Dear Colleagues,

One of the great benefits of the ASCLD organization is our network of like-minded laboratory leaders and our historical willingness to help one another, especially in times of need.

Over the last year, ASCLD has begun to develop a Rapid DNA Mass Disaster Response Network. The goal of this initiative is to develop a network of laboratories with Rapid DNA capabilities and expertise that are willing to provide personnel and Rapid DNA instruments in the event of a mass disaster within the United States.

The network is still in development, but we are ready to begin enlisting laboratories who may be willing to join. If you would be interested in becoming a partner laboratory in this endeavor, please complete the survey at: https://www.questionpro.com/t/AGGeDZbbRT. We will follow up with you on additional details as the network is developed.

Rapid DNA capabilities extend beyond a booking station environment. Indeed, the use of Rapid DNA instrumentation could provide meaningful and rapid information to families and emergency responders in the unfortunate event of a crisis situation. A network of laboratories that are willing to provide personnel and instrumentation could reduce the strain on local laboratories and emergency personnel and provide for a faster recovery from a disaster situation.

If you would like additional information about the ASCLD Rapid DNA Mass Disaster Response Network, please contact Jeremy Triplett at jeremy.triplett@ascld.org. Participation in this network will permit further sharing of resources and expertise as we develop our joint capabilities. Please consider joining this exciting initiative.

Ray Wickenheiser
ASCLD President
ASCLD Bring Your Own Slides Sign-up

Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2018
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (TENTATIVE – session length may be adjusted)
Location: Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel (Room TBD)

Bring Your Own Slides at ASCLD 2018

NEW to the ASCLD symposium in 2018 is an opportunity for crime laboratory leaders to Bring Your Own Slides and participate in an informal, evening discussion on shared challenges and solutions in our laboratories.

The Bring Your Own Slides session will be held on Wednesday evening, May 23. If you would like to share a problem or a novel solution to a problem that you have encountered in your laboratory, please sign up to provide a brief (approximately 5 minutes) overview. Time will then be allotted for questions and discussion on the topic so that all attendees may benefit from each other's shared expertise.

Bring You Own Slides topics should be:

- **Brief** – describe the problem or solution in approximately 5 minutes to allow time for questions and/or discussion
- **Unique** – describe a new/relevant problem or a novel solution to an old problem
- **Relevant** – topics should apply to managers within a crime laboratory

*Space is limited to approximately 10-15 topics/presentations. Presentations will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis.*

If you would like to sign up, please submit the form found [HERE](mailto:Jeremy.triplett@ascld.org) to Jeremy Triplett at Jeremy.triplett@ascld.org.

ASCLD has arranged for a special workshop at the ASCLD symposium this year. We have been working with West Virginia University on Project FORESIGHT for quite some time. ASCLD further has been working on getting the LIMS vendors for more automated reporting of Project Foresight metrics. We want more labs to get involved in this project and we hope to show you how to start gathering this data and reporting it.

**FORESIGHT and FORESIGHT 2020: A Formula for Success**

How is your lab performing? Do you know—really know? What's your internal progress compared to last year or the year before or the last 5 years? Have you added or changed new processes? Has management or your administration changed and do you need to make arguments for better resources? Where does your lab stand compared to other labs of its size or caseload?

FORESIGHT was created in 2008 as a business benchmarking process for forensic laboratories to analyze, evaluate, and share their performance. Since then, it has been used by hundreds of laboratories around the world to improve effectiveness and efficiency of laboratory services to stakeholders. But many managers are unsure what might be required to participate, how to collect, submit, and (agonizingly) analyze the data they need to be part of FORESIGHT? This workshop will walk you through the process of FORESIGHT from start to finish, giving you the tools you need to fill out the Laboratory Reporting and Analysis Tool (LabRAT) and what the FORESIGHT 2020 project means for you. Using FORESIGHT has gotten easier as well and even basic input can yield useful operational information—you don't necessarily need every scrap of data you might think you need. With FORESIGHT 2020, a software project that links LIMS to FORESIGHT, it is now easier than ever to improve a laboratory's function, gain insights to process improvements, and make arguments for resources that persuade decision makers.

