmental Degradation on the Optical Properties of Manufactured Fibers of Natural Origin

Synthetic fibers derived from natural, biological sources – known as Manufactured Fibers of Natural Origin (MFNOs) – are becoming increasingly popular in textiles and clothing. NIJ-supported researchers at the McCrone Research Institute theorized that because the underlying polymer in MFNOs is naturally derived, the materials are more likely to be affected by environmental conditions over time, and any changes in their optical and physical properties due to degradation may have consequences in the forensic laboratory. The researchers evaluated three types of MFNOs exposed to six different environments and found that the properties of the materials were largely unchanged. Some samples showed morphological changes when exposed to ultraviolet light or submerged in water, but “these results may potentially strengthen an association if the same optical and morphological changes are seen in both the questioned and known MFNO fibers.”

Identifying and Communicating Genetic Determinants of Facial Features: Practical Considerations in Forensic Molecular Photofitting

Researchers at Pennsylvania State University, with NIJ funding, utilize the modeling of human facial features so that they can be analyzed and then related to underlying genetic variation. An important finding of the project is methodology for giving researchers a way to work with facial features to accomplish new analyses especially in helping to identify the roles played by variation at particular genes. By jointly modeling sex, genomic ancestry, and genotype the independent effects of particular alleles on facial features can be detected. This NIJ-supported research by Florida International University developed a method for performing rapid and inexpensive analyses of seized drugs commonly encountered by law enforcement, particularly controlled amphetamine substances and the emerging designer drugs. The results suggest that chiral separation by IMS-MS with an optimal solvent system.

Separation and Identification of Drugs of Abuse Using ESI-IMS-MS

This NIJ-supported research by Florida International University developed a method for performing rapid and inexpensive analyses of seized drugs commonly encountered by law enforcement, particularly controlled amphetamine substances and the emerging designer drugs. The results suggest that chiral separation by IMS-MS with an optimal solvent system.

Microfluidic System for Automated Dye Molecule Extraction and Detection for Forensic Fiber Identification

This NIJ-supported project succeeded in identifying and creating the optimum extraction conditions for different dyes and fabrics, and it developed an automated microfluidic dye extraction system that produces these conditions. This report provides information on the extraction solvent, the extraction chamber material, cavity shape, valve configurations, extraction temperature, and the macro fluidic extraction and analysis. The developed system enables objective comparisons of fiber dyes and a statistical error calculation useful in court testimony.

Forensic Conferences

WVU Forensic Management Academy
August 28 – September 2, 2016

**News Around the Globe**

**Convicted killers to have fingerprints, DNA collected in effort to solve S.A. cold cases**

South Australian police will take fingerprints and obtain DNA from up to 250 people previously convicted for murder or manslaughter in the state in an effort to verify if they committed any of the State's 200 cold cases. The initiative is part of the police's broader efforts to solve cold cases and is intended to prevent wrongful convictions. The collection of these samples will allow for the use of DNA evidence in future criminal investigations. 

DNA leads police to burglary suspect

Police in Long Island, New York, have identified a suspect in a home invasion and burglary based on DNA evidence collected at the scene. The suspect was arrested after a search warrant was executed at his residence. The case highlights the importance of DNA evidence in solving crimes and the role of police in effectively utilizing such evidence to apprehend suspects.

**UPDATE at 4:45 pm: Suspect being held in Winnsboro shooting**

Monroe News Star

Cobb said he requested the state police crime lab to process the crime scene. An arrest has not been made, but Cobb said he expects anyone involved to face charges.

**Medical examiner releases Roe's toxicology report**

Newport News Times

CLACKAMAS — Results from a toxicology report for Katherine “Katy” Roe, whose body was found outside the Depoe Bay harbor in May, have been released. The report indicates that Roe had consumed alcohol and was under the influence of drugs at the time of her death.

**Synthetic Cannabinoid Poisonings on the Rise in the US**

New Monthly Prescribing Reference (registration)

Researchers analyzed data from the Toxicology Investigators Consortium, a registry established by the American College of Medical Toxicology. They found an increase in synthetic cannabinoid poisoning cases in the United States, highlighting the need for increased awareness and research.

**State will use Battelle DNA technology at crime lab**

Canton Repository

In about two years, Ohio's Bureau of Criminal Investigations will be able to test damaged DNA samples and expedite DNA testing thanks to the use of Battelle DNA technology at a new crime lab. This technology is expected to significantly improve forensic investigation timelines.

**Service negotiations strike a stand-still**

Valdosta Daily Times

Slaughter said the choice to use the crime lab is solely the sheriff's decision, including the choice not to use the Valdosta lab. He said the sheriff is an agency independent of politics.

**Patterson Place murder will go to jury trial**

Bismarck Tribune

Morris Pederson, front, is led into a courtroom by a Burleigh County Sheriff Deputy for his preliminary hearing. Pederson was charged with the murder of a woman. The trial is expected to be lengthy, with a jury trial scheduled for the near future.

