



## American Society of Crime Lab Directors

### "THE CRIME LAB MINUTE" NEWSLETTER



I am a huge proponent of Project Foresight. This is an initiative where labs are showing great leadership and dramatically improving the data available to evaluate laboratory operations. Today ASCLD will issue the second press release in less than a month regarding our support of this initiative. Quoting from today's press release, "started in 2007 by a cooperative agreement between the West Virginia University College of Business and Economics and the National Institute of Justice, the [Foresight](#) program is a business-guided, self-evaluation of forensic science laboratories, which began with local, regional, state, and national agencies in North America. Over the years, the program has expanded to include several laboratories in Europe. Economics, accounting, finance, and forensic faculty from WVU provide assistance, guidance, and analysis. The process involves standardizing definitions for metrics to evaluate work processes, linking financial information to work tasks, and functions."

During our 45th Annual Symposium last month, we honored the founding members that submitted data on project Foresight over ten years ago. We want to thank these labs again for their leadership on this initiative:

- ***Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office***
- ***Centre of Forensic Science – Toronto***
- ***Colorado Bureau of Investigation***
- ***Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory Bureau***
- ***Georgia Bureau of Investigation***
- ***Illinois State Police***
- ***Miami-Dade Police Department***
- ***Michigan State Police***
- ***Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Forensic Services***
- ***National Institute of Justice***
- ***Orange County Forensic Science Service***
- ***Phoenix Police Department***
- ***Royal Canadian Mounted Police***
- ***US Army Crime Lab***
- ***Virginia Department of Forensic Sciences***
- ***Washington State Patrol***
- ***West Virginia State Police***

The press release today will discuss the new Foresight Maximus Award. At the symposium we honored fifteen forensic laboratories with the Foresight Maximus Award, a first-ever distinction recognizing the top performing forensic laboratories in the world based on Foresight business metrics. The 2018 Foresight Maximus award was presented to participant laboratories operating at 90% or better of peak efficiency. The 2018 awardees are:

- ***Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory***
- ***Fort Worth Police Department Crime Laboratory***
- ***Laboratoire de médecine légale et de sciences judiciaires, Montreal, Canada***
- ***Orange County Sheriff-Coroner OC Crime Lab***
- ***South Carolina Law Enforcement Division***
- ***Tulsa Police Department Forensic Laboratory Division***
- ***Texas DPS – Abilene Crime Lab***
- ***Texas DPS – Amarillo Crime Lab***
- ***Texas DPS – Corpus Christi Crime Lab***

- **Texas DPS – El Paso Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Laredo Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Midland Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Tyler Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Waco Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Weslaco Crime Lab**

Again quoting from the press release, “The Foresight program has grown over time and its success had led to numerous journal publications, countless laboratory efficiency improvements across the U.S. and a supplementary program called Foresight 2020 with funding by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to examine the interface between Foresight metrics and Laboratory Information Management Systems. ASCLD encourages laboratories to contribute data to Project Foresight. Founder Dr. Paul Speaker makes it easier to do this submission every year. There were many presentations at the symposium regarding how to contribute to and benefit from the data. We are also trying to revive the in-person Foresight contributors meeting this year where we will discuss new proposals, and help new labs to become active participants. More information will be forthcoming. Finally, congratulations to new contributors to Project Foresight this year:

- **NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner – Dept of Forensic Biology**
- **South Carolina Law Enforcement Division**
- **Astana Institute of Forensic Expertise, Republic of Kazakhstan**
- **The Swedish Police Authority, National Forensic Centre – NFC**
- **Virginia Department of Forensic Science**
- **Texas DPS – Abilene Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Corpus Christi Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – El Paso Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Laredo Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Tyler Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Waco Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Weslaco Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Amarillo Crime Lab**
- **Texas DPS – Midland Crime Lab**

<https://www.forensicmag.com/news/2018/06/foresight-2020-automates-tracking-best-practices-blind-spots>

<https://www.ascl.org/resource-library/foresight-20-20/>

Matthew Gamette, ASCLD President



Pictured above: members of the Foresight Founders Group present at the 2018 Symposium

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@ascl.org](mailto:office@ascl.org). Thank you.