This workshop will provide an overview of benchmarking and process improvement, FORESIGHT as a method for laboratory analysis and evaluation, and the uses of FORESIGHT 2020 to provide immediate and clear feedback about laboratory performance. Participants will gain a better understanding of how industries self-analyze, what the forensic enterprise has done to create a culture of improvement through benchmarking, and how FORESIGHT provides superior feedback in context for laboratories to achieve greater efficiencies. No experience with FORESIGHT is necessary—new users, experienced users, and "tire-kickers" are all welcome.
Learn how to use "big data" to your advantage, make the case for the resources you need, and deliver better services with greater efficiency using FORESIGHT. Join us for this workshop!

**Forensic Science in the News**

Investigation confirms popularity of forensic science
Scottsdale Police Department Lead Crime Scene Specialist Lisa Dilbeck has a bone to pick with, well, "Bones." And, heck, what "CSI" does to advance the idea that crime scene investigating is all easy-peasy – just one or two people doing all the footwork, spraying a little Luminol and saying ‘book 'em!' — is itself a crime because it muddles the already murky American perception of crime-solving.

Advancements in forensic science to aid in fighting crime
Called "The Project Research Openness for Validation with Empirical Data" (PROVEDIt) database, it promises to be a valuable tool in police work. The PROVEDIt database, which consists of approximately 25,000 samples, is accessible to anyone for free.

UK Judges Receive Primers on Forensic Science
Such communication difficulties have long been a subject of discussion among the UK judiciary. In particular, Sir John Thomas, a judge who acted as Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales until last year, has advocated for better communication between scientists and the judges presiding over criminal cases, Black notes.

New forensic analysis indicates bones were Amelia Earhart's
Based on this information, Jantz concludes that "until definitive evidence is presented that the remains are not those of Amelia Earhart, the most convincing argument is that they are hers."

Local rape victims in limbo over evidence issues
The Harris County District Attorney’s Office is putting years of rape cases on temporary hold while it reviews the procedures and protocols of the hospital where sexual assault evidence was collected. Many of those cases involved children.

Travis County Medical Examiner's New Office, designed by SmithGroupJJR, opens in Austin
The new, $28 million Travis County Medical Examiner’s Office, designed by SmithGroupJJR, opened in Austin, Texas on January 22, 2018. The 52,000-square-foot building, more than three times larger than the prior facility, features the latest technological advancements in the industry, all inside a premier work environment.

Women's Day: These Lady Medicos Break Barriers, Prove Forensic Science Is For Her Too
At a time when Indian women are walking shoulder to shoulder with men in most workplaces, they continue to be a minority in the field of forensic science. For Women's Day, mid-day spoke to the handful of women working against all odds to succeed in this male dominated branch of science.

The kiss heard 'round the world WWII sailor gives lip service over famous photo
"If this evidence was presented in a trial, it would have led to a conviction," said Jerry O’Donnell, a retired Navy captain and Mendonsa’s neighbor, who used the evidence to convince Newport’s Navy Museum that Mendonsa is "the guy."

WV Legislature sends bills to governor
The House of Delegates on Wednesday passed a bill aimed at speeding up DNA and rape kit testing. Sponsored by Cabell County Sen. Mike Woelfel, the bill authorizes law enforcement to contract with the Marshall University Forensic Science Center for DNA testing related to testing offender samples in CODIS, criminal casework, the identification of human remains and criminal paternity tests. This will assist the overburdened state Medical Examiner's Office. It also changes the requirement of a blood test to a swab.

Shotgun advertised on Facebook a focus in Loudoun Co. murder trial of son
Prosecutors believe Michael Bowles bought the gun from a high school friend, James Nowland, who had posted a photo of the shotgun on his Facebook page, saying he wanted to sell it. In July 2016, the two met in the Leesburg Walmart parking lot, and he sold the weapon to Bowles, Nowland testified in an earlier pretrial hearing.

Hyderabad to have exclusive forensic lab to crack crimes against women
The idea to set up the forensic lab exclusively for cases related to crimes against women was mooted keeping in view the large number of samples that reach the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Red Hills here. The rise in the number of samples is said to have been hampering investigation, resulting in inordinate delay in completion of the probe, officials said.

Buried baby case: Skylar Richardson's attorney blames forensic expert for turning case into something 'sinister and grotesque'
"The false information has left the public with the horrible mental picture of a girl burning her baby,” the attorney said, "without realizing that version is false, contradicted by science and retracted by the state's doctor."

Forensic pathologist shortage comes amid record year for autopsies at state crime lab
On average it takes a little more than three hours to complete an autopsy inside the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory, not including toxicology reports which take upwards of a month to complete. Last year, the state medical examiner's office performed close to 1,600 autopsies on bodies from all 75 counties across Arkansas.

