



American Society of Crime Lab Directors

"THE CRIME LAB MINUTE" NEWSLETTER



Last year I traveled to the Houston Forensic Science Center to participate in their National Forensic Science Week commemoration. They had a community showing of a new film on sexual assault kits, and had a panel discussion with the community and their lab staff related to policy and procedure for the proper handling of sexual assault kits. It was very engaging, and gave me several ideas to bring back to my laboratory system. I hope this year to do something with my lab to engage the community and reward our staff for their contributions to the field.

ASCLD has been an active participant in National Forensic Science Week since the inception of the event. Many ASCLD member laboratory directors have been instrumental in setting it up and keeping it running. ASCLD partners with many other organizations for this event. This year the event is September 16th – 22nd. More information can be found at <http://www.forensicscienceweek.org/> or @forensicscienceweek on Facebook or @ForSciWeek on Twitter. We encourage you to plan now to make the most of this week. September is just around the corner, and planning now will ensure your lab is able to accomplish something during that week. We encourage you to share on social media what you are doing to get ready, and what you do during the week. Sharing your ideas will help other labs to implement something during the week. If you include the ASCLD social media accounts in your posts, we will do our best to share them through our network. We also encourage you to add the ASCLD social media accounts in your feeds.

There are three focus areas we would ask you to consider. It is an excellent way to reward your staff, network with your own parent agency or decision makers, educate policy makers, and engage with the media and community.

Forensic Service Providers

- Recognize the contribution of forensic scientists at your laboratory
- Organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science
- Provide tours to local, state, and federal policy makers to gain a better insight into current capabilities and future demands
- Work with your agency's PIO to contact local media and invite them to cover events hosted during the National Forensic Science Week

Policy Makers

- Recognize the contribution of your local laboratory to the community through citations or resolutions
- Formally declare the week "Forensic Science Week" by proclamation
- Issue a press release recognizing the work your crime lab does in the community
- Visit your local crime laboratory to gain an understanding of their capabilities and needs

Media / Local Citizens

- Attend community events sponsored by local crime laboratories
- Take tours of local crime laboratories
- Media Members: Do local news stories highlighting work of the lab in the community
- Ask local laboratories about their fiscal and legislative needs

Matthew Gamette, ASCLD President

The ASCLD Crime Lab Minute has been sent through MailChimp and Constant Contact. We are testing a new format for the newsletter and requesting feedback from membership. If you are not receiving a CLM from Constant Contact or MailChimp, please send an email to office@asclcd.org . Thank you.

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors



EXECUTIVE EDUCATION DIGEST

*a leadership development resource for forensic
science laboratory directors and managers*

2018

Dear Colleagues,

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve you as ASCLD President this last year. The time has flown by and it has been a very eventful year. We have continued many exceptional programs such as our ISO TAG, Leadership Academy, many position statements and wide communication of activities, while adding very timely initiatives, such as the Rapid DNA and Opioid Task Forces. Welcome to our Atlanta Annual Meeting, where we take time to recharge our own batteries, sharpen our skills, sharing learning experiences to take back to our respective labs. This is our time to share comradery, best practices and gather the best of the world of forensics and leadership. This is our field and it is ours to nurture, guide and improve. We bear that responsibility with pride.

<https://www.asclcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-ASCLD-Executive-Education-Digest.pdf>

ASCLD Press Release Foresight 2020

Forensic HR Book (Collins, 2018) - Order a Signed Copy! John Collins, author of HR Management in the Forensic Science Laboratory, is making signed copies of his book available to ASCLD members and their laboratories. Please visit the following link to request a one or more signed copies. This is a special ASCLD symposium offer at 10% below the list price. <https://criticalvictories.com/forensics/hrbook/>

Dear Colleagues –

Thank you very much for your interest in the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 2018 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program (COAP) Solicitation.

As follow-up from the May 15 webinar, please find the following and attached resources that we hope will support your successful applications:

- The webinar recording is available at <https://iir.adobeconnect.com/pqns352wepx/>.
- The associated PowerPoint is attached.
- A list of questions-and-answers raised during the webinar is attached.
- The solicitation is available at <https://www.bja.gov/funding/COAP18.pdf>; applications are due June 7, 2018.
- Additional assistance is available as follows:
 - For assistance with any requirement of this solicitation (or any unforeseen [Grants.gov](#) technical issues beyond an applicant's control that prevents it from submitting its application by the deadline), contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center:
 - Toll-free at (800) 851-3420
 - Via TTY at (301) 240-6310 (hearing impaired only)
 - Email to grants@ncjrs.gov
 - Fax to (301) 240-5830
 - Web chat at <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>

The NCJRS Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., ET, on the solicitation close date.

- For technical assistance with submitting an application, contact the [Grants.gov](#) Customer Support Hotline:
 - Toll-free at (800) 518-4726
 - Via <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>
 - Via email to support@grants.gov

Click below to hear the latest ASCLD Educational Series - 2018 Grant Considerations

<https://www.ascl.org/nij-coverdell-webinar/>

The image shows a navigation bar with the following items: ABOUT US, RESOURCE LIBRARY, MEETINGS & TRAININGS (highlighted), JOBS, and MEMBER SITE. Below the navigation bar is a graphic of the United States map composed of various colored pills. A dark banner across the map contains the text "Opioid Resource Center". Below the graphic is the URL <https://www.ascl.org/opioid-resources/>.

Forensic Science in the News

[Forensic Facial Identification Experts Perform Better With AI's Help](#)

The NIST study is the most comprehensive examination to date of face identification performance across a large, varied group of people. The study also examines the best technology as well, comparing the accuracy of state-of-the-art face recognition algorithms to human experts.

[How an Unproven Forensic Science Spread Through the Criminal Justice System](#)

THE MODERN ERA of bloodstain-pattern analysis began when a small group of scientists and forensic investigators started testifying in cases, as experts in a new technique. Some of them went on to train hundreds of police officers, investigators and crime-lab technicians — many of whom began to testify as well. When defendants appealed the legitimacy of the experts' testimony, the cases made their way to state appeals courts.