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*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.ascl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-ASCLD-Executive-Education-Digest.pdf>

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**ASCLD Press Release Foresight 2020**

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**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/>

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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](https://www.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](mailto: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](https://www.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](mailto:support@grants.gov)

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

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



ABOUT US ▾ RESOURCE LIBRARY ▾ MEETINGS & TRAININGS ▾ JOBS MEMBER SITE ▾

**Opioid Resource Center**

<https://www.ascd.org/opioid-resources/>

## Forensic Science in the News

### [Inside the Forensics Seminars Where Laypeople Learn About L.A.'s Most Gruesome Crimes](#)

Presiding over the day are Esotouric co-founders Kim Cooper and Richard Schave, a husband-wife team whose company hosts regular themed bus tours around the city with names like "The Real Black Dahlia," "Weird West Adams," and "Wilshire Boulevard Death Trip." Though Schave is the more outwardly enthusiastic of the two, he's quick to note that none of it would have happened if it weren't Cooper's passion for the morbid and unusual.

### [Forensic Scientists May Be Able to Catch Criminals With The Germs They Leave Behind](#)

Even the sneakiest of burglars may have a hard time escaping the law with a forensic technique that involves analyzing the unique "microbial signature" we leave in our wake. This is part of a National Institute of Justice funded project involving a team of microbiologists and forensic experts, which was presented at the ASM Microbe conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

### [How an Unproven Forensic Science Became a Courtroom Staple](#)

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.

### [Two FBI officials say the state of forensics is fine. Here's why they're wrong.](#)

To say that several forensic disciplines are "grounded in diverse sciences" tells us little about whether the actual methods of analysis that the practitioners use to reach their conclusions are scientifically sound and reliable. One important test of scientific merit, for example, is repeatability. If a method of forensic analysis is scientifically reliable, two trained analysts using the same experiment with the same evidence should reliably get the same result. In a scientifically proven field such as DNA testing, two trained scientists testing the same blood, hair, semen, skin cells or other biological material will reliably produce the same DNA profile. The same can't always be said of blood-spatter analysts, tool-mark analysts or bite-mark analysts.

### [Using forensic science to tackle sexual violence](#)

"This work has the potential to be of great benefit to victims of sexual violence, communities, and the legal system in Kenya and beyond by enhancing access to justice and overcoming the impunity that currently exists in many jurisdictions globally."

### [Forensic investigators gather in Charleston for annual conference](#)

Hundreds of forensic investigators are in Charleston this week for the annual Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiner's six-day conference taking place at the Civic Center.

### [Texas drivers raising thousands for rape kit testing](#)

Since Jan. 1, Texas drivers have already raised almost a quarter of a million dollars by checking a little box on their license application to donate a dollar.

### [Fired DCJS director accuses commissioner of misleading oversight panel](#)

In a letter sent Friday to the state Commission on Forensic Science, Gestring said that Green also did not disclose to the commission that the agency had three "catastrophic" cases in the past year in which it misidentified suspects who had been linked to crimes through DNA.

### [Montana sends 'mystery animal' to forensics lab in Ashland](#)

Burnham Curtis works in the genetics section of the laboratory. Tissue samples were sent over from the Bozeman lab and she and her team will be working to figure out what the animal is. But at the same time, they'll be working on hundreds of other projects as well.

### [Ashland Crime Lab Investigates A Mysterious Montana Animal](#)

"The only difference between a wildlife crime lab like ours and other labs is we first have to figure out what our victim is," Goddard said. "It makes huge difference whether it's endangered, threatened, protected or if there's nothing wrong with killing it in the first place."

### [Fuego eruption: A week on, rescue workers recover buried bodies](#)

Then, fingerprints are taken and compared with those in the INACIF database. If a match can't be found, a DNA sample is taken and entered into the database to find a match. If the relative isn't a next-of-kin, it takes longer to find a match. Once a match is finally found, relatives are asked to identify the remains.

### [FBI and police departments use labradors for canine Find My iPhone duties](#)

A small number of dogs have been trained to sniff out hidden electronics devices, ranging from hard drives to microSD cards, and CNET has a detailed feature on the program.

### [When only bones are left, Erie County's forensic anthropologist steps in](#)

The most recent hire of the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office was part of a team from Mercyhurst University who arrived within hours of the 2009 crash of Continental 3407. Over the next four days, she helped sift through the wreckage to map and recover the bodies of 50 victims at the crash site in Clarence. Of those on the plane, all but one was quickly identified.

### [State DNA databank botched identifications in three cases over past year, ex-official claims](#)

Over the past year, the state's DNA data bank has botched identifications in three murder cases and falsified a key document in a fourth case, an ex-official told the Daily News Friday.

### [Miller investigation continues amid wait for DNA report](#)

One year ago this week, Sunbury police ripped out basement walls of a Milton home based on information investigators said led them to what are believed to be the remains of Barbara Miller, which were entombed inside the cement.