Pay for Kentucky's crime lab scientists 'woefully inadequate.' Will lawmakers help?
Meanwhile, Sudkamp said, lab workers have not had a pay increase in years and Kentucky offers the lowest entry-level salaries among neighboring states. Kentucky’s entry-level salary is $32,042, compared to the high of $50,134 in Ohio.

**State crime labs backed up with DUI blood tests**

...turnaround times are longer, leaving medical examiners to wait for results. In 2017, the median turnaround for testing a sample was 46 days, more than doubling the 20-day wait in 2016.

**Scottsdale PD’s DNA unit receives boost from national grant**

The Scottsdale PD’s crime lab is about to get a whole lot faster, thanks to a $150,000 grant it was recently awarded from the National Institute of Justice to assist in handling the rise in DNA cases. Called the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction grant, the funds will be used by Cano’s team to purchase additional software for the statistical evaluation of DNA evidence, purchase validation services to validate the results and to develop more effective methods to determine the quantity present in DNA samples, which is a required step in the DNA analysis process.

**Misconduct at state crime lab affects local drug cases**

As many as 68 drug cases may have been affected by misconduct at the Montana State Crime Lab. Lake County officials confirm recently dismissing 10 criminal drug possession cases due to a former chemist at the Montana state crime lab being charged with using drugs taken from the lab.

**This Utah fusion center tries to get “predictive” about opioid trends**

Next, the substance was sent to the Utah State Crime Lab, where tests revealed it wasn’t CBD oil at all, but a previously unseen type of synthetic cannabinoid, similar to drugs known widely as spice. The Department of Public Safety then warned smoke shop owners, health workers, police officers and the wider public: Steer clear of purported CBD oils.

**Manhunt on after woman found decapitated near survivalist bunker**

"Based on the evidence it appears that the victim was specifically targeted and this was not a random act," a Sheriff’s Office spokesperson said in a press statement. "We are developing leads on a person of interest in the case and hope to release that information in the near future."

**Perry candy illness affects 18 students, investigators tracing cause**

Six of the students were taken to Canton hospitals, said Police Chief Michael Pomesky, while other students were being checked. Emergency crews from Perry and Jackson townships and the city of Massillon were called to the school when students became ill with accelerated heart rates and dilated pupils after eating the candy. A few experienced high blood pressure levels.

**NC may have more untested rape kits now than any state. Advocates want answers.**

An inventory that found more than 15,000 untested rape kits across North Carolina isn’t just demanding the attention of state lawmakers and officials — it is also among the highest in the country.

**Decades-old fingerprint key evidence in cold case murder**

Tommie Lee Mollohan, 75, a convicted murderer currently serving a life sentence for homicide in a West Virginia prison, is charged with the Dec. 28, 1972, death of Mary Osborne.

**Harper Angel Files Bill To Ensure Sexual Violence Awareness Training For Medical Professionals**

In 2015, she passed Senate Joint Resolution 20, which called for an audit of untested sexual assault kits in the possession of law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth and the Kentucky State Police crime lab. The audit discovered that there were at least 3,090 untested sexual assault kits. This legislation will better educate our first line medical responders on the signs of sexual violence, which will allow them to better understand and help victims,” said Senator Harper Angel.

**Decorated officer taken to hospital after accidental drug exposure**

A Middletown police officer was transported to Atrium Medical Center for treatment after she was exposed to drugs during an investigation Thursday night.

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Probabilistic Genotyping: Theory and Implementation

Instructors: Dr. Michael Coble (NIST), Annette J. Ortiz (Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory), Kristen Schelling (Michigan State Police), and Brandon Good (Michigan State Police)

When: April 23 – 25, 2018 (8:00a – 5:00p each day)

Where: Brookfield, Wisconsin (Suburb of Milwaukee)

Training Location & Lodging: Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel, 375 S. Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005($104/night + tax; be sure to mention MAFS when reserving your room)

Cost: $200 MAFS Member / $350 Non-MAFS Member

Workshop Coordinator: Sharon Polakowski (polakowskim@doj.state.wi.us)

Cancellation Date*: March 23, 2018 (20 min / 35 max)

The first two days of the workshop will be presented by Dr. Michael Coble from NIST and cover the basics of probabilistic genotyping, including likelihood ratios. The remaining one day will be presentations by representatives from agencies who have implemented PG. They will discuss validation, training of analysts, prosecutors, and defense attorneys, and further ‘nuts and bolts’ of implementation, including some data.

