Colleagues,

On Friday, the U.S. Department of Justice posted “Proposed Uniform Language for Testimony and Reports” in seven forensic disciplines (toxicology, serology, latent prints, glass, footwear and tire impression, textile fiber, and general chemistry). Each proposal is accompanied by supporting documentation.

These documents are intended to provide instruction to forensic analysts at DOJ labs regarding which statements are approved for use in testimony and reports, and which statements are not approved. While the direct intended audience is Federal DOJ labs, we recognize that they could see broader application to state, local, and private labs in the form of testimony in Federal courts, adoption by state commissions, adoption by standards development organizations, or the "trickle down" effect from Federal to State/Local judicial units.

I encourage you to take a look at the first set of proposals at: https://www.justice.gov/dag/proposed-language-regarding-expert-testimony-and-lab-reports-forensic-science. A public comment period is now open and extends to July 8, 2016. Public comments can be made at: www.regulations.gov.

I greatly appreciate the notification from Victor Weedn at DOJ and his request for input from ASCLD and I hope we will all take advantage of the opportunity to provide policymakers with important feedback from the forensic community, both positive and constructive. I encourage you to comment individually, and also welcome you to forward your thoughts to any current board member as we evaluate the documents and formulate an organization position.

Kindest regards,
Jeremy Triplett
Jeremy Triplett, current ASCLD President has formed a Historical Committee and asked me to serve as Chair. The committee plans to assemble a poster presentation of ASCLD history to be shown at the 2017 ASCLD meeting, and to preserve photos and documents for future use.

In order to capture and build a record of ASCLD’s history, we are requesting all past presidents review old records and look for ASCLD documents and photographs. These materials will support the project and be of interest to our current and future members.

All we request is that you scan documents into PDF files and photos into PNG or JPG files at the highest possible resolution and email them to me. If scanning is impractical, you may send the originals by mail and they will be returned to you after they are duplicated.

The poet George Santayana stated, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” We would like to use this opportunity to educate and inform the next generation of ASCLD leaders of our past efforts and we hope you can help us out on this worthwhile project.

Kind Regards,
Kevin Lothridge
Chair, Historical Committee
ATTN: ASCLD History Project
8285 Bryan Dairy Road
Largo, FL 33777

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**Forensic Training**

**Professional Orientation School for New Crime Laboratory Scientists**

**Instructor:** John M. Collins Jr. MA, SHRM-SCP
July 20 - August 12, 2016

The Professional Orientation School for Crime Laboratory Scientists is an intensive 4-Week orientation for new crime laboratory scientists. It is designed to supplement a laboratory’s initial onboarding and professional orientation of forensic science employees. The primary objective of our school is to prepare crime laboratory scientists for the rigors, challenges, and rewards of forensic science. Laboratory administrators should give serious consideration to placing new employees, when possible, in our school within the first days or weeks of employment.

**Houston Forensic Science Center**

HFSC is a local government corporation created to...
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 Science. The article focuses on the reliability of pattern classification in bloodstain pattern analysis on rigid non-absorbent surfaces. This research is an important contribution to the field of forensic science, as it helps to improve the accuracy and reliability of bloodstain pattern analysis in crime scene investigations. The findings of this research can be applied to a wide range of cases, including homicides, assaults, and other violent crimes. The results of this study can also be used to train forensic investigators and improve the quality of their work. Overall, this research is a significant step forward in the development of more effective and reliable methods for bloodstain pattern analysis.
Forensic Sciences. Abstract retrieved 5/16/2016:

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, 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 incorrect. Incorrect classifications increased as a function of the negatively biasing contextual information.

Decomposition Rates Between Humans, Pigs May Vary Wildly

The work of NIJ-supported researchers from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville was recently featured in Science Magazine and Forensic Magazine. Abstract retrieved 5/16/16:

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 inconsistent 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 compares 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.