### [Oklahoma man, Johnny Edward Tallbear, freed after serving 26 years for murder](#)

With the consent of the Oklahoma County District Attorney, district court judge Glenn M. Jones vacated the 1992 murder conviction and dismissed the charges against Johnny Edward Tallbear based on new DNA evidence proving his innocence.

#### [Breakthrough in cell imaging could have major impact in crime labs](#)

"This new procedure can be used to identify different cell types in a sample as well as potentially indicate some attributes of the individuals who deposited the cells, like age, sex and so forth," Ehrhardt said. "And the best part is that the procedure is nondestructive. After imaging, the cells can be used to generate a DNA profile. This is really important since many samples are very little biological material, so the more information you can get without consuming the sample, the better."

#### [State Crime Lab helps link DNA to 2014 rape cases, but why did it take so long?](#)

DNA evidence submitted to the State Patrol in 2014 linked the cases to the unidentified man, but it wasn't until late 2017 that the test results returned to detectives, said police spokesman Mark Jamieson.

#### [Ex-area school principal loses parole bid: lawyers fight to free him](#)

"A presumptive test for blood was negative on the (flashlight) lens," the forensics report said. In other words, the test could not confirm that what looked like blood actually was blood, and "no one was any closer to knowing whether the minute reddish-brown flecks on the flashlight lens (is) Mickey's blood, or blood, at all." That begs the question: How could blood spatter evidence be useful if the material in question is possibly not blood?

#### [KCPD crime lab director addresses rape kit backlog](#)

On Tuesday, Linda Netzel, the director of KCPD's crime lab, addressed a preliminary report from an audit Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley conducted that indicates there are nearly 5,000 untested rape kits across the state.

#### [State Crime Lab Experiencing 9-Month Backlog](#)

The Arkansas State Crime Lab is experiencing a nine-month backlog on processing drug cases. It's a historic high for the laboratory with about 11,000 cases just waiting to be tested.

#### [The Owl Theory Will Change How You Watch Netflix True Crime Doc 'The Staircase'](#)

A reexamination of the evidence in 2009 seemed to back the idea up. Kathleen was found to have had a microscopic feather and a sliver of wood from a tree limb caught up in a clump of hair in her hand that had been pulled out by the roots from her head.

#### [Crime lab firearms examiner injured when gun accidentally goes off](#)

"An employee in the State Crime Lab's firearms section accidentally discharged a weapon during forensic testing," according to NCDOJ spokeswoman Laura Brewer.

#### [State Police DNA testing under scrutiny](#)

A Times Union examination of records documenting the practices of the State Police's Forensic Investigations Center also found the lab may be manipulating DNA analysis to match samples to known suspects in crimes, and that a national accreditation organization removed details of that allegation from an audit that was released in February.

#### [Idaho Finds Success With Sex Assault Kit Tracking As NC Weighs Bill To Adopt Similar System](#)

"Anecdotal data suggests it's given more confidence to victims that if they go to a hospital or clinic go through a very invasive examination that their kit in their case is going to be taken very seriously," Gamette said. "We do take sexual assault very seriously in Idaho."

#### [DOJ sex assault kit tests yield more charges, including Beloit case](#)

DOJ spokeswoman Rebecca Ballweg declined comment on why the girl's kit went untested for years. A DOJ website indicates most of Rock County's untested kits went unanalyzed because prosecutors felt they didn't offer any evidence or police chose not to investigate.

#### [Santa Clara County approves rapid rape-kit testing](#)

"What we're embracing now is a much broader question: Is there a legal reason not to test the kit?" Harman said. "This has allowed us to really examine a better way to do things at the crime lab as it relates to SART kit testing."

#### [Advanced 3D Seafloor Imaging of WWII Destroyer Sunk Off Okinawa](#)

"The 3D SfM model recoded detailed surface conditions, such as cracks and other damage, and adhering objects and organisms," the scientists write. "It is therefore expected that this method can be used to create 3D models superior to those generated by multibeam bathymetric DEM, providing baseline data for the long-term study and conservation of underway sites."

#### [NJ Attorney General Asks Makers of Ghost Guns to Stop Selling](#)

Legislation to prohibit the purchase of firearms parts used to make such weapons is moving through the Democrat-led Legislature. The state Senate passed the bill unanimously earlier this month.

