Colleagues:

**DOJ Posts 2nd set of ULTRs for Public Comment**

The Department of Justice has posted the 2nd set of Uniform Language for Testimony and Reports (ULTRs) and is asking for public comment. DOJ is appreciative of any comments that the forensic community can provide to the proposals. The 2nd set concerns the following disciplines:

1. Anthropology
2. Explosive chemistry
3. Explosive Devices
4. Geology
5. Hair
6. Handwriting
7. Metallurgy
8. Mitochondrial DNA and Y-chromosome typing
9. Paints and polymers

The documents have been posted at [www.justice.gov/forensics](http://www.justice.gov/forensics) and the public comment period will be open until August 26, 2016.

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Leadership Academy 2017 - The registration date for the 2017 Leadership Academy will be announced in the Crime Lab Minute and is not open at this time.
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Justice Department Issues Draft Guidance Regarding Expert Testimony and Lab Reports in Forensic Science

The Justice Department announced today the release of draft guidance documents governing the testimony and reports of the department’s forensic experts.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

ANSI-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 Requirements for the Competency of Testing

through July 8, are designed to ensure that department forensic experts only make statements in the courtroom and in laboratory 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 stains 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 Fingerprinting 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, juror responses were analyzed to see if the impact of having the type of method scientifically-validated influenced jurors. They found that experience of the expert influences jurors more than the type of method and Calibration Laboratories.

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
A2LA’s Training Program

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.

Employment Opportunities

Supervising Criminalist – Crime Scene Investigations, Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Forensic Science Division, Reno, NV, Expires: September 2, 2016

Comparative Science Supervisor, Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office Crime Laboratory, Minneapolis, MN., Expires: August 4, 2016

Forensics Manager, City of Omaha – Omaha Police Department, Omaha, Nebraska, Expires: August 22, 2016

Fingerprint Analyst 1, Miami-Dade Police Department, Doral, FL, Expires: August 1, 2016

Latent Print Examiner, Fort Worth Police Crime Laboratory, Fort Worth, Expires: July 29, 2016


Trainee Forensic Scientist: Controlled Substances, DuPage County Forensic Science Center, Wheaton,
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 GeneticDeterminants 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 uncovered. Results on a set of 20 genes showing significant effects on facial features provide support for this approach as a novel means to identify genes affecting normal-range facial features and for approximating the appearance of a face from genetic markers.

The Effects of Acquisition of Blood Specimens on Drug Levels and the Effects of Transportation Conditions on Degradation of Drugs

NIJ-supported researchers from the Iowa Department of Public Health address the practitioner need of examining three different peripheral blood specimen collection/shipping procedures in order to determine whether significant differences in drug concentration could be detected.

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 sensitive analyses of seized drugs commonly encountered by law enforcement, particularly controlled amphetamine substances and the emerging designer drugs that are similar in structure to amphetamine-based substances. The results suggest that chiral separation by an achiral modifier in the gas phase and the detection and identification of designer drugs is possible using the ESI-IMS-MS with an optimal solvent system.
Microfluidic System for Automated Dye Molecule Extraction and Detection for Forensic Fiber Identification

This NJU-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.

News Around the Globe

U forensics showcased at national conference.
Huntington Herald Dispatch
Chute discussed an approach that involved Marshall’s forensic laboratory staff providing DNA technical review of sexual assault cases for the...

ACB wants forensic lab officers on deputation to improve conviction rate.
The Hitavada
State Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has proposed to rope in Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) officials to improve conviction rate and put corruption...

MU forensics showcased at national conference.
Huntington Herald Dispatch
Chute discussed an approach that involved Marshall’s forensic laboratory staff providing DNA technical review of sexual assault cases for the

Chesapeake man believes DNA proves innocence in 1977 rape.
Richmond.com
Also, it appears from the DNA reports that the forensic lab does not have a sample of the victim’s DNA and there has been no report of a “cold hit” ...

