

CLM July 25 2016

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Colleagues:

**“DOJ Posts 2<sup>nd</sup> set of ULTRs for Public Comment**

The Department of Justice has posted the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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[www.kentuckystatepolice.org](http://www.kentuckystatepolice.org)

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.



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## 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[Justice Department Issues Draft Guidance Regarding Expert Testimony and Lab Reports in Forensic Science](#)

The Justice Department announced today the release of draft guidance documents governing the testimony and reports of the department's forensic experts.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

[ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Testing Laboratories](#)  
[ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Breath Alcohol Calibration](#)  
[ASCLD/LAB-International Internal Auditor Training Course](#)  
[ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Testing Laboratories](#)  
[ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Calibration Laboratories](#)

[American Association for Laboratory Accreditation \(A2LA\)](#)

A2LA's Training Program



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[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.

## [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

[Latent Print Supervisor](#), Montana State Crime Lab, Missoula, Montana, Expires: August 19, 2016

[Trainee Forensic Scientist: Controlled Substances](#), DuPage County Forensic Science Center, Wheaton,

in terms of credibility; but this may not have been translated into verdicts. 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 errors. The study found when the trial involved bite mark analysis, the concession decreased the value of the evidence; when the case was a fingerprint analysis, the concession actually increased the certainty of the analysis.

**[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 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 inexpensive 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 are possible using the ESI-IMS-MS with an optimal solvent system.

IL, Expires: August 5, 2016

**[Trace Evidence Supervisor](#)**, Kansas Bureau of Investigation Forensic Science Laboratory, Topeka, Kansas, Expires: August 5, 2016

**[Digital Evidence Supervisor](#)**, Kansas Bureau of Investigation Forensic Science Laboratory, Topeka, KS, Expires: August 5, 2016

**[Forensic Scientist – Biology](#)**, Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Toronto, Expires: August 2, 2016

**[Chief Forensic Officer](#)**, Austin Texas Police Department, Austin Texas, Expires: August 4, 2016

**[Criminalist \(4 available\)](#)**, Ohio State Highway Patrol Crime Lab, Columbus, Ohio, Expires: September 8, 2016

**[Forensic Scientist 2](#)**, New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, Expires: August 17, 2016

**[Forensic Latent Print Examiner / Crime Scene Technician](#)**, Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory, Valdosta, Georgia, Expires: September 5, 2016

**[Forensic Toxicologist or Trainee – Northern Laboratory](#)**, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: August 5, 2016

**[Supervisor III – Fingerprint Identification & Latent Print Sections](#)**, Kansas City Police Crime Laboratory, Kansas City, MO, Expires: August 1, 2016

**[Criminalist I-IV](#)**, Sacramento County District Attorney, Sacramento, CA, Expires: August 1, 2016

**[Quality Assurance Program Manager](#)**, Austin Police Department, Austin, Texas, Expires: July 31, 2016

**[DNA Analyst III – Serology / DNA Operations Technician](#)**, Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, Texas, Expires: August 5, 2016

**[DNA Analyst III – Serology / DNA Operations Technician](#)**, Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, Texas, Expires: August 5, 2016

**[Forensic Biology Analyst \(2 positions\)](#)**, Indian River Crime Laboratory, Fort Pierce, FL, Expires: July 31, 2016

**[Forensic Scientist – Quality Assurance](#)**, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: August 31, 2016

**[DNA Laboratory Supervisor](#)**, Austin Texas Police Department, Austin, Texas, Expires: July 30, 2016

**[Forensics DNA Analyst](#)**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: August 13, 2016

**[Sheriff's Supervising Forensic Scientist – Fingerprints and Crime Scene Investigation](#)**, Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Ventura, CA, Expires: August 11, 2016

**[Criminalist II](#)**, NYC CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER, New York, NY, Expires: August 11, 2016

**[Criminalist, Level II](#)**, New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York, New York, Expires: December 30, 2016

**[Computer Forensic Analyst](#)**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: July 28, 2016

**[Forensic Examiner – DNA 1](#)**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: August 31, 2016

**[Forensic Examiner – Latent Print 1](#)**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: August 31, 2016

**[Forensic Examiner – Firearms and Tool Marks](#)**,

### [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.

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## [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  
LAHORE: The Police Department has decided to train at least 1,100 officials under supervision of 40 master-

ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA & (OCONUS), Expires: August 31, 2016

[Forensic Chemist](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA & (OCONUS), Expires: August 31, 2016

[Forensic Chemist](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: July 31, 2016

[Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science](#), Department of Forensic Science, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, Expires: December 31, 2016

## [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 2016: [15<sup>th</sup> Annual AFQAM Conference](#) – Little Rock, AR

Oct 16-21, 2016: [Society of Forensic Toxicologists](#) – Dallas, TX

Oct 2016: [Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists](#) – Galveston, TX

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## [Training](#)

Ron Smith & Associates Training

**National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy**  
APPLY NOW!  
2nd Session - OCTOBER 3, 2016 thru MARCH 3, 2017

BUDGET PLANNING REQUIRED?  
3rd Session - October 2, 2017 thru March 2, 2018

RS&A now offers an intense 20 week training program designed to provide agencies with a Latent Print Examiner who is trained to competency. This academy, with 800 hours of formal training, will produce graduates that are capable of performing "supervised case work" and once time requirements are met, be ready to apply for IAI Latent Print Certification.

2nd Session is scheduled to begin October 3, 2016 Hattiesburg, MS at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Only 25 academy applicants will be selected to attend so apply today!

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 LP Academy](#))

**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

trainers from the anti-riot police..

[Building a Firearms Toolmark Database](#)

Imperial Valley News  
During a symposium held at NIST called "Measurement Science and Standards in Forensic Firearms Analysis 2012," one of the main needs 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](#)

Sharonherald  
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...

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.

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 QMAcademy](#))

**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 Version](#)  
[ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 – Archival Version](#)  
[ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 3 – Archival Version](#)  
[ASCLD Webinar Series:](#)

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