The Role of Interface Shape on the Impact Characteristics and Cranial Fracture Patterns Using the Immature Porcine Head Model

NIJ-supported researchers from Michigan State University recently published an article in the Journal of Forensic Sciences. Abstract retrieved 5/16/16:

The forensic literature suggests that when adolescents fall onto edged and pointed surfaces, depressed fractures can occur at low energy levels. This study documents impact biomechanics and fracture characteristics of infant porcine skulls dropped onto flat, curved, edged, and focal surfaces. Results showed that the energy needed for fracture initiation was nearly four times higher against a flat surface than against the other surfaces. While characteristic measures of fracture such as number and length of fractures did not vary with impact surface shape, the fracture patterns did depend on impact surface shape. While experimental impacts against the flat surface produced linear fractures initiating at sutural boundaries peripheral to the point of impact (POI), more focal impacts produced depressed fractures initiating at the POI. The study supported case-based forensic literature suggesting cranial fracture patterns depend on impact surface shape and that fracture initiation energy is lower for more focal impacts.

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 NJI'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 Design thinking into 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.

Sexual Assault Kits in Houston, TX: Case Characteristics, Forensic Testing Results, and the Investigation of CODIS Hits

This NIJ-supported report describes findings from the Houston Sexual Assault Kit Action-Research Project focused on the forensics being under such intense scrutiny these days, agencies who perform forensic analysis must ensure that their work is performed under the guiding principles and standards which are now becoming more clearly defined each day. We, in the forensic industry, have not embraced Quality Management training as aggressively as we should.

Ron Smith & Associates, Inc. is known as one of the foremost forensic training companies in the world. Our teams of subject matter experts and support staff have successfully designed and offered hundreds upon hundreds of highly sought after training opportunities all across the United States and abroad. RS&A is now ready to take on the challenge of building a National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy which will soon become the cornerstone of forensic training in this very critical area.

June 20, 2016 through July 1, 2016 in Pearl, MS. Academy tuition is $2,500.00 with only 10 seats available. Click here for complete academy details and to complete an application today!

National Footwear & Tire Track Training Academy

Coming Fall 2016

RS&A now offers a Footwear and Tire Track Training Academy which includes 4 weeks of footwear examination training followed by 2 weeks of tire track examination training. Applicants can elect to complete the entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy or break it up and choose only the 4 weeks of footwear training or the 2 weeks of tire track training. The academy graduates of this 6 week program will learn the skills necessary to complete supervised footwear and tire track casework and will be ready to apply for a IAI Footwear Certification once time requirements have been met. It is scheduled to begin Fall of 2016 in Hattiesburg, MS at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Only 20 academy applicants will be selected to attend. For the entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy the cost is set at $11,250.00. The 4 week footwear only academy is set at $7,500.00 and 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.

JUNE 2016

Palm Print Comparison Techniques

Location: Daytona Beach, FL
Class Dates: 06-07-2016 thru 06-09-2016
Tuition: $400.00 | Hours: 24
Introduction to the Science of Friction Ridge Examination

Location: Albuquerque, NM
Class Dates: 06-13-2016 thru 06-17-2016
Tuition: $600.00 | Hours: 40
Advanced Sequential Processing - A Hands On Workshop

Location: Boston, MA
Class Dates: 06-14-2016 thru 06-17-2016
Tuition: $600.00 | Hours: 32
IAI Latent Print Certification Test Preparation Training

Location: Sanford, FL
Class Dates: 06-27-2016 thru 07-01-2016
Tuition: $600.00 | Hours: 40
New courses and locations are added daily so be sure to check the website at: www.RonSmithandAssociates.com

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

ASCLD Train the Directors Digital Multimedia
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

characteristics of a sample of 493 previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits. This study measured forensic testing results and investigative outcomes of cases with CODIS hits. A DNA profile was developed from 55 percent of the kits and a profile was uploaded to CODIS in 43 percent of the kits. A CODIS hit was returned for 21 percent (n=104) of the sample. Of the kits where a CODIS hit was returned, 44 percent had expired statute of limitations and 26 percent of the hits had victims that were unable to be contacted or unwilling to participate in the follow-up investigation.

