President’s Message

At our last meeting of the ASCLD Board held prior to our annual meeting in Dallas, Board members discussed and agreed on the 2017-2018 National Outreach and Priorities Agenda (NOPA). On May 11th, 2017, ASCLD Executive Director Jean Stover sent an email to all members with the NOPA and a message from me, soliciting your comments and feedback to asclddirector@gmail.com. The purpose of the NOPA is to establish where ASCLD stands and what it supports regarding forensic issues facing us all. Many of the positions should not come as a surprise, such as our support for accreditation and grant funding increase and improvements, which ASCLD has espoused for some time.

Other issues where we have determined our voice needs to be clearly heard is in the area of sexual assault evidence backlog reduction, Rapid DNA, national forensic initiatives, support for the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC), independence of Forensic Science Service Providers, support for certification and licensure, forensic research, stakeholder education, training, and ethics. We feel that for ASCLD to truly represent what is best for forensic science and those we serve, we need to take a more proactive position in providing our thoughts to policy makers and the public at large. We are proud to be leaders representing objective and data driven findings using sound scientific techniques. As crime lab leaders we bear a responsibility to inform and educate, which includes putting our thoughts and positions out there rather than only reacting to inquiries, proposed policy or legislation.

For the ASCLD board to fully represent you, we need something from you. It doesn’t cost much, but it is worth a lot. We need your opinion. Lay it on us. And judging from the great questions, comments and discussion at our Dallas meeting, we know there are no shortages of opinions out there. Please join your colleagues’ voices and ensure we are representing you as we move forward this year.

Welcome new members to the ASCLD Board of Directors:
Rita Dyas, Erin Forry, Linda Jackson
NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 9

Solicitation Deadlines Extended

NIJ has extended the deadlines for two solicitations:

- **Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime** now will close on April 24, 2017.

Apply now! Funding is available for:

- **FY 2017 Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence-Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program (SAFE-ITR)**
  - Application deadline: April 28, 2017
  - Download the solicitation (pdf, 38 pages)

- **Adapting Newborn Blood Testing Procedures to Forensic Toxicology**

- **Degraded Ignitable Liquids Database: An Applied Study**

- **Statistical Methods for Combining Multivariate and Categorical Data in Postmortem Interval Estimation**

- **Citrate Content of Bone: A potential Measure of Post Mortem Interval**
  - A constant concern for forensic practitioners

- **Criminalist**, N/a, Arleta, Expires: June 9, 2017
- **Latent Fingerprint Examiner**, Miami-Dade Police Department, Doral, Florida, Expires: June 18, 2017
- **Forensic Chemist II**, National Forensic Science Technology Center, Largo, FL, Expires: May 22, 2017
- **Lab Manager**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: August 2, 2017
- **DNA Analyst I & II**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: August 2, 2017
- **DNA Technician**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: August 2, 2017
- **Serologist**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: August 2, 2017
- **Forensic Quality Manager**, CITY OF CHARLESTON, CHARLESTON, Expires: May 19, 2017
- **Forensic Scientist II – Controlled Substances**, LVMPD, Las Vegas, NV, Expires: May 24, 2017
- **Forensic Scientist I – Controlled Substances**, LVMPD, Las Vegas, NV, Expires: May 24, 2017
- **Assistant Laboratory Director**, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS, Expires: May 24, 2017
- **Forensic Biologist II**, Erie County, Buffalo, NY, Expires: June 1, 2017
- **Firearms Technician**, Erie County, Buffalo, NY, Expires: May 19, 2017
- **Criminalist**, none, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: June 9, 2017
- **cyber security**, Jntuk, Kakinada, Expires: June 15, 2017
- **Crime Scene Investigator**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 30, 2017
- **Quality Specialist**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: May 31, 2017
is the determination of the post-mortem interval (PMI) in questioned death cases. A number of methods have been tried to better determine PMI, but all have proven problematic. NIJ-supported researchers at the SUNY Brockport Research Foundation evaluated the citrate method for determining PMI based on a 2010 study that indicated citrate content in bone could be potentially useful in estimating PMI. The researchers intend to make the interface available free online.

