Colleagues,

This week I’d like to provide you an update on the Justice for All Reauthorization Act courtesy of our Advocacy chair and the chair of the CFSO, Matthew Gamette. Thank you, Matthew, for all that you do for us!

From Matthew:

"Following a two-year effort in the United States Senate, the Justice For All Reauthorization Act (JFAA) of 2016 was unanimously passed in the Senate today." The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations has been in constant dialog with the Senate over this bill for many years and is pleased to announce that the bill includes numerous sections in support of forensic practitioners. This legislation is an authorizing bill, which provides legal power for programs to exist and operate. Funding will still need to be appropriated during the appropriations process, but the levels in our key federal grant programs are raised. The highlights of this legislation specifically for forensic science (crime laboratories and medical examiners offices) are:

Re-authorizes the Sexual Assault Kit Backlog programs ensuring that:
- 75% of funds provided for grants must be used for “direct testing activities”
- Not less 5% shall be provided for grants for law enforcement agencies to conduct audits of their previously unsubmitted kits

Provides grant funding for expansion and operation of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs in rural areas and to sustain or establish training programs

Authorizes $5m for DNA Research and Development for FY2017 to FY2021

Authorizes $10m for FBI DNA Programs for FY 2017 to FY2021

Re-authorizes the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants:
- Provides funding for accreditation of laboratories and medical examiner offices
- Increases amount of formula grant to 85% from 75%
- Decreases discretionary funds from 25% to 15%
- Increases minimum amount a grantee receives from 0.6% to 1%
- Adds language for purpose areas to allow funds to be used for impression evidence, digital evidence and medicolegal death investigators
- Adds language that funds can be used to “address emerging forensic science issues (such as statistics, contextual bias, and uncertainty of measurement) and emerging forensic science technology (such as high throughput automation, statistical software, and new types of instrumentation).”
- Adds language to allow funds to be used to educate and train forensic pathologists
- Adds language for DOJ to work with states and local government to direct funding to medicolegal death investigation systems to facilitate accreditation of medical examiner and coroner offices and certification of medicolegal death investigators
• Increases Coverdell authorization to $25m for FY 2017 to 2021
• Mandates a needs assessment of forensic laboratories not later than October 2018 to include
  An assessment of current workload, backlog, personnel, equipment
  • An assessment of current workload, backlog, personnel, equipment
  • A review of all previous studies to include NAS, BJS and others

Reauthorizes Post Conviction DNA Testing funds
Reauthorizes Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Program for $10m
Establishes best practices for evidence retention and requires that they are published one year after passage of bill
in consultation with Federal, state and local law enforcement and laboratories
Requires audits of recipients of grants

This legislation will now move quickly to the House for a vote, and then to the President for a signature.

CFSO thanks Senators Cornyn and Leahy for their leadership on this bill and Chairman Grassley for his efforts to
ensure the passage. We also thank the numerous CFSO members that wrote letters, made phone calls, hosted
tours, and visited personally with the Senators and their staff members to ensure that the needs of the forensic
science community were addressed in this bill.

Links to the Senator announcements on this action are listed below:
https://www.cornyn.senate.gov/content/cornyn-leahy-bill-help-reduce-rape-kit-backlog-strengthen-crime-victim-
  rights-passes-senate

Have a great week!

-Jeremy Triplett

Jeremy S. Triplett, M.S., F-ABC | Laboratory Supervisor
Kentucky State Police Central Forensic Laboratory
100 Sower Blvd., Suite 102 Frankfort, KY 40601
T: 502-564-5230
F: 502-564-4821
E: jeremy.triplett@ky.gov
www.kentuckystatepolice.org

CRIME LAB MINUTE SURVEY

As we review the information and design of the Crime Lab Minute, we are seeking input from the
members to ensure that we are providing current and relevant information to members weekly.
Suggestions are encouraged. Thank you in advance for your participation.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7ZK92DN

- Communications Committee
Research Reports

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 4

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.

White House Announces National Microbiome Initiative

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, in collaboration with federal agencies and private-sector stakeholders, is announcing the National Microbiome Initiative (NMI). The NMI aims to advance understanding of microbiomes in order to aid in the development of useful applications in areas such as health care, food production, and environmental restoration. The National Institute of Justice invested $3.2 million in FY 2015 in microbiome related research, including work on the necrobiome as an indicator of time-since-death in the investigation of human remains, the soil microbiome for analysis of trace soil evidence, and the trace microbiome as an orthogonal method to human DNA analysis for associating people with evidence and environments.

The Reliability of Pattern Classification in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Part 1: Bloodstain Patterns on Rigid Non-absorbent Surfaces

NIJ-supported researchers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety recently published an article in the Journal of Forensic Sciences. Abstract retrieved 5/16/2016:

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board

Certified Laboratorians
ISO/IEC 17025
ISO/IEC 17020

ASCLD-LAB Training
Training classes to help forensic laboratory personnel understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025
The study was designed to produce the first baseline measure of reliability in bloodstain pattern classification. A panel of experienced bloodstain pattern analysts examined over 400 spatter patterns on three rigid, non-absorbent surfaces. The patterns varied in spatter type and extent. A case summary accompanied each pattern that either contained neutral information, information to suggest the correct pattern (i.e., was positively biasing), or information to suggest an incorrect pattern (i.e., was negatively biasing). Across the variables under examination, 13 percent of classifications were erroneous. Generally speaking, where the pattern was more difficult to recognize (e.g., limited staining extent or a patterned substrate), analysts became more conservative in their judgment, opting to be inconclusive. Incorrect classifications increased as a function of the negatively biasing contextual information.

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The past three decades of human decomposition have demonstrated that certain factors promote decomposition, such as high temperatures and insect access, yet the rate of decomposition varies considerably in macro- and microenvironments. Not all researchers have access to human cadavers, however, and therefore have employed nonhuman animals as surrogates for humans in decomposition studies. The results from some of these animal model studies have been used in the courts to support postmortem interval estimations of human decedents. Nonetheless, the scientific validity of substituting data from nonhuman carcasses for human cadavers has enjoyed limited evaluation. This project directly compared the decomposition dynamics of human, pig, and rabbit subjects placed simultaneously in the same ecological niche to determine whether, in the same settings, pig and rabbits are appropriate analogs for humans in terms of decomposition research and estimates of postmortem intervals.

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Applying Lean Design to Crime Laboratories

Over the past decade, several tools have been developed to increase organizational efficiency and reduce backlogs in laboratories, including process mapping and Lean Sigma Six. More recently, a variation of Lean Sigma Six — Lean Design — has been applied successfully to the planning and construction of health care research and development and quality management laboratories. A report from NIJ’s Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, Development of a Lean Facility Design Roadmap for Design-Bid-Build Forensic Facilities, presents a crime laboratory design model that incorporates Lean

General Requirements for the Competency of Testing and Calibration Laboratories.

ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Testing Laboratories
ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Breath Alcohol Calibration
ASCLD/LAB-International Internal Auditor Training Course
ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Testing Laboratories
ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Calibration Laboratories

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

Bode Cellmark Forensics provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

Bode’s newest offerings include:

Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction Program streamlines processes to eliminate backlogs of untested sexual assault kits.

Bode Buccal 2™ is uniquely designed to improve DNA databanking collecting and automate processing. The Bode Buccal 2 is a DIRECT COLLECTION SYSTEM that requires minimal training. There is NO Transfer Step Required.

Independent Validation Services are customized to meet your laboratory’s needs. Validation services provide completely unbiased analysis on your equipment, chemistries, or process.

Employment Opportunities


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

Evidence Specialist, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory, Minneapolis, MN, Expires: June 27, 2016

Forensic Examiner I or II, City of Rapid City – Rapid City Police Department, Rapid City SD, Expires: July 1, 2016

DNA Technical Lead, Alameda County, Oakland, CA, Expires: June 23, 2016

Design thinking in to the planning and construction of forensic facilities. The report includes a comprehensive set of checklists and guidelines to integrate Lean concepts and principles into the traditional approaches described in the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s updated Forensic Science Laboratories: Handbook for Facility Planning, Design, Construction and Relocation.

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Characterization of Designer Drugs: Chemical Stability, Exposure, and Metabolite Identification

New NIJ-supported research conducted by RTI International examined the stability of popular designer drugs and identify major degradation products, and identify the major metabolites. The research identified metabolites suitable as potential markers of use, degradation products, and pyrolysis products that may be left in an ash residue to use for confirmation of the parent compound. Although new designer drugs are coming to market faster than targeted testing can keep up, by performing a thorough and systematic study looking at families of structurally related compounds, the researchers are able to predict markers for broad classes of compounds.

Development of a Modern Compendium of Microcrystal Tests for Illicit Drugs and Diverted Pharmaceuticals

NIJ-supported researchers from the McCrone Research Institute have developed a comprehensive compendium of microcrystal tests that had previously been developed for illicit drugs and diverted pharmaceuticals. The researchers included 19 drugs and developed techniques for drugs that have non-traditional delivery mechanisms. The resulting electronic compendium will include recommended protocols and morphologies of crystals (including photomicrographs), infrared spectra of microcrystals, and potential interferences. Most importantly, the compendium will include optical and crystallographic properties of the resultant microcrystals. The Compendium of Microcrystal Tests for Illicit Drugs and Diverted Pharmaceuticals will be available with free access to all forensic scientists.

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**Research Reports**

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**Forensic Conferences**

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

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

**Training**

Ron Smith & Associates Training

**National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy**

APPLY NOW!
2nd Session - OCTOBER 3, 2016 thru MARCH 3, 2017

**BUDGET PLANNING REQUIRED?**

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

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

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

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

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

**Ron Smith & Associates National Forensic Quality Assurance Manager Training Academy**

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

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

Ron Smith & Associates, Inc. is known as one of the premier forensic training companies in the world. Our teams of subject matter experts and support staff have

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Sexual Assault Kits in Houston, TX: Case Characteristics, Forensic Testing Results, and the successfully designed and offered hundreds upon hundreds of highly sought after training opportunities all across the United States and abroad. RS&A is now ready to take on the challenge of building a National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy which will soon become the cornerstone of forensic training in this very critical area.

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

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

National Footwear & Tire Track Training Academy

SEPTEMBER 5-16, 2016 (2 weeks Footwear) OFF (September 19-30, 2016)

OCTOBER 3-14, 2016 (2 weeks Footwear) OFF (October 17-28, 2016)

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 11, 2016 (2 weeks Tire Track)

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

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

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

The 4 week footprint only academy is set at $7,500.00.

The 2 week tire track only academy is $3,750.00.

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

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

The American Society of Crime Lab Directors, along with RTI, have made the below webinars available.

ASCLD Train the Directors Latent Prints webinar - Archival

ASCLD Train the Directors DNA Discipline webinar - Archival

ASCLD Train the Directors Controlled Substance webinar - Archival

ASCLD Train the Directors Digital Multimedia Evidence webinar - Archival

ASCLD Train the Directors Toxicology webinar - Archival

ASCLD Train the Directors Firearms webinar - Archival

False Positive/Negative Error Rates in Cartridge Case Comparisons

ASCLD Rapid DNA webinar 1 – Archival

VersionASCLD Rapid DNA webinar 2 – Archival

VersionASCLD Rapid DNA webinar 3 – Archival VersionASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar Series:

Cambridge Heathtech Institute’s Inaugural DNA Forensics

Exploring New Frontiers in Forensic DNA Investigation

August 23-24, 2016 | Grand Hyatt Hotel | Washington,
Investigation of CODIS Hits

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DC

Advances in DNA profiling technologies are enabling faster and more accurate results, in some cases moving procedures from the lab to the crime scene. Emerging tools such as next-generation sequencing are also creating new possibilities in forensic DNA investigation, but with that comes unfamiliar scientific and legal implications.

Cambridge Healthtech Institute’s Inaugural DNA Forensics event will examine new technologies, changing policies, and trends in forensic DNA investigations. Special focus will be given to next-generation sequencing (NGS), including statistical analysis and interpretation of DNA profiles. Optimizing extraction techniques and isolation will also be addressed with an emphasis on challenging samples. Overall, this event aims to address existing bottlenecks while introducing solutions and new concepts in the DNA identification field.

Day 1 | Day 2 | Short Courses | Download Brochure

News Around the Globe cont..

Rape kit tests yield suspects but not necessarily convictions

HeraldNet

Evidence was collected from the woman, but Everett police didn't submit the sexual assault exam kit to the Washington State Patrol crime lab for ...

Our View: Processing rape kits necessary to justice

Santa Fe New Mexican

Susana Martinez authorized $1.2 million in the last session to help the state begin to deal with the backlog, money that will go to hire more crime lab ...

New imaging method reveals nanoscale details about DNA

Science Daily

Since DNA is at the root of many disease processes, the technique could help scientists gain important insights into what goes wrong when DNA ...

New DNA Imaging Technique Boasts Nanoscale Resolution - GenomeWeb

Inside the FBI's 'CSI': Active-shooter terror attacks have forensic teams scrambling to adapt

Fox News

FORT DIX, N.J. -- Standing in front of the mobile command center, the head of the FBI's New York Evidence Response Team briefed investigators.

Beatrice Six prosecutor: DNA testing was available in 1989, but too expensive

Omaha World-Herald

Although DNA had been used to obtain a murder conviction the previous year in New York, the forensiscool did not gain full acceptance by the ... In 2008, court-ordered DNA testing revealed that none of the six people convicted of ...

5 Investigates: Enhanced DNA testing on evidence in Bish killing

WCVB Boston

Now, they're hoping enhanced DNA testing on dozens of pieces of evidence that have never been tested will give them the break needed to solve this ...tool did not gain full acceptance by the ...

Retiring Oakland County Sheriff's Office forensic specialist reflects on memorable cases, career

The Oakland Press

He supervises the Crime Scenes and Latent Prints divisions of the county crime lab, which works not only on cases in the sheriff's office's jurisdiction ...

DNA could be key to Santa Fe cold cases

Albuquerque Journal

Key to the effort are the advances that have been
samples for drugs, but said, "our studies show that a decontamination step alone is likely not sufficient to remove contributions from external contamination."

**Improving Detection of Crime Scenes**

NIJ's Forensic Science Technology Center of Excellence recently published a new forensic science success story about developing new methods to detect blood evidence at crime scenes. The most common method for detecting blood stains is to spray a crime scene with luminol, but this has its disadvantages. It can produce false positives when reacting with many common household items, dilute blood samples to a level at which DNA cannot be recovered, and smear blood spatter patterns that are often critical in determining how a victim was attacked. With the support from NIJ, researchers from the University of South Carolina in Columbus, South Carolina, developed a prototype thermal infrared (IR) camera that can rapidly and selectively identify blood stains in ambient lighting without the use of reagents.

**News Around the Globe**

**Oregon DA wants 1500 drug convictions reviewed in wake of labtech's evidence tampering**

The Japan Times

Nika Larsen, the lab technician from the state police lab in Bend, ... work group investigating the Oregon State police forensic laboratory system, said ...

**Understanding the Nature of Work of a Forensic Scientist**

TheSequitur.com

Forensic Science has been used for many years to solve the mysteries ... This is not really true because if you work in lab, you will have to acquire ...

**Death Investigation Underway in Minnetonka**

KSTP.com

... man was pronounced dead. The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office and the Hennepin County Crime Lab are assisting Minnetonka Police.

**Oregon DA is running for justice in review of convictions**

STLtoday.com

... who is examining about 1,500 convictions after a state police forensics lab ... Nika Larsen, the lab technician from the state police lab in Bend, ...

**Alma PD and GBI looking into death of man found in bushes**

WSAV-TV

... vehicles were impounded pending a thorough analysis by a GBI Crime Scene Specialist unit and Overstreet's body has been sent to the crime lab.