[The Ethics Behind Using Genealogy Websites to Find Crime Suspects](#)

According to the authors, a genealogy search probably wouldn't count as a "search" under the Fourth Amendment (which protects against unlawful searches and seizures). But even if it did, there's something called the "abandonment doctrine," which holds that anything discarded (like DNA from cigarette butts at crime scenes) isn't protected under privacy laws. And technically, when people upload their DNA onto genealogy websites, they "abandon" it, the authors wrote.

[Could modern forensic science have helped solve Peggy Reber's murder?](#)

Experts say vast advances in investigative techniques – from behavioral psychology to DNA – would make the task easier for law enforcement today. Yet at least one former Lebanon police officer who examined the case believes police not only conducted a thorough investigation – they actually tried to convict the right man.

[Retiring crime-lab chief helped crack cold cases, catch rapists, elevate forensic science](#)

Just before Cecelia Crouse was hired by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office in 1992 to be part of the crime lab as a forensic scientist conducting DNA research, she had to look up the definition of "forensics." She took the interview with the encouragement of a friend, but didn't understand why a law-enforcement agency would need a scientist like herself.

[DNA could help solve 2016 Warner Robins missing person case, possibly a Macon homicide](#)

"Right now we're waiting on a DNA type," Rutherford said, referring to the process of matching a missing person's DNA with their family members for positive identification. "We can't release any other information on the remains until the typing comes back."

[Forensic science still snares innocent](#)

The more room there is for an expert witness's unique interpretation of the data, the more that can go wrong, says Fabricant. "Bite mark is similar to you and I looking at a cloud. I say to you, 'John, doesn't that cloud look like a rabbit?' And you say, 'Yeah, Chris, I think that does look like a rabbit.'"

[Forensic Science Lab dealing with serious backlog of cases](#)

The new Forensic Science Ireland report shows that there are particular delays in testing drugs seizures and that the labs are not fit for purpose.

[Researchers expand forensic method to identify people using proteins from bones](#)

"The use of protein markers from human hair and now bones can complement existing techniques based on DNA," said Lab chemist and paper co-author Deon Anex. "It can be especially valuable if DNA is missing or compromised."

[Ruling expected in 2 weeks on forensic experts in case of indicted FBI agent](#)

Astarita, a member of the FBI's elite Hostage Rescue Team, is accused of concealing that he took two shots at Finicum and has pleaded not guilty to three counts of making a false statement and two counts of obstruction of justice. He attended each day of the hearing, sitting among his four lawyers.

[A World War II Mystery Is Solved, and Emotions Flood In](#)

Heaven Can Wait is one of 30 United States aircraft retrieved by Project Recover, a six-year-old nonprofit that collaborates with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or D.P.A.A., the arm of the Pentagon tasked with finding and returning fallen military personnel.

[Sherlock's Curse: Forensic pathologist wants us to reconsider our homage to Holmes.](#)

Young begins with Holmes' explanation to Watson of "reasoning backwards." It works like this: Holmes learns about or observes a result – say, the death of a woman in her bedroom – and then uses intuition to describe the steps required for the incident to have occurred. "The reader is tricked into thinking that backwards reasoning is brilliant," says Young, but it doesn't actually work.

[German law allows use of DNA to predict suspects' looks](#)

Police in the German state of Bavaria now have the authority to analyze forensic DNA samples to predict the geographical ancestry and physical characteristics—hair color, eye color, skin color, and age—of an unknown suspect who poses an imminent danger. The controversial law, which passed the Landtag, the state parliament in Munich, on 15 May, is the first in Germany to allow what has been dubbed DNA phenotyping, and it has sparked renewed debate here and in other countries about the advantages—and risks—of such methods.

[Forensic experts want volunteers to donate their CORPSES to Britain's first body farm](#)

'We would be able to more accurately know when someone died, as well as being able to identify potential criminals, say from fingerprints or DNA on decomposed skin.'

[Woman punished for testimony in harassment case files federal claim](#)

The lawsuit also targets state Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott, whose office conducted the harassment investigation of former DCJS director Brian J. Gestring, and subsequently turned over Bianchi's confidential testimony to the agency without her knowledge.

[State's forensic testing backlog prompts East Dundee police to partner with a new crime lab](#)

This week, village trustees approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory, which officials said will result in a quicker turnaround on cases.

[Blood Will Tell ProPublica and The New York Times Magazine publish the first part of a year-long project investigating the forensic science of bloodstain pattern analysis.](#)

Over the next few weeks, Pamela Colloff, senior reporter at ProPublica and a writer at large at The New York Times Magazine, will tell the story of Joe Bryan, a Texas high school principal convicted of murdering his wife. The prosecution's case against him was largely circumstantial, until a small-town police detective trained in reconstructing crimes — using the blood spatter left behind at crime scenes — lent a sense of scientific certainty to an equivocal set of facts.

[State developing computer program to allow victims to track sexual assault test results](#)

The \$118,750 project was funded out of a \$2 million federal Sexual Assault Kit Initiative grant, the Virginia attorney general's office said.

[Best Digital Forensics Certifications](#)

There is an appreciable number of available, high-quality certification programs that focus on digital investigations and forensics. However, there are also many certifications and programs in this area that are far less transparent, well documented and widely known.

[Legal experts who viewed police shooting video said Richmond officer's actions were justified](#)

Several legal experts and local attorneys who viewed the Richmond police body camera footage Friday of last week's fatal shooting of a man on Interstate 95 all agreed that the officer acted appropriately and had little choice but to fire his sidearm in self defense.

[Junk science should be banned from courtrooms](#)

The more room there is for an expert witness's unique interpretation of the data, the more that can go wrong, says Fabricant. "Bite mark is similar to you and I looking at a cloud. I say to you, 'John, doesn't that cloud look like a rabbit?' And you say, 'Yeah, Chris, I think that does look like a rabbit.'"