Visit MAFS.net to register and for further details.

*The workshop will be cancelled if its minimum number of registrants is not met by the cancellation date.
Registration will remain open after the cancellation date if the minimum is met.

Advanced Courtroom Testimony for the Drug Chemist
Instructor: Tim McKibben
When: May 7-8, 2018 (8:00am—5:00pm each day)
Where: Dayton, Ohio
Training Location & Lodging: Crown Plaza Dayton ($101/night + tax; be sure to mention MAFS when registering for your room)
Cost: $200 MAFS Member / $350 Non-MAFS Member
Workshop Coordinator: Jennifer Watson (watsonj@mcohio.org)
Cancellation Date*: March 1, 2018 (30 min / 60 max)

This two-day workshop is aimed at educating drug chemists beyond the basics of testimony related to drug analysis. Topics covered may include but are not limited to: handling opposing experts in general, reviewing opposing expert’s reports and what to focus on, Daubert (or Frye) hearings (how to get started, how to educate the attorney, etc), how to explain chemistry/chemical structures to a jury (related to analog and pharmacophore cases; what to do, what not to do), common opposing expert tactics and how to conquer them, how to aid in the prosecution’s/defense’s understanding of analog/pharmacophore cases, spectral interpretation as it relates to testimony, how to handle when an opposing expert “muddies” the water when testifying about chemistry related topics, case law that supports Dauberts (or Frye) opposing reports etc, and how to introduce new technologies in court that have not previously been used in the area/district. The training will also include practical exercises.

This workshop is open to drug chemists working in local, state and federal laboratories.
Visit MAFS.net to register and for further details.
*The workshop will be cancelled if its minimum number of registrants is not met by the cancellation date. Registration will remain open after the cancellation date if the minimum is met.

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FORESIGHT Overview

Managers of scientific laboratories see themselves as scientists first and managers second; consequently, they tend to devalue the managerial aspects of their jobs. Forensic laboratory managers are no different but the stakes may be much higher given the importance of quality science to the criminal justice system. The need for training and support in forensic laboratory management has been recognized for many years but little has been done to transition the tools of business to the forensic laboratory environment.

Project FORESIGHT Annual Report, 2015-2016
Forensic Science Initiative, College of Business & Economics, West Virginia University
Subject: CSAFE Survey on Current Forensic Reporting Practices
https://forensicstats.org/about/

You are being asked to participate in a research study on forensic reporting practices. The purpose is to understand how forensic results are being reported in crime laboratories right now.

The survey is being administered by The Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence (CSAFE).

As you probably know, CASFE was named a Forensic Science Center of Excellence by the National Institute of Standards and Technology to "support NIST’s efforts to advance the utility of probabilistic methods to enhance forensic analysis." CSAFE has partnerships with many forensic laboratories including the Midwest Forensic Resource Center.

You will be compensated for your participation in this research study with attractive CSAFE mementos.

The results of the survey will be analyzed by CSAFE and potentially published. However, individual
participants will not be identified. We are required to report the results only in an aggregate manner that prevents associating responses with any particular laboratory or individual.

The survey is expected to take around 1 hour, although that will vary according to the answers given.

Please complete this survey by March 31, 2018

ASCLD is excited to announce the addition of new awards to be debuted at the symposium this year. There are so many wonderful initiatives ASCLD and its members are involved in that we are pleased to be able to recognize more of them.

Awards include:

- **ASCLD Member of the Year** – ASCLD member who has made significant contributions to the organization in the past year. (Nomination form will be distributed to membership in advance of the symposium.)
- **FORESIGHT** – Most innovative success story epitomizing the tenets of FORESIGHT.
- **Symposium Presentations by a member** – The best presentation as voted by the audience.
- **Symposium Attendee with longest membership.**
- **Best Capstone presentation from the Leadership Academy** – voted upon by Leadership Academy participants and instructors.
- **FTCoE / NIJ / ASCLD Webinar of the Year** – Attendance and audience feedback will be key indicators for selection of this award.
- **Briggs White** - Exceptional competence and achievement in any area of public administration, leadership shown in the direction or development of programs, creativity and resourcefulness, adherence to the basic principles of enlightened public service, integrity and dedication to duty.

In addition to the existing and new awards, ASCLD will be recognizing members in other new areas. Please be sure to join us for this year’s Awards Banquet in Atlanta!