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.

Development of a Science Base and Open Source Software for Bloodstain Pattern Analysis

NIJ supported the Iowa State University of Science and Technology to develop a better method to determine the region of the origin of blood spatters based on sound fluid mechanics principles. The method, which is about four times more accurate than current methods based on straight trajectories, reconstructs the curved trajectories of blood drops from 3D inspection of blood spatters. The researchers modified a 3D microscope used in the project to make it portable and available for use at a crime scene. Although the method was extremely accurate, the researchers conclude that “it is unlikely that the method will be used widely in a crime scene in a near future.” The microscope cost is prohibitive ($50,000), “and any surface rougher than 1 micrometer will likely create too much noise in the measurement of stain volumes (to be useful).”

Analysis of Drugs of Abuse in Human Hair: Surface Contamination and Localization of Analysis

NIJ-supported researchers from RTI International examined the effects of environmental contamination of human hair leading to external deposition of methamphetamine and heroin on drug tests designed to identify drug use. The researchers investigated how well normal hair washing and extended decontamination removed the drugs from hair. The researchers noted that prior studies have raised significant concerns about contamination confounding hair test results, and noted the results of this RTI study, “continue to raise such concerns.” They also noted that many hair testing laboratories institute decontamination procedures prior to testing hair 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

The CRISPR Clash: Who owns this groundbreaking, DNA altering technique?

June 5, 2016

Right now, behind the walls of the USPTO, there is a fiery interference battle occurring between two scientific teams over who created a groundbreaking, DNA altering technique first. In addition to the patent rights associated with core CRISPR technology, the victor stands to receive incredible gains. At stake is being named in history books as the inventor, a place in the National Inventors Hall of Fame and, perhaps, winning a Nobel Prize.

http://www.ipwatchdog.com/2016/06/05/crispr-clash-dna-technology/id=69650/

DNA links Beaufort County man to two Hilton Head burglaries

BEAUFORT COUNTY, S.C. (WJCL)

-Beaufort County Sheriff Deputies used DNA analysis to link Steven Crabtree, 30, to burglaries on Hilton Head Island.

Crabtree, who has been incarcerated in the Beaufort County Detention Center on multiple burglary charges since October 15, 2015, has been linked to two more burglaries through DNA analysis. Last week, analysts from the Sheriff's Office Forensic Services laboratory completed their reports on DNA evidence collected from Bess Delicatessen Frosty's Italian Ice burglaries during the fall.

A male DNA profile was developed in both cases and matched that of Steven Crabtree. Upon receiving the DNA reports, Sheriff's Office investigators obtained arrest warrants for Burglary 2nd Degree on Crabtree for both incidents. He was served with the new arrest warrants Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at the Detention Center.


Justice Department Issues Draft Guidance Regarding Expert Testimony and Lab Reports in Forensic Science

Published: 04 June 2016

Washington, DC - The Justice Department announced Friday the release of draft guidance documents governing the testimony and reports of the department's forensic experts. These documents, available for public comment through July 8, are designed to ensure that department forensic experts only make statements in the courtroom and in laboratory reports that are supported by sound science.

The drafting of these proposed documents arose out of the

Accreditation Training

NSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

ANAB is a member of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board family of brands. ANAB provides accreditation for ISO/IEC 17025 forensic test laboratories and ISO/IEC 17020 forensic inspection agencies and a wide variety of training, workshops, and academic programs.

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Police Agencies

June 8-9, 2016, Greenville, SC

September 15-16, 2016, Alexandria, VA

Cost: ASQ member $600, non-ASQ member $650

ISO/IEC 17025 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Test Agencies

May 17-19, 2016, Milwaukee, WI

September 12-14, 2016, Alexandria, VA

Cost: ASQ member $750, non-ASQ member $800

Uncertainty of Measurement for Forensic Agencies

May 20, 2016, Milwaukee, WI

Cost: $500

For more information about these workshops, contact ANAB at 703-836-0025, ext 208. To register, please click on any of the dates above.