#### [Court Rules No Privacy for Cellphone With 1-2-3-4 Passcode](#)

A man serving 18 years in prison in South Carolina for burglary was rightfully convicted in part because he left his cellphone at the crime scene and a detective guessed his passcode as 1-2-3-4 instead of getting a warrant, the state Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

#### [Korean War Remains: Will Trump-Kim Talks Bring Them Home?](#)

One of the major breakthroughs has been with next-generation sequencing, also known as massively parallel sequencing. For instance, in one recently-reported case, a humerus bone from the Korean War yielded only seven loci to conventional STR typing—but next-gen produced 21 markers, along with distinct Y-STRs and SNPs to produce a fully-convincing identification.

#### [Judge Halts 3D Model Evidence in FBI Agent's Oregon Shooting](#)

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the model pinpoints where prosecutors believe W. Joseph Astarita was standing when he allegedly fired two errant shots at the truck driven by Robert "LaVoy" Finicum. Oregon State Police fatally shot Finicum at the same roadblock.



**Forensic Science Laboratory**

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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 DNA related positions open: <https://www.troopers.ny.gov/Employment/>
- Laboratory Manager II (Forensic Chemistry Unit), DIVISION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE, Wilmington, DE, Expires: June 19, 2018
- Firearms and Toolmarks Lab Supervisor, Cuyahoga County of Ohio, Medical Examiner's Office, Cleveland, Ohio, Expires: September 11, 2018
- 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
- DNA Supervisor, Oregon State Police, Clackamas, OR, Expires: June 17, 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 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
- [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, 201

### **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](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.dsps.wi.gov/Documents/Industry%20Services/Forms/Public%20Sector%20Employee/Template-Chemical\\_Hygiene\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.dsps.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.](#)

Subscribe to the channel at:

- [Google Play](#)
- [iTunes](#)
- [Stitcher](#)
- [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 17025:2017 Internal Auditor Training](#)

September 11-14, 2018, Bakersfield, CA  
December 4-7, 2018, Boca Raton, FL

[Forensic ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Assessor Training \(Testing\)](#)

September 30-October 4, 2018, Shreveport, LA\*

\*hosted by SWAFS

November 5-9, 2018, Long Beach, CA

[Forensic ISO/IEC:2017 Assessor Training \(Calibration\)](#)

September 24-28, 2018, Alexandria, VA

[Root Cause Analysis for Forensic Service Providers \(Web-based\)](#)

July 30-31, 2018 (11am-1pm & 2-4pm ET)

[Forensic Measurement Confidence MC100 \(Web-based\)](#)

August 29-31, 2018 (11am-1pm ET)

[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!

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](mailto: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](mailto:barry.logan@frfoundation.org) or [alex.krotulski@frfoundation.org](mailto:alex.krotulski@frfoundation.org).

An archive of novel psychoactive substances and their precursors both from seized drug casework, and

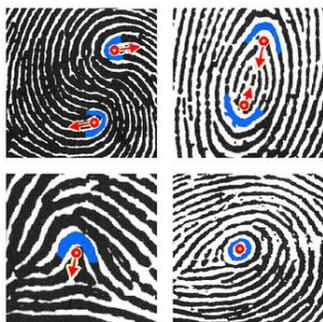
from human postmortem forensic toxicology casework identified through this program is posted at: <https://www.forensicscienceeducation.org/resources/nps-discovery/>

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

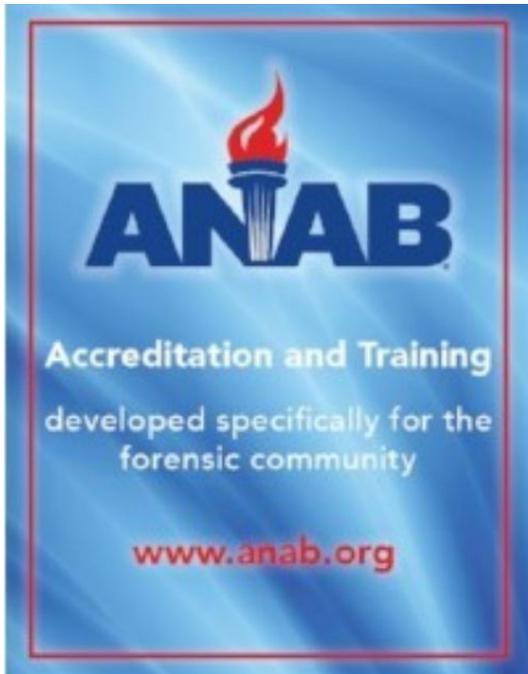
2017 [January](#) | [February](#) | [March](#) | [April](#) | [May](#) | [June](#) | [July](#) | [August](#) | [September](#) | [November](#)  
(Moved to quarterly publication, effective November 2017)

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>



**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

**Evidence Technology Magazine**  
<http://www.evidencemagazine.com>

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

[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.