Dear Forensic Science Professionals,


The topic of “bias” and its implications for forensic practice has been hotly debated and researched in forensic and academic circles over the last decade. The 2009 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on the state of forensic science in the USA and the 2016 President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) report on forensic science recommend that forensic practitioners address issues relating to bias in forensic science and provide evidence to the fact finder that they have done so.

This workshop uses an engaging and innovative mixture of lectures, case examples, and practical activities to educate participants on the theoretical concepts and practical implications of bias within forensic science. Participants will receive instruction on the various types of bias, how to identify its presence, how to mitigate its influence, methods on how to sequentially unmask data, procedures used to identify task-relevant information, concepts for the appropriate management of case-specific contextual information and how to appropriately document critical decision pathways.

This workshop is primarily aimed at forensic science practitioners both scene or laboratory based, especially those involved in the early identification, collection and interpretation of evidence. It is however designed to benefit anyone who produces, uses or relies upon forensic science for decision making purposes within the justice system, including judges, district attorneys, defense lawyers, and detectives.

The workshop is $395 per person.

For registration, please visit: [http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/18/2.htm](http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/18/2.htm)
45th Annual ASCLD Symposium

Advancing Forensic Science requires leadership, which includes taking initiative, motivating employees, and applying resources creatively to the complex problems presented by today's forensic casework and issues. Leaders lead by example and encouragement, building on success and learning from their past experiences and that of others.

Please join us in Atlanta, Georgia, May 20-24th for the 2018 ASCLD Symposium where you will learn about exciting initiatives to advance forensic science. New and experienced managers and directors will be presented with innovative tools to sharpen their leadership skills. Presentations from experts and leaders, both inside and outside the forensic science community, will cover various aspects of leadership. Our goal is to invigorate you with techniques and information to increase your leadership capacity in both life and occupation.

Make your Reservation - https://aws.passkey.com/event/49236454/owner/321/home
https://www.ascldsymposium.com/education
Before the show, get caught up on the latest news: http://www.evidencemagazine.com/
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)**

Due to a recent upgrade with the newsletter software, visit http://www.ascld.org/jobs2 to link and view details about job announcements listed below.

- **Forensic Scientist – Firearms & Toolmarks**, Virginia Departement of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: April 13, 2018
- **Criminalist I (Forensic Biology/DNA) – Grant**, B, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Expires: March 23, 2018
- **Crime Lab Scientist – Trace Evidence**, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Expires: March 21, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist – Latent Prints**, Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: March 23, 2018
- **MSP Forensic Scientist Advanced**, Maryland State Police – Forensic Sciences Division, Pikesville, Maryland, Expires: March 20, 2018
The vacancy announcement is for the fixed-term position of Head of the Forensic Science Section has been advertised on the ICC website at the following hyperlink: Head, Forensic Science Section (P-5) (18251)
6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee. Designating a person, such as a CHO or Safety Officer for day-to-day administration of chemical issues is paramount and crucial for accreditation. A CHO will provide reports at the department Safety Committee meetings on chemical hygiene activities performed. Additionally, a CHO will work with others to develop, review and approve Standard Operating Procedures which detail all aspects of proposed laboratory activities that involve hazardous materials. A Chemical Hygiene Committee, commonly known as a Safety Committee (or Health and Safety) in forensic labs is also a requirement for accreditation. Health and Safety committee members should establish a committee structure and process and develops an action plan for the year that identifies a few priority health and safety issues to work on. The concerns would be addressed at safety committee meetings and the executive management meeting(s).

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

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1450

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

In 2018, the Forensic Science Training Institute will be offering a week-long course in Advanced Fabrics Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Training on March 19-23.

The class size is limited to twelve, so please register early to ensure your seat.

For registration and full details on the course requirements, visit the Forensic Science Training Institute website here: http://www.cedarcrest.edu/forensic/16/1.htm

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

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) is a member of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board family of brands and the new home of ASCLD/LAB. 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.