ASCLD-LAB Training

Training classes to help forensic laboratory personnel understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 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
DNA Sequencing To Be Conducted In Space For First Time

Virologist Kate Rubins from the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, and two other mission members, will be making a space flight to the International Space Station (ISS) on June 24. The new astronaut will be carrying out nearly 250 experiments in the space laboratory, one of them reportedly being the examination of DNA sequencing in micro-gravity.

The small portable sequencers that will be used in space will be akin to the type used in the field during the outbreak of a disease. "The kind of technology they use in a remote field medical center is the same kind of technology you'd probably start designing for an instrument on Mars or deep-space exploration," Kate Rubins said. "The really critical question for NASA is whether these devices can detect signatures of life in the universe."

Detectives work to bring justice to Robbins rape victims

May 30, 2016 1:12 PM EST Updated: May 30, 2016 1:12 PM EST

ROBBINS, Ill. (AP) - Two Cook County detectives are starting to see successes in their mission to bring justice to dozens of rape victims whose rape kits were never sent to a state police crime lab for DNA testing.

Cook County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Jim Davis and Detective Judith Powe were assigned last year to focus on the backlog of rape cases in the cash-strapped southern Chicago suburb of Robbins.

The Daily Southtown reports (http://trib.in/1Z8tSXX) that the pair's investigations have so far netted five arrests.

Justice Dept. issues draft guidance to forensic experts

The Justice Department has issued draft guidance for forensic experts at the FBI and other of its component agencies.

The announcement follows concerns about forensic sciences practiced at the department, which last year revealed that experts had overstated the strength of evidence involving microscopic hair analysis in cases dating back decades. The FBI and Justice Department last year pledged a review of laboratory protocols and procedures following the discovery of flawed forensic testimony in hundreds of older criminal cases involving microscopic hair analysis.

In a statement, Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates described forensic science as critical in identifying suspects of a crime and of clearing the innocent.

"Once finalized and adopted, these guidance documents will clarify what scientific statements our forensic experts may — and may not — use when testifying in court and in drafting reports, in turn strengthening the integrity of our system overall," she said.

Employment Opportunities

New this week Forensic Toxicologist or Trainee, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Norfolk, VA, Expires: June 14, 2016

New this week Forensic Scientist – Quality Assurance, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: August 31, 2016

New this week Forensic Scientist 2, Chemistry Analyst, New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Expires: June 16, 2016

New this week CRIMINALIST, Los Angeles County Medical Examiner – Coroner, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: June 30, 2016

New this week DNA Laboratory Supervisor, Austin Texas Police Department, Austin, Texas, Expires: July 30, 2016

New this week Forensics Account Manager, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: July 19, 2016

New this week Forensic Scientist 2, Chemistry Analyst, New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Expires: June 16, 2016
IntegenX, headquartered in Pleasanton, California, is the market leader of Rapid Human DNA identification technology. IntegenX technology platforms integrate advanced fluidics, optics, and biochemistry capabilities to produce sample-to-answer products for DNA-based human identity testing for forensics and law enforcement applications.

Shimadzu’s triple quad GCMS-TQ8040, providing exceptional sensitivity, selectivity, and specificity for detection and quantitation of targeted drugs in the presence of background interferences, is the most powerful choice for your toxicological applications. It enables the analysis of more than 400 compounds in one run, and features automatic method creation, scan/SIM acquisition mode, and an MRM optimization tool.

The Smart Forensic Database includes hundreds of compounds with optimized transitions and collision energies, CAS registry numbers and retention indices (RI). The database supports simultaneous high-sensitivity analysis of samples using GC-MS/MS, eliminating the need to configure complicated analysis conditions.
June 30, 2016

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

Forensic Conferences

WVU Forensic Management Academy
August 28 – September 2, 2016
Six days on-site in Pittsburgh, PA
$1995 before March 31; $2250 after March 31
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