[One man likely responsible for unsolved murders of Phyllis Harrison, Beverley Hanley and Stephen Newton, SA Police say](#)

Major Crime detectives have obtained new forensic evidence linking the man, who is well known to police, to the three murders. The evidence has been recovered by Forensic Science SA as part of the re-examination of exhibits from many cold case murders.

[Coroner still waiting on crime lab for answers in several investigations](#)

Floyd County Coroner Gene Proctor is still waiting on the Georgia Bureau of Investigation crime lab for help in resolving a couple of cases, including the death of a jail inmate in February and an apparent death in a Cave Spring fire that occurred in early January.

[State Crime Labs Continue to Chip Away at Rape Kit Backlog](#)

The Idaho Press-Tribune reports 316 rape kits were completed last year. But 527 unsubmitted kits dating back to 1995 remain. Idaho State Police Laboratory Systems Director Matthew Gamette says he hopes all of the kits can be completed by the end of next year.

[Technology to Trace Guns 'Like D-N-A' is Not Being Used by Many California Law Enforcement Agencies](#)

While the ATF and many local law enforcement agencies say the technology has the potential to solve crimes and get some of the most violent, prolific criminals off the streets, NBC Bay Area's Investigative Unit found NIBIN isn't being utilized by many crime labs and police departments across California. And when it is, there are often significant backlogs impeding its effectiveness.

[The Killer Among Us](#)

Today, Richard Foster, a former colleague of mine here at Richmond magazine, and a Style Weekly writer before that, premieres "Southern Nightmare," his 10-part weekly podcast about the man dubbed "The Southside Strangler."

[Immigration agents X-raying migrants to determine age isn't just illegal, it's a misuse of science](#)

As a forensic anthropologist, I support these judicial decisions. My work can include estimating the ages of deceased persons using X-rays of bones and teeth, and I'm intimately familiar with the limitations of how specific these techniques can be. In my field, we generate an age range alongside several caveats; it's irresponsible for ICE to rely solely on X-rays to provide a definitive answer in determining if a person is a minor or an adult.

[HANDGUN PURCHASER LICENSING LAWS LINKED TO FEWER FIREARM HOMICIDES IN LARGE, URBAN AREAS](#)

"Our research finds that state laws that encourage more public gun carrying with fewer restrictions on who can carry experience more gun homicides in the state's large, urban counties than would have been expected had the law not been implemented," said Crifasi. "Similarly, stand-your-ground laws appear to make otherwise non-lethal encounters deadly if people who are carrying loaded weapons feel emboldened to use their weapons versus de-escalating a volatile situation."

[AG report reveals crime lab wait causes issues](#)

A recent report on backlogged sexual assault kits waiting for months, even years, to be tested was recently released by the Missouri Attorney General's Office. The report stated that there were at least 4, 889 untested sexual assault kits "currently in the possession of law enforcement agencies, crime, labs, and healthcare providers in Missouri."

[3,500 rape kits are overdue for analysis in Alaska](#)

A backlog of nearly 3,500 completed sexual assault evidence kits could be resolved in two years with \$2.75 million added to the state's capital budget by the Alaska Legislature before it adjourned earlier this month.

[Former ND deputy pleads not guilty to taking meth, phones from crime lab](#)

One case is from August 2017 when Komrosky was the lead agent, He allegedly and went to the crime lab to get drugs tested, picked them up but never returned them.

[Statute Impedes DNA Exonerations: Iowa Falls Behind in Freeing Innocent Convicts](#)

Assistant State Public Defender Kurt Swaim says Iowa is one of only a few states in the country with no DNA exonerations.

[Schimel: DOJ has sent all untested rape kits to labs](#)

The Wisconsin Department of Justice has mailed the last of thousands of untested sexual assault evidence kits to private laboratories for analysis, Attorney General Brad Schimel said as he sought to blunt criticism that he's been moving too slowly on testing.

[Authorities seize 118 pounds of fentanyl – enough to kill millions of people – in Nebraska bust](#)

"Without question, that traffic stop saved thousands of lives," Bolduc said on the State Patrol's Facebook page.

[Austin Police Announced Arrest, Indictment in 1979 Homicide and Rape](#)

Furthermore, NBC affiliate KXAN-TV reports that the cold case was assigned a new detective in 2013, the same year the Texas Department of Public Safety found the evidence in the case was suitable for DNA testing. Austin detectives surreptitiously collected toothpicks Galvan had used in 2013, shortly thereafter, leading to the direct DNA comparison last year—and this month's indictment.

[Ukraine: Reporter's Fake Murder Involved Pig's Blood, Morgue](#)

The security officers took his sweatshirt and shot it through with a gun. Babchenko said he put on the shirt and got smeared with pig's blood. He was taken in an ambulance to a hospital intensive care unit, where a forensic expert officially "documented" his death. After that, he ended up in a morgue.

[Australia: Victoria Police Officers Fake More Than 250,000 Roadside Breath Tests, Investigation Finds](#)

After reviewing 1,500 preliminary breath test (PBT) devices and more than 17.7 million tests conducted over five years it found more than 258,000 PBTs, or 1.5 per cent of all tests, had been falsified.

[Russian Authorities Asked New Zealand Police to Search DNA Database in Hunt for Russian Serial Killer](#)

The request is one of at least 38 for DNA searches made to New Zealand police from international law enforcement agencies hunting foreign killers and criminals since a law change in 2016.

[Weinstein Faces Sex Charges in Prosecution Amid #MeToo](#)

Flinching when he heard himself described as a man who used power to prey on women, Harvey Weinstein was charged Friday with rape and another sex felony in the first prosecution to result from the wave of allegations against him that sparked a national reckoning over sexual misconduct.



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FORENSIC SCIENCE RESEARCH DIGEST
Issue 11/12, December 2017/January 2018

RTI International in partnership with the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, a program of the National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice, produces a podcast called "Just Science". The Just Science podcast is designed to reach a broad audience of forensic scientists and other professionals who collaborate with the forensic science community. As part of the podcast series, the FTCoE would like to interview any ASCLD members who would like to share interesting or unusual criminal cases, now closed or adjudicated, where forensic science was critical to the outcome of the case.