Introduction to ISO/IEC 17025:2017
April 9-10, 2018, San Francisco
October 10-11, 2018, San Antonio, TX

Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17025:2017
March 26-28, 2018, Austin, TX
May 21-23, 2018, Baltimore, MD
September 17-19, 2018, Minneapolis, MN

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Lead Assessor Training
August 20-24, 2018, Washington, DC

Fundamentals of Measurement Uncertainty
March 29-30, 2018, Austin, TX
May 24-25, 2018, Baltimore, MD
September 20-21, 2018, Minneapolis, MN

Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17020
March 13-15, 2018, Alexandria, VA

ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Training
April 16-18, 2018, Phoenix, AZ

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Agencies
October 15-16, 2018, Cincinnati, OH

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Internal Auditor
May 8-11, 2018, Cary, NC

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Assessor Training (Testing)
April 9-13, 2018, Springfield, VA
May 7-11, 2018, Chandler, AZ
Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Preparation (Testing)
April 9-11, 2018, Springfield, VA
Forensic Measurement Confidence (MC100)
April 11-13, 2018 (1:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET) - Online
Practical Applications for Forensic Measurement Confidence (MC150)
March 13-14, 2018, Alexandria, VA
Roadmap to Transition: Forensic AR 3028
Available as an on-site course
Contact training@anab.org or 414-501-5466 for more information
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.

New Narcotics Protection Kit as You Face the Dangerous Opioid Epidemic

We designed this single-use kit following DEA & CDC guidelines
Small amounts of Fentanyl can cause an overdose, a significant threat to you & your department. We designed this kit to help you stay safe.

Buy Now

http://www.sirchie.com/nark-ppe-kit-available-in-med-large-x-large-2xl.html#.WaNzc-mQxPb
The Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science works to strengthen the nation's use of forensic science by facilitating the development of scientifically sound forensic science standards and by promoting the adoption of those standards by the forensic science community. OSAC has over 550 members and 250 affiliates that work together to develop and evaluate forensic science standards via a transparent, consensus-based process that allows for participation and comment by all stakeholders.

This event will feature presentations from the Chairs of the five Scientific Area Committees (SAC), three Resource Committees, Statistics Task Group, and Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB). Each presenter will describe their OSAC unit's activities including the latest standards under development, research gaps identified, challenges being addressed, and priorities for 2018.

**TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 20**

8:00 AM – 8:15 AM: Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) Update
Steve Johnson, Chair, FSSB

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM: How Should Standards Minimize the “B-word” (Bias) in Forensic Science
William Thompson, Chair, Human Factors Committee

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM: The Attorneys, Love ‘em or Hate ‘em, You Can’t (should not) Do Standards Without ‘em
Chris Floud, Chair, Legal Resource Committee

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM: The Yellow Brick Road to Standards Development
Karen Rezek, Chair, Quality Infrastructure Committee

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM: Statistics is Never Having to Say You’re Certain
Karen Kafadar, Chair, Statistics Task Group

9:15 AM – 9:30 AM: BREAK

OSAC Subcommittees
https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-subcommittees
ASCLD Crime Lab Minute March 12, 2018

Introduction

This course is designed primarily for practitioners who routinely examine blood stained clothing and other textiles and are required to assess, interpret, and report on bloodstain patterns as part of those examinations. The course is delivered through a combination of “face to face” instruction and self-directed learning. A minimum 80 hours of structured learning activities is required, inclusive of a 40 hour “face to face” residential component. The course will review the underpinning principles of BPA, and apply these principles to the analysis and interpretation of bloodstains on clothing and...
When examining clothing, the practitioner must be mindful of influences such as the fibre type, texture, treatments, all of which may affect the final appearance of bloodstains. The primary focus of the course is to develop those skills required for the examination of bloodstain patterns found on clothing items, including the use of microscopy to discriminate between spatter and transfer bloodstains.
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.

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.

NU-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 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
Solicitation Announcement
NIJ Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime FY2018
Applications Due: April 25, 2018

NIJ's drugs and crime portfolio supports research on law enforcement efforts to deter, investigate, prosecute, and address illegal drug trafficking, markets, and use. This FY2018 solicitation will seek investigator-initiated proposals to conduct applied research on evidence-based tools, protocols, and policies for State, local and tribal jurisdictions. The two drug priorities are: 1) opioid-related criminal investigation, prosecution, drug intelligence, and community surveillance; and 2) illegal marijuana markets and drug-related violent crime. Opioid research proposals should address narcotics law enforcement, forensic science, and/or medicolegal death investigations; and opioids include heroin, fentanyl, diverted pharmaceuticals, synthetic drugs, and analogues.


General information on applying for NIJ awards can be found at www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/welcome.aspx. Answers to frequently asked questions that may assist applicants are posted at www.nij.gov/funding/Pages/faqs.aspx. For assistance with any other requirements of this solicitation (NIJ-2018-13682): toll-free at 1-800-851-3420; via TTY at 301-240-6310 (hearing impaired only); email grants@ncjrs.gov; fax to 301-240-5830; or web chat at https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp.

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.


American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors