Dear Colleagues,

It is an ongoing challenge for crime lab leadership to stay abreast of developing accreditation standards. We are excited to announce that ASCLD has partnered with the A2LA forensic accreditation program and A2LA training program to offer ASCLD members and their organizational staff a series of educational webinars, focusing on the changes and transition to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard. This training will be offered free of charge for our membership by logging on to the following link on the ASCLD website:

https://www.ascld.org/meetings-and-training/forensic-conferences-training/

This A2LA–ASCLD four-part webinar series will be present by Brittney Bryant and Timothy Osborne in two hour blocks. The schedule and course description are provided below.

**Class 1 - April 17th, 2-3:30pm EST**
This class focuses on business management changes to ISO/IEC 17025 (the Standard) that might affect an organization’s structure, policies, processes or documentation.

**Class 2 - April 19th, 2-3:30pm EST**
This class emphasizes the significant changes between ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and 2017, with special focus on impartiality, confidentiality, the process and risk-based mindset, and continuous improvement.

**Class 3 - April 24th, 2-3:30pm EST**
This class is designed for bench-level staff and provides an outline of changes to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard from 2005 to 2017 that will directly affect day-to-day operations.

**Class 4 - April 26th, 2-3:30pm EST**
This class is meant for all levels of laboratory personnel and builds on discussion held during the previous three courses. This seminar will focus on ISO’s requirements for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 transition with emphasis on how the laboratory director, middle management, and laboratory staff work together as a team to identify opportunities for improvement, implement effective changes and ensure coordinated efforts are successful by identifying key metrics to manage success.

We hope that you and your staff have the ability to advantage of this valuable training opportunity. Please register early and if possible view the presentation as a group to ensure we manage the capacity of our web interface. Please join us.

Ray Wickenheiser

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**Scholarship Opportunity**
Do you know a student who is in the process of obtaining a degree related to the field of forensic science and may need financial assistance? If so, ASCLD’s annual scholarship solicitation is now open and accepting applications. The annual award is in the amount of $1000.

Please reach out to prospective applicants as soon as possible as the due date (April 15) is quickly approaching. The application can be found on the ASCLD website: https://www.ascld.org/nominations/

Eligibility:
Applicants must be a junior or senior in a baccalaureate program or a graduate student (masters or doctorate) at an accredited university who is pursuing a degree in forensic science, forensic chemistry or a physical or natural science. Applicants from FEPAC accredited programs will be given additional consideration. High school students or college/university students in their freshman or sophomore years will not be eligible for application. As the scholarship program was created to provide opportunity to students intending to enter the forensic field, scholarships will not be granted to current forensic science laboratory employees pursuing graduate degrees.

Selection Criteria – Award recipients will be selected on the basis of:

- Overall scholastic record
- Scholastic record in forensic science coursework
- Motivation or commitment to a forensic science career
- Personal statement
- Faculty/advisor recommendation

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 Your Own Slides topics should be:

- Brief â€“ describe the problem or solution in approximately 5 minutes to allow time for questions and/or discussion
- Unique â€“ describe a new/relevant problem or a novel solution to an old problem
- Relevant â€“ 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 to Jeremy Triplet 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!

The FORESIGHT 2020 project needs volunteer labs using STaCS
Does your laboratory use STaCS software? Would you be willing to get great business process data from your system to compare to other labs? The FORESIGHT 2020 project needs volunteer labs using STaCS to have the FORESIGHT 2020 module installed and validated.

The project is funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, so there is no cost to your lab.

If you’re interested, contact Max Houck at mmhouck@forensicintelligence.net or at 727-346-8285.

2LA – ASCLD Webinar Series

Presenters:
Brittney Bryant & Timothy Osborne

In the fall of 2017, a revision to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard for testing and calibration laboratories was published. The standard was revised to ensure consistency with other standards, such as ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies (e.g. crime scene units), and includes several changes to the approach of conformity assessment and documentation of a management system.

To assist the forensic community, the A2LA forensic accreditation program and A2LA training program has partnered with the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) to offer ASCLD members and their organizational staff a series of educational webinars focusing on the changes to and transition to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard. These webinars are to be attended in series and act to prepare all levels of forensic personnel to transition to the 2017 version of ISO/IEC 17025.

This training will be offered free of charge for our membership by logging on to the following link on the ASCLD website:

https://www.ascld.org/meetings-and-training/forensic-conferences-training/

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**Forensic Science in the News**

**Forensic science: TV shows attract students to rigorous Southern Miss major**
An investigative team is on the scene of a crime at a house in a small town outside Las Vegas. Inside the house, there is evidence of violence, blood and gunfire. The team's leader believes a girl in a murdered family may still be alive. She has dropped pieces of chewed gum to lead investigators to her whereabouts.