Our goal is to provide the audience with a positive view of the importance of forensic science in criminal investigations. The timing of the cases is not important, although preference will be given to cases involving some personal experience and that can be subject of an in-depth conversation. The audio-only recording usually takes 40 to 60 minutes, depending on the content, and all disciplines are welcome. We would like to do the recordings during the ASCLD annual symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. The available dates are Tuesday May 22 & Wednesday May 23, 2018 and we can accommodate your schedule.

Please visit <https://forensiccoe.org/ascldpodcast/> to submit your bio, headshot, consent, and a short overview of the case and methods used. This is a great way to disseminate your, or your crime laboratory's work to a wide audience, hopefully sparking conversations, new ideas, and inspiring others within the field to approach cases in alternative ways.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES (Hiring now)

- [New York State Police](https://www.troopers.ny.gov/employment/) DNA related positions open: <https://www.troopers.ny.gov/employment/>
- [Forensic Scientist – Controlled Substances](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: June 28, 2018
- [Forensic Examiner – Latent Print \(02055\)](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem GA and OCONUS, Expires: September 7, 2018
- [Forensic Examiner – DNA \(02059\)](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem GA and OCONUS, Expires: September 7, 2018
- [Forensic Science Examiner 1](#), State of Connecticut, Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Scientific Services, Meriden, CT, Expires: June 22, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I or II – Firearms Section](#), Columbus Police Crime Laboratory, Columbus, Ohio, Expires: June 15, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist – Division of Technical Services](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: June 14, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist – Digital & Multimedia Evidence](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: June 14, 2018
- [DNA Supervisor](#), Oregon State Police, Clackamas, OR, Expires: June 17, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist IV -Firearms Section Supervisor](#), Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS, Expires: June 15, 2018
- [Assistant Laboratory Director](#), Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS, Expires: June 14, 2018
- [Forensic Technician](#), The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN, Expires: August 17, 2018
- [Latent Print Examiner](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 30, 2018
- [Sheriff's Supervising Forensic Scientist \(Controlled Substances/Forensic Alcohol\)](#), Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Ventura, CA, Expires: July 3, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist 1, Chemistry Analyst](#), New Mexico DPS Forensic Laboratory Bureau, Hobbs, NM, Expires: August 3, 2018
- [Administrative Operations Manager -Forensics](#), New Mexico DPS Forensic Laboratory Bureau, Santa Fe, NM, Expires: August 3, 2018
- [Forensic Services Manager](#), Baltimore County Government, Towson, MD, Expires: December 31, 2018
- [Chief Medical Examiner](#), The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Chief Medical Examiner](#), MS, Memphis, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Analyst – Biology](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 15, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist 1, Chemistry Analyst](#), New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Forensic laboratory Bureau, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Expires: July 19, 2018
- [Forensic Pathologist](#), MS, Memphis, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Medicolegal Death Investigator](#), The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [State Dept Antiterrorism Assistance Program Worldwide Investigator / Examiner / Trainer](#), PAE, Washington, D.C., Expires: July 10, 2018
- [Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science](#), University of New Haven, West Haven, CT, Expires: May 22, 2019
- [Assistant CODIS Administrator](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 28, 2018

- [Accreditation Manager](#), ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, Cary, NC, Expires: June 26, 2018
- [Crime Scene Supervisor](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 15, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist II-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist III-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist IV-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist II-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist III-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist IV-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Chemistry/Controlled Substances](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Latent Prints](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018

The Need for Safety Officers and a Health and Safety Committee

The elements of a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) have been the subject over the last few weeks. Previous topics have been 1) the need for SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures), 2) Criteria for Implementing Control Measures, 3) requirement to ensure that fume hoods and other protective equipment are functioning properly and identify the specific measures the employer will take to ensure proper and adequate performance of such equipment, and 4) Required Information to be provided to lab personnel working with hazardous substances. This week's topics are 5) the circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer's designee before being implemented, and 6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee.

5) The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer's designee before being implemented. Prior to any new work being conducted in a lab that uses a hazardous chemical, prior approval must be acknowledged. Prior approval would normally come from the Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) or Safety Officer in your lab. Many procedures use chemicals that require special considerations. Additionally, some labs may not have the proper storage or work area for its use. Also, the chemical must be added to the chemical inventory, all personnel who will work with or come in contact to the chemical must read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Having a plan where an employee has read the SDS and understands the hazards by signing a review sheet or some other acknowledgement is a good way to improve compliance. Additionally, ordering and purchasing hazardous chemicals should go through one person or a team so that proper storage locations, policies, and procedures can be appropriate for chemicals ordered.

6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee. Designating a person, such as a CHO or Safety Officer for day-to-day administration of chemical issues is paramount and crucial for accreditation. A CHO will provide reports at the department Safety Committee meetings on chemical hygiene activities performed. Additionally, a CHO will work with others to develop, review and approve Standard Operating Procedures which detail all aspects of proposed laboratory activities that involve hazardous materials. A Chemical Hygiene Committee, commonly known as a Safety Committee (or Health and Safety) in forensic labs is also a requirement for accreditation. Health and Safety committee members should establish a committee structure and process and develops an action plan for the year that identifies a few priority health and safety issues to work on. The concerns would be addressed at safety

committee meetings and the executive management meeting(s).