**Old evidence turns up in contested rape conviction**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

West Mifflin Mayor Chris Kelly, the Homestead police chief at the time of the rapes, said all evidence would have been sent to the crime lab and .

**Unreliable Field Drug Tests Result in Innocent People Pleading Guilty**

Huffington Post

When she discovered that the crime lab had done hundreds of confirmatory tests showing defendants had years earlier pled guilty based on false test results, Washington, D.C. resident Jennifer Hysen urged her local legislators to pass a law banning the use of such unreliable tests.

**Hussey named Deputy Chief Fire Marshal**

Jackson County Times-Journal

The division investigates explosions and fires and is home to the first arson forensic laboratory in the nation. The Fire Service will be able to use DNA to analyze evidence from fires and explosions.

---

**Training**

Ron Smith & Associates Training

**National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy**

APPLY NOW!

2nd Session - OCTOBER 3, 2016 thru MARCH 3, 2017

3rd Session - October 2, 2017 thru March 2, 2018

BUDGET PLANNING REQUIRED?

The total cost for this program including academy tuition, 20 weeks room and board, and 3 meals per day is $27,500.00.

Click here for complete details, photos, and the admission applications.(Link to: Ron Smith And Associations LPAcademy)

Ron Smith & Associates National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy

March 20, 2017 - March 31, 2017 in Pearl, MS

It is truly amazing that, until now, there has never been a national training academy specifically designed for Quality Managers. Forensic Quality Managers have been expected to learn from “on the job” training that they may receive from a variety of sources, but none of this training has been consistent in the industry. Organizations like the Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers have been huge in taking up the mantle of providing various workshops and classes, but it was never intended to take the place of a complete training program. With forensics being under such intense scrutiny these days, agencies who perform forensic analysis must ensure that their work is performed under the guiding principles and standards which are now becoming more clearly defined each day. We, in the forensic should.

Ron Smith & Associates, Inc. is known as one of the premier forensic training companies in the world. Our teams of subject matter experts and support staff have successfully designed and offered hundreds upon hundreds of highly sought after training opportunities all across the United States and abroad. RS&A is now ready to take on the challenge of building a National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy which will soon become the cornerstone of forensic training in this very critical area.
Marshal licenses fire protection.

New DNA research in Ohio to help missing persons cases
WKYC-TV

LONDON, Ohio - The ability to create a sketch from a DNA profile is within ... Initially, the new forensic science will focus on aiding missing persons ... DNA match found in 20% of backlogged rape kits
The Denver Channel

"[What's] significant is to help give closure to the victims to help identify a perpetrator and bring them to justice," Janet Girten, Forensic Service director,

IN. Philly murder retrial, DNA test inconclusive
Philly.com
DNA testing of a single human hair, which could make all the difference in the prosecution's ability to retry Anthony Wright in the 1991 rape and murder.

Prosecutors want fresh DNA from defendant in Marshfield slaying
The Patriot Ledger
BROCKTON -- Plymouth County prosecutors said Friday in a Brockton courtroom that they are seeking fresh DNA evidence from one of the three..

DNA on straw hat leads to Derby man's arrest in New Milford
The Greater New Milford Spectrum
A straw hat left near the scene of a New Milford cell phone store break-in three years ago proved, eventually, to be a Derby man's undoing, according..

Cigarbutt, DNA help police crack case on 2013 Cape copper heist
Southeast Missourian
Sikes submitted the cigarette butt to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab and received a report on March 13 that a DNA profile had been...

Makers of Humira and Enbrel Using New Drug Patents to Delay Generic Versions
New York Times
This week, advisers to the Food and Drug Administration recommended approval of the near generic versions. But the patents could delay introduction...

Academy tuition is $2,500.00 with only 25 seats available.

Click here for complete academy details and to complete an academy application today! (Link to: Ron Smith And Associates QM Academy)

National Footwear & Tire Track Training Academy
SEPTEMBER 5-16, 2016 (2 weeks Footwear)
OFF (September 19-30, 2016)
OCTOBER 3-14, 2016 (2 weeks Footwear)
OFF (October 17-28, 2016)
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 11, 2016 (2 weeks Tire Track)

RS&A now offers a Footwear and Tire Track Training Academy which includes 4 weeks of footwear examination training followed by 2 weeks of tire track examination training. Applicants can elect to complete the entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy or break it up and choose only the 4 weeks of footwear training or the 2 weeks of tire track training. The academy graduates of this 6 week program will learn the skills necessary to complete supervised footwear and tire track casework and will be ready to apply for a IAI Footwear Certification once time requirements have been met.

It is scheduled to begin September 5, 2016 in Hattiesburg, MS at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Only 20 academy applicants will be selected to attend.

The entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy the cost is set at $11,250.00.

The 4 week footwear only academy is set at $7,500.00.
The 2 week tire track only academy is $3,750.00.

Cost includes academy instruction, room and board, and 3 meals per day according to training selection.

Click here for complete details and to apply for admission today. (Link to: http://www.RonSmithandAssociates.com/Footwear)

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
ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 – Archival
ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 3 – Archival VersionASCLD Webinar Series