**MU forensic science lab nears completion**
For the first time in more than 20 years, the Marshall University Forensic Science graduate program is housed at one location, which professors believe will allow the nationally known program to expand on its class size, courses and research.

**OSAC Releases Online Lexicon For Forensic Sciences**
The forensic sciences encompass dozens of disciplines, each with its own history and vocabulary. As a result, a word might mean one thing to forensic anthropologists, for example, but something else to forensic document examiners. To help facilitate clear communication across the many disciplines, the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) has created a Lexicon of Forensic Science Terminology, which can be accessed from the OSAC website.

**MYSTERIOUS BAG OF 54 HUMAN HANDS FOUND BY RIVER WAS THROWN OUT BY FORENSIC SCIENTISTS, RUSSIAN OFFICIALS SAY**
Forensic labs sometimes remove hands from the cadavers they are studying to keep fingerprints after destroying the rest of the remains. If they had kept the hands together, it's possible that they discarded them when they no longer needed them.

**SmithGroupJr Opens New Travis County Medical Examiner Office in Austin**
SmithGroupJr created a design to help provide for advanced investigation, morgue, autopsy, and laboratory spaces. Having only three autopsy stations at their previous location, this modern, two-story building holds a total of nine autopsy stations, a significant increase which is expected to allow the forensic team to effectively manage their caseloads.

**MU to host digital forensics Cyber Day for high school students**
John Sammons, director of digital forensics and information assurance at Marshall, said the Appalachian Institute of Digital Evidence will host this interactive, hands-on program for students who have an interest in computers, a strong work ethic and a desire to learn, according to the release.

**Forensic science expert to travel the globe to tackle knife crime**
"It hit home how important this project is," said Leisa, whose professional career includes working on some of the most high-profile cases in recent British criminal history, such as the Soham murders.

**Assassination attempt of Russian spy sparks chemical forensics investigation**
This analysis may reveal trace impurities from the raw materials used to make the nerve agent, says Ralf Trapp, a consultant chemist and toxicologist who previously worked for OPCW. "If you have impurities in the starting materials, some of them will come through to the final material," he says. Authorities could then compare that chemical profile with reference samples from known chemical weapons laboratories to understand how the nerve agent was synthesized, and perhaps even pinpoint the lab where it was produced.

**Albany Murder Solved: Arrest in 2015 Death of Dental Student**
El Cerrito police said last year that they finally were able to solve the 2005 crime because of advances in forensic science that identified Asberry as a suspect through a new DNA test.

**Interns with Dougherty County coroner's office take tour of GBI Crime Lab**
Dougherty County Coroner Michael Fowler provided some hands-on experience last Wednesday for a group of Albany State University students pursuing careers in the field of forensic science during an in-depth tour of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's Crime Lab in Macon.

**Houston County Sheriff's Office makes arrest in cold-case shooting death**
Analysis from the DPS crime lab showed the gun had no malfunctions and could not have been fired accidentally.

**Lawyer: 'Stocking strangler' inmate should not be executed**
State lawyers acknowledge that the evidence from the Thurmond and Scheible crime scenes was contaminated in a state lab, but they say there's no evidence that was done in bad faith. And there's no proof that the woman who identified Gary in court was wearing the clothing that had DNA other than Gary's at the time of the attack, they say. The other evidence his lawyers claim exonerates him is largely based on dueling expert testimony, state lawyers say.

**Former Mansfield police officer Mike Garn seeks new trial, claims evidence was withheld**
Garn was convicted of destroying drug evidence or not submitting it to the crime lab in exchange for sexual favors. He also looked up LEADS information for reasons not related to law enforcement.

**Harmon, Activists Urge Governor to Sign Gun Dealer Licensing Act**
According to a 2014 report from the University of Chicago Crime Lab, almost 20 percent of all guns recovered from crimes scenes in Chicago from 2009-2013 came from three of the state's 2,400 dealers. At a press conference this morning, Harmon said the measure is not only good policy, but also has broad public support.

**Charges filed for fentanyl shipped to Marion workplace**
Ryan D. Kluth, 47, of 4432 Wetmore Road, Unit E, Columbus, was charged with two drug-related charges and two child porn-related charges in U.S District Court for the Northern District of Ohio in a case that was unsealed on Friday, according to federal court records. According to records, Kluth said his fentanyl use curbed his desire to look at child pornography.

**Teenagers More Likely to Plead Guilty to Crimes They Didn't Commit**
Those who carried out the study say teenagers should not be allowed to make deals where they face a
lesser charge in return for pleading guilty. The study suggests young people are more likely to be enticed by these deals, and take what they see as an advantageous offer even when they have done nothing wrong.

Case Study: A Death Mystery in an Indiana Barn Solved by Spots

“This case serves to emphasize the fact that failure to recognize accidental deaths, and instead consider them to be homicides, can result in wasted time and resources, false allegations, and possible life-altering consequences,” the study finds.