Jane B. Northup
Quality Assurance Officer
RI State Crime Laboratory
Certified Chemical Hygiene Officer

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1450
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2011-title29-vol6/CFR-2011-title29-vol6-sec1910-1450/content-detail.html>

The National Registry of Certified Chemists
<http://nrcc6.org/>

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Training
https://www.osha.gov/dep/facosh/osha_training_guidelines2014.pdf

OSHA Fact Sheet:
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/laboratory/OSHAfactsheet-laboratory-safety-chemical-hygiene-plan.pdf>

CHP Template:
http://www.dsp.wi.gov/Documents/Industry%20Services/Forms/Public%20Sector%20Employee/Template-Chemical_Hygiene_Plan.pdf

Examples of CHPs:
University of California, Santa Barbara: <http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/labsafety-chp>
University of Rhode Island: <http://web.uri.edu/ehs/files/ChemicalHygienePlan.pdf>

Crime Lab Safety Plans:
Raleigh/Wake City County, Bureau of Identification: <https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2004/06/osha-and-forensic-laboratory>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Recorded Training:

Episode 9 Podcast!! Just Blood Spatter

In episode nine of Just Science, funded by the National Institute of Justice's Forensic Technology Center of Excellence [Award 2016-MU-BX-K110], we spoke with Dr. Marc Smith, from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Smith's NIJ funded research in blood spatter has connected computational fluid dynamics with empirical studies to improve the understanding of blood spatter onto solid, slanted surfaces. His work looks at many variables, including droplet size, speed, surface roughness and wettability. [Listen and Subscribe HERE.](#)

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- [Google Play](#)
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- [Soundcloud](#)

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](#)

ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series can be found at the following links:

- [Rapid DNA: The QAS and NDIS](#)
- [Rapid DNA: Arizona DPS and Richland County, SC](#)

- [Rapid DNA: Booking Stations and CODIS](#)

ASCLD /RTI DNA Standards and Guidelines Webinar Series

SWGDM Interpretational Guidelines

<https://forensiccoe.org/webinar/ascl-d-webinar-dna-standards-and-guidelines/>

Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes

<https://forensiccoe.org/webinar/ascl-d-webinar-series-dna-standards-and-guidelines-webinar-part-2/>



Forensic Training in 2018!

Quick Links to ANAB

[Forensic ISO/IEC Assessor Training \(Testing\)](#)

June 11-15, 2018, Milwaukee, WI
August 20-24, 2018, Denver, CO

[Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Preparation for Testing Laboratories \(Classroom\)](#)

June 11-13, 2018, Milwaukee, WI
August 20-22, 2018, Denver, CO
*Web-based courses also available

[ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Agencies](#)

October 8-9, 2018, San Antonio, TX

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Assessor Training (Testing)

Course Description

If you are interested in becoming an Assessor, or just learning more about the mechanics of the assessment process, this is the course for you!

During this 4.5-day course attendees will receive a thorough review of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and the ANAB Forensic Accreditation Requirements (AR 3125). As demonstrated through various practical exercises, classroom discussions and a final written examination each attendee will understand and be able to apply the ANAB Forensic Testing Laboratory accreditation process when serving as an assessor during an assessment. Additionally, each attendee will gain specific knowledge, skills and abilities for designing an ISO/IEC 17025 compliant management system, and for planning and conducting an internal audit within their own testing laboratory. Attendees will also be prepared to assist their own laboratory prepare for an accreditation assessment.

Learning Objectives

- Understand and apply the accreditation process when serving as an ANAB forensic assessor.
- Gain specific knowledge, skills and abilities for designing an ISO/IEC 17025 compliant management system, and for planning and conducting an internal audit within your own testing laboratory.
- Be prepared to assist your own laboratory with preparing for an ANAB accreditation assessment.

Note: All registered attendees will receive a copy of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard!



June 11-15, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

For a full list of ANAB forensic training courses, visit: <https://www.anab.org/training/forensic>

For more information about these workshops, contact training@anab.org or 414-501-5466 for more information. For registration, click the links for each training course above.

2018 National Institute of Justice Forensic Science Symposium

Deschloro-N-ethyl Ketamine (O-PCE; Eticyclidone)

The Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE) at the Fredric Rieders Family Foundation has received grant support from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to develop systems for the early identification and notification of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in the drug supply in the United States. The goal of the program is to discover these substances in toxicology casework samples through various high resolution mass spectrometry retrospective datamining techniques. The program complements an initiative supported by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) and CDC to identify these NPS drugs in seized drug material. Information about both programs can be found on our website: <https://www.forensicscienceeducation.org/resources/nps-discovery/>

You have been identified as a stakeholder in the process of notifying US public health and public safety agencies, and other international entities of the appearance of these novel substances, to allow for appropriate public health policy development and public safety actions through enforcement and interdiction.

Although the priority for this project is to identify emergent opioids and fentanyl derivatives and precursors, other drug classes including benzodiazepines, stimulants (cathinones and amphetamine derivatives), hallucinogens and cannabinoids have also been identified. The purpose of this email is to announce the identification in death investigation casework samples of:

Deschloro-N-ethyl Ketamine (O-PCE; Eticyclidone)

Deschloro-N-ethyl Ketamine is classified as a novel hallucinogen identified in a postmortem investigation in Southern Louisiana. It has been reported in seized drug material by the DEA in the 2017 Emerging Threats Report, but has not previously been reported in toxicological casework. Novel hallucinogens have been reported to cause effects similar to ketamine and phencyclidine (PCP). Novel hallucinogens have caused adverse events, including deaths, as described in the literature. Structurally similar compounds include ketamine, N-ethyl norketamine, and deschloroketamine. Ketamine is a Schedule III substance in the United States.

Analytical data is contained in the attached documents. Through this service we are reporting only novel compounds not previously reported in the NFLIS reports, or for which SWGDRUG has not yet issued monographs. If reference standards are commercially available, they are indicated in the report. If not, identifications are based made on EI-GCMS, LCHRMS (QTOF), and other techniques.

If you have questions about the substance(s) involved, please contact Barry Logan, or Alex Krotulski directly at barry.logan@frfoundation.org or alex.krotulski@frfoundation.org.