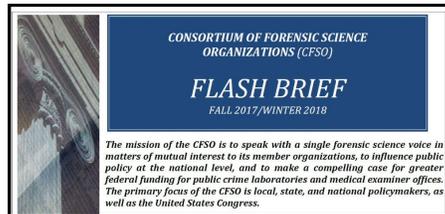
For more information on the Forensic Management Academy and Lean Six Sigma programs, please visit [business.wvu.edu/execed](http://business.wvu.edu/execed) or email Martina Bison-Huckaby at [Martina.Bison-Huckaby@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Martina.Bison-Huckaby@mail.wvu.edu).

[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/>

**West Virginia University Forensic Management Academy**

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.](#)

**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.**



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.

**THE FORENSIC EXHIBIT**

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

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

To keep you up-to-date, we issue a free

Membership:  
 For Membership information:  
[matthew.gamette@thecfso.org](mailto:matthew.gamette@thecfso.org)

[CFSSO Board of Directors](#)

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- Yale Caplan, PhD Representing ABFT [fortox@aol.com](mailto:fortox@aol.com)
- Beth Lavach, Legislative Liaison [bethlavach@elsandassociates.com](mailto:bethlavach@elsandassociates.com)

**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"> <li>• 078D-02-DNRN - Analysis, DNA/RNA Detection</li> <li>• 09MY-01-DNAK - Kit, DNA Tools</li> </ul> <p>These AEL's are in these FEMA grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operation Stonegarden</li> <li>• Port Security Grant Program</li> <li>• Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program</li> <li>• Transit Security Grant Program</li> <li>• Urban Areas Security Initiative Program</li> <li>• Homeland Security Grant Program</li> <li>• State Homeland Security Program</li> </ul> <p><u><a href="#">Grants.gov</a></u> discusses these FEMA Grants and other Federal Grant opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of these are submitted through your State – see other side of this card</li> </ul> <p>How to find applicable Grants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On <u><a href="#">Grants.gov</a></u>, under Search Grants                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Keyword search with terms: DNA, identity, biometric, security, mass casualty, etc.</li> <li>b. Use checklists to limit number of grants, e.g., Eligibility, Category</li> <li>c. Select a grant by Opportunity Number View Grant Opportunity page for:                                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Synopsis - key information, e.g. dates, POC</li> <li>ii. Package – under Actions-Apply provide email to get info on application package</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>2. On <u><a href="#">Grants.gov</a></u>, under Search Applicants                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Use Register to apply for Workspace as either Organizational or Individual</li> <li>b. Get your DUNS number from your organization's finance office or call DUNS at: 1-866-705-5711</li> <li>c. Use Apply tab under Applicants for Workspace instructions</li> <li>d. Complete required forms</li> <li>e. Submit and track application</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Get alerts for new or revised grants at: <a href="mailto:apply07.grants.gov/search/subscribeAll.do">apply07.grants.gov/search/subscribeAll.do</a></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Find contact information for your State Emergency Management (EM) Office at: <a href="http://www.fema.gov/emergency-management/agencies">www.fema.gov/emergency-management/agencies</a></li> <li>2. Call or go to the website of your State EM Office.                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Request information on FEMA and other Federal grants.</li> <li>b. Request a contact in the EM Office for grants.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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"> <li>a. Administration</li> <li>b. Finance</li> <li>c. Budget</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Identify appropriate grants).                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Apply under all applicable grants.</li> <li>b. Comply with Open-Close times.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Request proper forms.</li> <li>6. Complete forms. Cite the proper FEMA AEL Item ID:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 078D-02-DNRN - Analysis, DNA/RNA Detection</li> <li>• 09MY-01-DNAK - Kit, DNA Tools</li> </ul> </li> <li>7. File forms on time</li> <li>8. Periodically monitor                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Call or email your State contact</li> <li>b. Call or email the contact given in the grant announcement</li> </ol> </li> <li>9. Request feedback on your application and apply the next year. Many are successful on their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year</li> </ol> <p>Contact the Rapid DNA vendors for assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANDE (NetBio): <a href="http://www.ANDE.com">www.ANDE.com</a> <a href="mailto:sales@ANDE.com">sales@ANDE.com</a> 817-705-4055</li> <li>• IntegenX <a href="http://www.integenx.com">www.integenx.com</a> <a href="mailto:sales@integenx.com">sales@integenx.com</a></li> </ul>



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

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

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 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>

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/muhlhausen-responding-to-sexual-assault.aspx>

#### 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 Casings 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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