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.
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

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FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE

Forensics

Forensic science dates back well over 200 years, when Scotland Yard first connected a bullet to the murder weapon (1835) and the first fingerprint classification system was developed (1892). The field has advanced significantly since then, and, when used effectively, forensic science—in all its many forms—can provide valuable contributions to law enforcement’s pursuit of justice and public safety.

READ CURRENT ISSUE
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!
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.

- Crime Lab Forensic Scientist II – Forensic Biology, Metro Nashville PD Crime Laboratory, Nashville, TN, Expires: March 20, 2018
- MSP Forensic Scientist III, Maryland State Police/Forensic Sciences Division, Pikesville, Maryland, Expires: April 4, 2018
- Forensic Laboratory Director, Indianapolis-Marion County Forensic Services Agency, Indianapolis, Expires: March 30, 2018
- Quality Assurance Manager, Salt Lake City Police Department, Salt Lake City, Expires: April 2, 2018
The elements of a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) have been the subject over the last few weeks. Previous topics have been 1) the need for SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures), 2) Criteria for Implementing Control Measures, 3) requirement to ensure that fume hoods and other protective equipment are functioning properly and identify the specific measures the employer will take to ensure proper and adequate performance of such equipment, and 4) Required Information to be provided to lab personnel working with hazardous substances. This week’s topics are 5) the circumstances under which a particular laboratory...
operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer’s designee before being implemented, and 6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee.

5) The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer’s designee before being implemented. Prior to any new work being conducted in a lab that uses a hazardous chemical, prior approval must be acknowledged. Prior approval would normally come from the Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) or Safety Officer in your lab. Many procedures use chemicals that require special considerations. Additionally, some labs may not have the proper storage or work area for its use. Also, the chemical must be added to the chemical inventory, all personnel who will work with or come in contact to the chemical must read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Having a plan where an employee has read the SDS and understands the hazards by signing a review sheet or some other acknowledgement is a good way to improve compliance. Additionally, ordering and purchasing hazardous chemicals should go through one person or a team so that proper storage locations, policies, and procedures can be appropriate for chemicals ordered.

6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee. Designating a person, such as a CHO or Safety Officer for day-to-day administration of chemical issues is paramount and crucial for accreditation. A CHO will provide reports at the department Safety Committee meetings on chemical hygiene activities performed. Additionally, a CHO will work with others to develop, review and approve Standard Operating Procedures which detail all aspects of proposed laboratory activities that involve hazardous materials. A Chemical Hygiene Committee, commonly known as a Safety Committee (or Health and Safety) in forensic labs is also a requirement for accreditation. Health and Safety committee members should establish a committee structure and process and develops an action plan for the year that identifies a few priority health and safety issues to work on. The concerns would be addressed at safety committee meetings and the executive management meeting(s).

Jane B. Northrup
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 â€“ 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  
April 16-18, 2018, Phoenix, AZ  
April 24-25, 2018, Baltimore, MD  
September 20-21, 2018, Minneapolis, MN

ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Training
October 15-16, 2018, Cincinnati, OH

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Agencies

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

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.

http://www.sirchie.com/nark-ppe-kit-available-in-med-large-x-large-2xl.html#WaNzc-mQxBp

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
STANDARDS DEVELOPING ORGANIZATION (SDO) NEWS

Comment Period Open on Draft Documents

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Academy Standards Board (ASB):

ASB Standard 011, Scope of Expertise in Forensic Document Examination, First Edition (Comment period closes March 26, 2018) Please note that comments on a re-circulation will only be accepted on revised sections of a document, comments made to text not revised from the original public comment period will not be accepted.

ASB Standard 022, Standard for Forensic DNA Analysis Training Programs, First Edition (Comment deadline, March 19, 2018)

ASB Standard 040, Standard for Forensic DNA Interpretation and Comparison Protocols, First Edition (Comment deadline, March 5, 2018)

Free Software Can Help Spot New Forms of Fentanyl and Other Illegal Drugs

Forensic chemists can download the software from the NIST website.
March 07, 2018

The new year is upon us. Invest in yourself in 2018 by attending one of the upcoming programs hosted by the WVU Center for Executive Education

Forensic Management Academy
September 9 - 14, 2018
Allegheny County Medical Examiner’s Office
Pittsburgh, PA

Lean Six Sigma Certification for Forensic Science Professionals
March 20 - September 11, 2018

Advocacy - http://thecfso.org/advocacy/

Membership:
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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.

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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.

Canadian Forensic Science Journal

Sexual Assault Cases: Exploring the Importance of Non-DNA Forensic Evidence Investigating and prosecuting sexual assault crimes is much more complicated than simply performing DNA testing.

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 management tools available.
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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...
Solicitation Announcement
NIJ Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime FY2018
Solicitation:
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.

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 an NIJ-funded 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.

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.
asistance 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.

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.