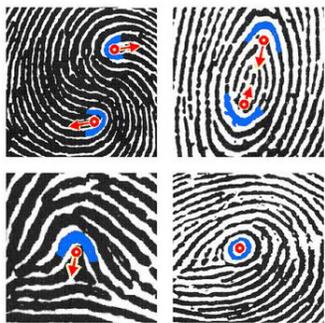
An archive of novel psychoactive substances and their precursors both from seized drug casework, and from human postmortem forensic toxicology casework identified through this program is posted at: <https://www.forensicscienceeducation.org/resources/nps-discovery/>

For more information about the OCDETF program, please contact the program sponsor, AUSA MJ Menendez, at OCDETF (MJ.Menendez@usdoj.gov)

This project was supported by Award Number 2017-R2-CX-0002, awarded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication, program, exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice. The project team gratefully acknowledges the collaboration of NMS Labs in this project.

Deschloro-N-ethyl Ketamine (O-PCE; Eticyclidone)

OSAC Catalog of External Standards and Guidelines



The OSAC Catalog of External Standards and Guidelines is a collection of standards, guidelines and other documents applicable to forensic science. None of the documents in the catalog have been developed or approved by OSAC (the Organization of Scientific Area Committees). The catalog was compiled by NIST staff in early 2015 for OSAC members to assess existing standards, guidelines and best practices that are already publicly available.

The catalog was updated in April of 2017. The catalog is available to download as a [sortable Excel spreadsheet](#) (link opens an Excel .xlsx file). It contains the titles and source information for more than 700 standards, guidelines and related documents. The catalog also lists web addresses for documents that are available online.

NEW The ASCLD reps on the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) Quality Infrastructure Committee's (QIC) Impact Assessment Task Group are seeking informal feedback from lab directors to assess the laboratory impact of the following proposed standard(s) being considered for inclusion on the OSAC Registry of Standards. This survey should take less than 4 minutes to complete. For further information, and to review each proposed standard, click the appropriate link(s) below. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Impact Assessment Task Group Chair Rita C. Dyas @ Rita.Dyas@chandleraz.gov

Click on each proposed standard to link to the QIC survey: (1) [ASTM E1610-18 Standard Guide for Forensic Paint Analysis and Comparison](#) (2) [ASTM E2937-18 Standard Guide for Using Infrared Spectroscopy in Forensic Paint Examinations](#)

The QIC survey will also close June 20, 2018. Please participate; your feedback is important.

2018 [February](#) | [May](#) | [August](#) | [November](#)

2017 [January](#) | [February](#) | [March](#) | [April](#) | [May](#) | [June](#) | [July](#) | [August](#) | [September](#) | [November](#)
(Moved to quarterly publication, effective November 2017)

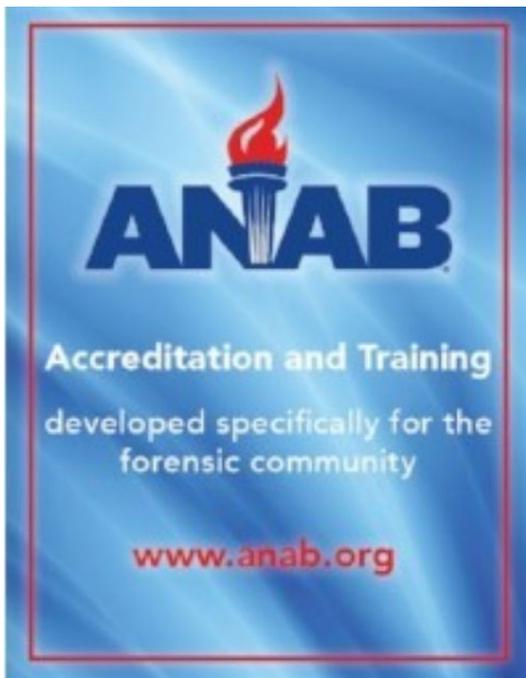
This Bulletin provides an update on forensic science standards that are moving through the development process at Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs), and those that are moving through the Registry Approval Process at the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC)

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/organization-scientific-area-committees-osac>

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-standards-and-guidelines>

OSAC June Standards Bulletin

OSAC Subcommittees
<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-subcommittees>

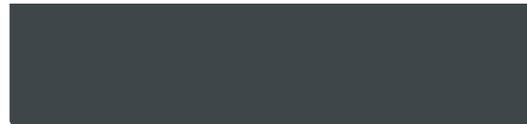


The new year is upon us. Invest in yourself in 2018 by attending one of the upcoming programs hosted by the WVU Center for Executive Education

[Forensic Management Academy](#)
September 9 - 14, 2018
Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office
Pittsburgh, PA
REGISTER NOW

[Lean Six Sigma Certification for Forensic Science Professionals](#)
March 20 - September 11, 2018
Via online webinar with one face-to-face class held on September 11, 2018 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. in Pittsburgh, PA at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport.
REGISTER NOW

For more information on the Forensic Management Academy and Lean Six Sigma programs, please visit business.wvu.edu/execed or email Martina Bison-Huckaby at Martina.Bison-Huckaby@mail.wvu.edu.



NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

The summary for the NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics grant is detailed below. This summary states who is eligible for the grant, how much grant money will be awarded, current and past deadlines, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers, and a sampling of similar government grants. Verify the accuracy of the data. [FederalGrants.com](#) provides by visiting the webpage noted in the [Link to Full Announcement](#) section or by contacting the appropriate person listed as the [Grant Announcement Contact](#). If any section is incomplete, please visit the website for the National Institute of Justice, which is the U.S. government agency offering this grant.

- Start-Up Business Funding
- Federal Grant For Single Moms
- Apply For College Grants
- Grants For Education
- Apply For Free Grants
- Free Money Grants
- Bad Credit Personal Loans

NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics: The Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (GRF-STEM) provides awards to accredited academic institutions to support graduate research leading to doctoral degrees in topic areas that are relevant to ensuring public safety, preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States.



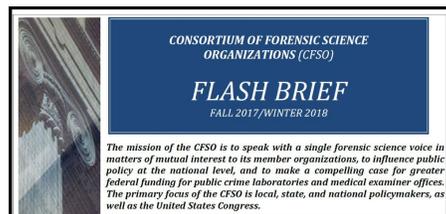
LabCorp Specialty Testing Group

[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.



Advocacy - <http://thecfso.org/advocacy/>

<https://judiciary.house.gov/hearing/examine-state-forensic-science-united-states/>

Membership:
For Membership information:
matthew.gamette@thecfso.org

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS
NIJ National Institute of Justice
 STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE.

National Institute of Justice's latest Graduate Research Fellowships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. NIJ has made 20 new awards in 2017 for STEM fellows, totaling \$960,861 for graduate students working towards advancing NIJ's mission. The GRF-STEM program funds dissertation research across a wide range of topics to criminal justice, including the forensic sciences.

[See a full list of awards and descriptions, awardees, and dollar amounts.](#)
[Sign up to get email notices when NIJ releases GRF and other funding solicitations.](#)

[CFSO Board of Directors](#)

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- Beth Lavach, Legislative Liaison bethlavach@elsandassociates.com

Sexual Assault Cases: Exploring the Importance of Non-DNA Forensic Evidence Investigating and prosecuting sexual assault crimes is much more complicated than simply performing DNA testing.

Grant Assistance for DNA

Federal Grant Assistance for Rapid DNA	State Grant Assistance for Rapid DNA
<p>Rapid DNA is included in two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Authorized Equipment Lists (AEL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07BD-02-DNRN: Analysis, DNA/RNA Detection • 09MY-01-DNAK: Kit, DNA Tools <p>These AEL's are in these FEMA grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Stonegarden • Port Security Grant Program • Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program • Transit Security Grant Program • Urban Areas Security Initiative Program • Homeland Security Grant Program • State Homeland Security Program <p><u>Grants.gov</u> discusses these FEMA Grants and other Federal grant opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of these are submitted through your State – see other side of this card <p>How to find applicable Grants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On <u>Grants.gov</u>, under Search Grants <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Keyword search with terms: DNA, identity, biometric, security, mass casualty, etc. b. Use checklists to limit number of grants, e.g., Eligibility, Category c. Select a grant by Opportunity Number View Grant Opportunity page for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Synopsis – key information, e.g. dates, POC ii. Package – under Actions-Apply provide email to get info on application package 2. On <u>Grants.gov</u>, under Search Applicants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use Register to apply for Workspace as either Organizational or Individual b. Get your DUNS number from your organization's finance office or call DUNS at: 1-866-705-5711 c. Use Apply tab under Applicants for Workspace instructions d. Complete required forms e. Submit and track application 3. Get alerts for new or revised grants at: apply07.grants.gov/search/subscribeAll.do 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find contact information for your State Emergency Management (EM) Office at: www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies 2. Call or go to the website of your State EM Office. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Request information on FEMA and other Federal grants. b. Request a contact in the EM Office for grants. 3. If EM Office cannot help, find a contact who works with grant applications in your State. Key offices to contact: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administration b. Finance c. Budget 4. Identify appropriate grants). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Apply under all applicable grants. b. Comply with Open-Close times. 5. Request proper forms. 6. Complete forms. Cite the proper FEMA AEL Item ID: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07BD-02-DNRN - Analysis, DNA/RNA Detection • 09MY-01-DNAK - kit, DNA Tools 7. File forms on time 8. Periodically monitor <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Call or email your State contact b. Call or email the contact given in the grant announcement 9. Request feedback on your application and apply the next year. Many are successful on their 2nd or 3rd year <p>Contact the Rapid DNA vendors for assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANDE (NetBio): www.ANDE.com sales@ANDE.com 817-705-4055 • IntegenX www.IntegenX.com sales@IntegenX.com



The goal of the Laboratories and Educators Alliance Program (LEAP) is to facilitate collaborative research between academia and forensic science laboratories. This joint effort between the American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD) and the Council of Forensic Science Educators (COFSE) identifies forensic science needs and provides a platform for laboratories, researchers, and students to seek projects aligning with their mutual research capabilities.

Laboratories	Academia
Expands the research climate within the laboratory, leading to meaningful contributions to forensic science practices.	Promotes impactful research by providing a list of forensic science needs and research interests that can lead to future collaborations.
Provides educational opportunities, such as conference presentations and guest lectures.	Enriches the knowledge base of university faculty with limited or no prior forensic laboratory experience.
Supports the laboratory through hosting student interns to assist in validation and evaluation projects.	Enhances academic achievements through the valuable internship experiences provided to students.
Facilitates the connection between the laboratory and university programs, potentially assisting with future hiring actions and research needs.	Streamlines vital connections and collaborations between universities and forensic science laboratories as required for accreditation.



Since 1995, JusticeTrax has produced a suite of products geared specifically toward the law enforcement and forensic community. Over the years, our applications have gained increasing acceptance among city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Our applications are designed by forensic scientists and are the most comprehensive case management tools available.

With installations ranging from small, single-site

THE FORENSIC EXHIBIT.

Shining a spotlight on the work of the Australia New Zealand forensic science community

<http://www.anzpa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/newsletters>

To keep you up-to-date, we issue a free quarterly e-newsletter which provides an

overview on the work on the Australia New Zealand forensic science community. In this issue of The Forensic Exhibit:

- News from the forensic community - updates from ANZFEC; Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences; Australia New Zealand Forensic Science Society
- ANZPAA NIFS forensic project updates: Research and Innovation Roadmap and Strategy; ANZPAA NIFS Groups Review
- Meetings and workshops reports from: The Impression, Pattern and Trace Evidence Symposium 2018; SOFT/TIAFT Conference; Clandestine Laboratory Advanced Practitioners Workshop
- Events Calendar

NIFS Newsletter --
<http://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/newsletters>

Please check out NIJ this week for an abundance of forensic material:

<https://www.nij.gov/Pages/welcome.aspx>.

