We have been sending out two versions of the Crime Lab Minute each week for the last month. Traditionally we have used “Mail Chimp” and we are transitioning to “Constant Contact.” We determined that running them together for a month would allow the membership to ensure that they are getting the Constant Contact version and could deal with any spam filter issues they may have with their IT departments. Starting July 26th, we will only be sending the Constant Contact version, so please let us know if you are experiencing issues with the new version. The Board has determined that Constant Contact is more user friendly with a little more appealing visual format. We are still working on some things to make it even more user friendly. If you have suggestions for improvement, please contact Communications Committee Chair Arlene Hall. If you are not getting the Constant Contact version, please email the ASCLD office office@ascld.org

Today I wanted to highlight the new Forensic Laboratory Needs- Technical Working Group (FLN-TWG) at the National Institute of Justice. We have been working on this concept for many years. I personally have lobbied under at least three Attorney’s General for this type of input at DOJ by state and local crime laboratory directors. DOJ and NIJ have been very active in holding various meetings through the years to solicit the input of state and local crime laboratory directors. I personally have attended two grant summits, a sexual assault response working group, and attended a working group regarding toxicology data sharing last week. We meet constantly with DOJ and NIJ officials in an advocacy capacity and they have been very responsive to our comments and suggestions. ASCLD expressed support for the initiative AG Sessions announced last year to work with forensic science practitioners. He and his staff have been true to their word. They have made high level presentations at the AAFS, IAI, NAME, and ASCLD meetings. Each presentation has been coupled with an announcement of increasing support for our community. About a year ago I remember having a particularly helpful phone conversation with Kira Antell and Ted Hunt. I remember the call very well because at the time I was touring the USS Constitution as it was dry docked in Boston harbor for restoration. As I stood on the deck of that great ship, we talked very frankly about why it was important for DOJ to hear from forensic lab directors and practitioners. We talked about the value of communication and collaboration between federal, state, local, and tribal labs. I want to express particular thanks to AG Sessions, DAG Rosenstein, Kira Antell, Ted Hunt, and Gerry LaPorte for their efforts to address this critical need. After many discussions over the ensuing year, NIJ Principal Deputy Director Dr. Howard Spivak announced the creation of the FLN-TWG at NIJ at the ASCLD meeting this year. This group consists of fifteen state and local laboratory directors and six researchers. These individuals are leaders of their organizations with vast experience in the field. The majority of them are also ASCLD members. These directors and researchers have experience working as practitioners in many forensic disciplines, including digital forensics. We are thrilled that they have included ASCLD collaborator researchers on this group. Having researchers that have engaged with practitioners on initiatives such as Project Foresight and OSAC will lead to more practical application of data and research coming out of universities. The engagement of researchers and practitioners will also lead to more coordination of federal forensic research efforts, collaborations on technology transfer, and more educational opportunities on applicable instrumentation for forensic science students. Keeping with the theme we announced at the symposium this year, ASCLD members will advance forensic science in this country through this initiative. We hope to engage with DOJ/NIST/NHTSA/CDC/DHS and our other federal partners through this and other initiatives. There will be many opportunities for ASCLD members to be involved, and I thank those of you that have already reached out to express interest in engaging on various initiatives this year!

https://www.nij.gov/about/director/Pages/spivak-ascld-2018.aspx (Dr. Howard Spivak Remarks at ASCLD Symposium 2018)

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@ascld.org. Thank you.

The 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/
Forensic Science in the News

Houston Forensic Science Center to Outsource DNA Testing to Cut Rape Kit Backlog
Over a 10-month period, the Houston Forensic Science Center plans to spend $2 million to outsource analysis of nearly 1,000 cases and cross-train staff with the hope of preventing similar backlogs in the future.

Using bloodstains at crime scenes to determine age of a suspect or victim
By performing Raman spectroscopy on samples from human donors, the researchers looked at samples from three different age groups: newborns (under one year), adolescents (approximately 11 to 13 years of age) or adults (43 to 68 years old). The researchers could distinguish between the groups — adolescent and adult samples were differentiated with greater than 99 percent accuracy, and there were no errors in the identifications of the newborn samples.

'Smoke and mirror' tactics of drink-drive defence teams criticised
"It's a shotgun approach to trying to get irrelevant things disclosed to do a smoke and mirrors defence rather than an actual issue being raised with the evidence," said Gill Tully, the regulator. "It's been an approach by a number of specialist firms of solicitors who tend to use a number of particular experts."

Frank P. Saul (1930-2018)
Frank P. Saul, an internationally respected forensic anthropologist who discovered life stories from the clues found in human remains, whether in an ancient tomb, at a modern crime scene, or scattered about after a disaster, died Saturday in his West Toledo home. He was 87.

Attorney for UT murder suspect challenges new DPS DNA analysis
Payan believes that this case will be the first in Texas to make a challenge of this level to the use of STRMix for evidence. He noted that there have been other courts where challenges of STRMix have been successful, including one in New York.

Construction worker finds human bones inside Derby building
The remains are being analyzed at the Sedgwick County forensic science center where they hope to identify
the gender and age. They'll also get help from Wichita State's forensic anthropologists because the bones are so old.

Mystery 'Dogman' Beast Shot in Montana Was Just a Gray Wolf, DNA Shows
Tests conducted at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) forensic laboratory in Ashland, Oregon, put the wild rumors about the wild canid to rest.

Newly Discovered 'Limb Pit' Reveals Civil War Surgeons' Bitter Choices
The limbs belonged to the fallen soldiers' comrades, according to archaeologists, and were likely gathered from the amputation tables of deluged Union Army surgeons on a Civil War battlefield and buried there.

If DNA can predict facial construction, how can we ever have genetic privacy?
At present, most forensic DNA profiling techniques rely on “anonymous” markers that match identity to a database, but reveal little else about a suspect. With advances in genomic technology, forensic genetics is moving toward tests that can tell us much more about someone.

Officials: Sheriff's facility housing crime lab, investigators will make department more efficient
"This is really a great day for San Diegans, but it’s a really bad day for criminals,” county Supervisor Dianne Jacob said at the unveiling. "Public safety has been and always will be the No. 1 priority of this Board of Supervisors and the lab is going to play a big role in keeping the peace.”

APD asking for federal funding to investigate gun crimes
The Albuquerque Police Department is competing against other cities for a $800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to expand its ability to investigate gun-related crimes, through the creation of a Crime Gun Intelligence Center.

Crime lab chemist charged in federal court with stealing alprazolam
According to the federal complaint, a U.S. postal inspector submitted an unknown substance to the crime lab on Feb. 8, 2017, as part of a federal narcotics case, and Mr. Ieraci took custody of it. He analyzed it and determined it was alprazolam. Between Feb. 8 and Feb. 27, the complaint says, Mr. Ieraci removed quantities of the drug without telling anyone or recording what he was doing.

Inside the crime lab looking for pills laced with fentanyl
"We're starting to see an increase in mimic pharmaceuticals so they'll be stamped and look like a pharmaceutical grade oxycodone, but when it's actually tested, it's coming out as fentanyl or heroin," said Mary Kellar of the State Patrol.

Nashville forensic lab: Fentanyl-laced marijuana found in Tennessee
"It's absolute Russian Roulette": A marijuana sample sent to the TBI Crime Lab in Nashville tested positive for Fentanyl, confirming what many authorities had feared.

Murder case that went cold for 40 years now has a suspect
In the 1970s, detectives said the Doodler might have butchered as many as 14 people. "I'm looking at five murders,” says Cunningham, who recently took charge of the department's cold case unit. "But I'd be a fool to say he didn't do more."

Cops say they uncovered fentanyl lab in T.O. apartment
The man inside the apartment was having a severe reaction to fentanyl exposure after his skin came into contact with the powdered substance, police said. He required immediate medical attention.

Suspect linked to couple's 1987 killing through public genealogy site charged with murder
A Washington state trucker who authorities say was linked by a controversial new DNA technique to the 1987 deaths of a young Canadian couple has been charged with two counts of aggravated first-degree murder.

Dad of 4 facing up to 18 years in prison for near-fatal shovel attack says 'I know I'm not guilty'
Meanwhile, a Parabon Snapshot DNA-generated picture of the suspect based on the drop of blood left behind at the scene was created. It appeared to resemble Hansen, according to Gonterman.

Should Statutes of Limitations for Rape Be Abolished?
…This man's DNA, the police learned, matched the DNA the hospital had collected during Palomba's forensic exam all those years before.

Forensic images help law enforcement catch drone criminals
Drones are being used for such illegal purposes as delivering contraband into prisons and smuggling drugs into the U.S. While data from captured drones can lead to suspects and arrests, the sheer number and types of drones makes data extraction a tricky process.

Forensic team reveals new details in investigation of severed head found in trash bag at Lake Houston
Now, after working with Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, police believe the woman had naturally dark hair and possibly brown or dark brown eyes.

Child sexual assault victims have a new safe home for forensic exams
When there is a child abuse case reported to law enforcement, investigators need a safe place and a specially trained officer to conduct the interview. The interviews are done by licensed investigators at Riverside University Medical Center in Moreno Valley. Due to the fact there are so many child abuse cases, it often takes days or even weeks to schedule the interview. During that time the child and their family can only wait.
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/](https://www.troopers.ny.gov/Employment/)
- **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 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
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 develop 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

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

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Training

OSHA Fact Sheet:

CHP Template:

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

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

SWGDAM Interpretational Guidelines


Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes


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 or 414-501-5466 for more information. For registration, click the links for each training course above.

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.

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:

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

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

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https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/organization-scientific-area-committees-osac
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
Allegeny 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 or email Martina Bison-Huckaby at 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/
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.

Grant Assistance for DNA

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


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:

CFSO Board of Directors

- Matthew Gamette, MS Chair Representing ASCLD matthew.gamette@gmail.com
- Ken Martin, MS Vice Chair Representing IAI kenneth.martin@thecfso.org
- Lindsey Thomas, MD Representing NAME lindseychothomasmd@gmail.com
- P. Rohrig, PhD Representing SOFT/ABFT timothy.rohrig@sedgwick.gov
- Ken Melson, JD Representing AAFS kmelson01@aol.com
- Yale Caplan, PhD Representing ABFT fortox@aol.com
- Beth Lavach, Legislative Liaison bethlavach@elsandassociates.com

JusticeTrax

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
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

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/muhlhausien-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.


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 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

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.


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 management tools available.
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 a 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 topographies as a substitute for physical casings.