DNA match IDs man breaking into Syosset home, cops say.
Newsday
Frank Brisco, 55, of Franklin Square, was arrested and charged with attempted burglary after police said he tried to enter a rear kitchen window...

DNA Tests Quash King Albert I Death Conspiracy Theory.
New Historian
The death of King Albert I of Belgium has fueled conspiracy theories for over 80 years, but new forensic evidence looks to have put the case to rest ...

DNA Resolves 80-Year-Old Mystery Behind Belgian King’s Death – Forensic Examination Of Belcamp House To Begin Tomorrow.
A forensic examination of Belcamp House is set to begin tomorrow - as Gardaí search for a man who’s been missing for over 11 year...

Rapid DNA Machine Could Solve Crimes Faster In The Triad.
WFMYNews2.com
GREENSBORO, NC – On TV crime shows, detectives have a limited time to find the killer. Normally, an hour, give or take commercial breaks..

Better investigation: 1100 cops to get forensic science training.
The Express Tribune
The Police Department has decided to train at least 1,100 officials under supervision of 40 master-

Forensic Conferences

WVU Forensic Management Academy
August 28 – September 2, 2016
Six days on-site in Pittsburgh, PA
Click here for course description and registration.

Aug 7-13, 2016: International Association for Identification – Cincinnati, OH
Sep 18-23, 2016: International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences – Auckland, New Zealand
Oct 3-7, 2016: Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientist (MAFS) – Branson, Missouri
Oct 16-21, 2016: Society of Forensic Toxicologists – Dallas, TX
Oct 2016: Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists – Galveston, TX

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?

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
criminal charges filed in crime lab case

My Columbia Basin
The crime lab scientist alleged to have stolen drugs while on the job now faces federal criminal charges. Nika Larsen, 36, faces two count of obtaining...

OSP forensic scientist accused of stealing pills
KOIN.com
PORTLAND, Ore. (KOIN) – A former forensic scientist assigned to the Oregon State Police Crime Lab is facing federal charges for allegedly stealing...

BCI: We will solve the Rhoden murder case
WFMJ
While most of that analysis takes place at the BCI crime lab in London, the agency still has a command center in Pike County. Stickrath says they...

Man accused of having meth lab at home
Sharongerald
SUGAR GROVE TOWNSHIP – Police charged a Greenville-area man after they found a one-pot meth lab they found when responding to a domestic...

DHS expands forensic crime and document lab
KHOU.com
U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement unveiled its renovated forensic lab Wednesday. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said the .

New Hurst Justice Center has it all: police, jail, courts, crime lab
Fort Worth Star Telegram
New Hurst Justice Center has it all: police, jail, courts, crime lab ... $2 million in capital funding and the crime tax was also used for the justice center...

Destruction of DNA evidence an obstacle to new trial for Dechaine
Courier-Gazette & Camden Herald (subscription)
In April 1992, staff at the attorney general's office authorized the state police crime lab to incinerate evidence associated with a list of cases, including...

A Disturbing Trend: Evidence in Rape Cases Often Goes Untested
Seattlemag
Experts estimate that there are hundreds of thousands of untested kits gathering dust in police and crime lab storage facilities throughout the country....

State police forensic scientist faces federal charges, accused of stealing drug evidence.
OregonLive.com
Nika Elise Larsen, who worked as an Oregon state police crime lab forensic scientist, is facing federal criminal allegations, accused of two count of..

Idaho crime labs focus on cutting down backlogs
Idaho Statesman
The state's crime labs are working to expedite the processing of forensic evidence used in court cases in response to criticism about rape kit backlog...

Louise Bell murder trial: DNA inconsistencies raise questions, Dieter Pfennig’s defence lawyer says
ABC Online
Inconsistent DNA results from abducted Adelaide schoolgirl Louise Bell's pyjama top creates a lack of clarity about the strength of the evidence...

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.

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 GMAcademy)

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)
False-Positive/Negative Error Rates in Cartridge Case Comparisons

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