Sexual Assault and Non-DNA Evidence

When DNA is not available or not probative in sexual assault cases, other forensic evidence can help establish the facts, recreate a series of events, corroborate or refute testimonies, and include or exclude a potential suspect. [Read the article.](#)

Sexual Assault Response Recommendations (Best Practices for SAKs)

Check out research-based recommendations for processing sexual assault kits. These include victim-centered responses to sexual assault and ultimately results in safer communities. [Review best practices \(pdf, 140 pages\).](#)

[Recent Articles](#)

[Defining the Difficulty of Fingerprint Comparisons](#)

[New Software Improves Rigor of Latent Fingerprint Examination](#)

[The Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in the Forensic Sciences](#)

Director's Corner Message on Responding to Sexual Assaults:

<https://www.nij.gov/about/director/Pages/muhlhausem-responding-to-sexual-assault.aspx>

laboratories of five users, to extremely large multi-site installations with 500+ users, we are honored to serve some of the most sophisticated crime laboratories in North America, Australia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. Of these 175+ laboratories, greater than 95% are accredited to the ISO/IEC 17025 International Standard.

JusticeTrax is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company.

The JusticeFacts newsletters are found at <http://JusticeTrax.com/sales/newsletters>

ChemCentre Expert Solutions
<http://www.chemcentre.wa.gov.au/Our-Services/Forensic-Science>

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 11

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.

[NIJ-FBI Fingerprint Partnership Identifies 200 Missing Persons](#)

In March of this year, a new collaboration began between the National Institute of Justice and the FBI Laboratory. Fingerprints from unidentified missing persons are sent to the FBI where a new technology, known as Next Generation Identification, along with enhanced processing protocols, is improving the odds of identification. Identifications are increasing even with poor quality prints or with those that have been searched in the past.

[National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach](#)

The National Institute of Justice recently released a report on National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach in response to the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act of 2013, which focuses on the accurate, timely, and effective collection and processing of DNA evidence in sexual assault investigations. A practitioner working group developed 35 recommendations that provide a roadmap for collecting, transferring, preserving, storing and analyzing sexual assault kits. The recommendations apply to medical professionals, members of law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors and laboratories. A coordinated, collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to sexual assault investigations helps reassure and support victims of sexual violence, encourages victim engagement and increases the potential for just legal resolutions.

[The Fingerprint Sourcebook is Now Available in Spanish](#)

NIJ has released a Spanish-language version of The Fingerprint Sourcebook, which aims to be the definitive resource on the science of fingerprint identification. The Sourcebook was prepared by the International Association for Identification and topics covered include the anatomy and physiology of friction ridge skin; techniques for recording exemplars from both living and deceased subjects; AFIS; latent print development, preservation and documentation; equipment and laboratory quality assurance; perceptual, cognitive and psychological factors in expert identifications; and legal issues.

[Forensic Identification Using Individual Chemical Signatures](#)

NIJ-funded researchers developed an approach to translate chemical signatures recovered from personal objects such as phones into a lifestyle sketch of the owner, using mass spectrometry and informatics approaches.

[Quantifying Error Rates for the Measurement of Human Skeletal Remains](#)

NIJ-funded researchers revised forensic anthropology procedures to include an "error metric" for the measurement of human skeletal remains. This article summarizes findings from that study.

[Designing Methods to Identify Evolving Designer Drugs](#)

This article describes an NIJ-supported research project focused on issues of resolution and discriminatory capabilities needed to increase the reliability and selectivity of forensic evidence and analytical data for new bath salt-type drugs of abuse.

[Standardized Process Developed for Identifying Dyes in Fibers](#)

This article summarizes method with the twofold purpose of producing a novel, reliable, and useful microfluidic system for fabric dye extraction and increasing the knowledge needed to guide criminal justice policy and practice related to the forensic analysis of dyed fabric.

[The Most Important Features for an Effective Sexual Assault Response Team](#)

Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) hold the promise of improving victim experiences, increasing prosecution rates, and reducing the prevalence of sexual assault. To understand how an effective SART works, NIJ-funded researchers studied the structure and operations of SARTS across the United States.

[Identifying Ignitable Liquids in the Aftermath of A Fire](#)

In a wide-ranging analysis of the effects of weathering and biological degradation on ignitable liquids, NIJ-supported researchers at the University of Central Florida's National Center for Forensic Science studied and classified 50 liquids in the Ignitable Liquids Reference Collection database.

[Scale Modeling in Fire Reconstruction](#)

After reviewing scaling theory used in fire research, this project developed scaling rules for design fires and enclosure material boundaries, followed by the full-scale testing of a gas burner, heptane pool fire, pine wood crib, and polyurethane foam, and the scaling theory was applied to the full-scale scenario and a 1/8 scale compartment.

[Evaluation of the Use of a Non-Contact 3D Scanner for Collecting Postmortem Fingerprints](#)

Historically, the recording of postmortem fingerprint impressions from decedents is a manual and labor-intensive process. 3D scanners are potentially an important tool to help forensic scientists address the challenges of postmortem fingerprint recovery due to the contactless scanning capabilities, as well as the ability to scan complex surfaces and capture scale. This NIJ-supported study evaluated the potential for using a contactless, 3D fingerprint scanner to capture examination-quality postmortem fingerprints and facilitate rapid identification of the deceased.

[Evidential Value of Particle Combination Profiles on Common Items of Evidence](#)

This project used the analytical tools and statistical methods developed in previous research funded by NIJ to measure the evidential value of very small particle (VSP) profiles found on four common types of physical evidence: handguns, cell phones, drug packaging, and ski masks.

[Method Development and Validation of Toolmark Imaging, Virtual Casing Comparison, and In-Lab Verification using a GelSight-Based Three Dimensional Imaging and Analysis](#)

Stemming from a previous project that developed a 3D surface topography imaging and analysis system for casings based on the GelSight scanning technology and custom feature-based image comparison, this NIJ-supported project aimed 1) to develop the ability to scan and compare firing pin impressions; 2) to examine the use of the imaging and analysis technology in a live lab experiment; and 3) to investigate Virtual Microscopy, the use of measured 3D surface topographics as a substitute for physical casings.

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

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