Microspectrophotometry of Fibers: Advances in Analysis and Interpretation

Microspectrophotometry is a standard forensic laboratory technique for the comparison of fibers, however, there are concerns about its discriminating power and significance in a field that is moving toward statistical interpretation of data. In this NIJ-supported project, researchers with the forensic laboratory Microtrace conducted an extensive review of microspectrophotometry to present investigators with a context for relating spectral differences to colorant concentrations in fibers and illustrate cases in which similar, but different, fiber populations could not be discriminated.

Massively Parallel Sequencing: Application to Forensics

https://www.forensiccoe.org/Our-Impact/Advancing-Technology/Reports/Massively-Parallel-Sequencing-Application-to-Forensics

Examining the Effects of Environmental Degradation on the Optical Properties of Manufactured Fibers of Natural Origin


Transition Metal Cluster Compounds for the Fluorescent Identification and Trace Detection of Substances of Abuse


National Commission on Forensic Science News

https://www.justice.gov/ncfs/work-products

NFSTC News

NFSTC is now offering online proficiency testing in crime scene investigation to agencies across the globe. After the Fact has been used as the competency standard since 2011 and is a cost-effective training tool. Assessments are $250 and available at www.csi-skills.com.

michelle.chernicoff@nfstc.org

https://www.nfstc.org/
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

We develop and write Strategic Business Plans for forensic crime labs. Here are the type of questions and challenges we can help answer and overcome:
- Multiple Crime Lab Consolidation
- Medical Examiner Office and Crime Lab Mergers
- Multi Agency Regional Partnerships
- New Lab Considerations: Equipment Planning, Operational Cost Planning, Workload Measurement, Staff Planning, New Equipment Forecasting and Funding Justification
- Operational Cost Forecasting, Long Term Budget Forecasting

We can, together, develop a Forensic Crime Lab Strategy Plan that will make your lab more efficient, work within your operational budget, and deliver flawless work.


OSAC Promotes Hundreds of Forensic Science Standards, Guidelines, and Other Documents During 2017 OSAC Public Status Reports & Open Discussions

The webcasts and PowerPoint presentations are available for public viewing on the NIST OSAC website.

The OSAC Registry is a trusted repository of high-quality, science-based standards and guidelines for forensic sciences.

https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-newsletter-march-2017

E30.01 Criminalistics

The following work items are underway:

WK58027 - Standard Practice for Preserving Ignitable Liquids and Ignitable Liquid Residue Extracts from Fire Debris Samples (link is external) is a work item revision to existing standard E2451-13

WK58028 - Standard Guide for Forensic Examination of Non-Reactive Dyes in Textile Fibers by Thin-Layer Chromatography (link is external) is a work item revision to existing standard E2227-13

New Approved Standards

ASTM E2926 - 17 Standard Test Method for Forensic Comparison of Glass Using Micro X-ray Fluorescence (µ-XRF) Spectrometry (link is external)

ASTM E1588 - 17 Standard Practice for Gunshot Residue Analysis by Scanning Electron Microscopy/Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometry (link is external)

E30.12 Digital and Multimedia Evidence

The following work item is underway:

WK58084 - Standard Practice for Computer Forensics (link is external) is a work revision to existing standard ASTM E2763-10

Learn more about ASTM E30 (link is external).

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

Evidence Technology Magazine

FORESIGHT 20/20

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) has received funding from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to develop software that will transfer data from forensic Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) to FORESIGHT, a business quantitative process tailored to forensic laboratories.

The goal of the project, called FORESIGHT 20/20, will be to allow laboratories to easily upload business-relevant information from their individual LIMS to the FORESIGHT
ASCLD Crime Lab Minute May 15, 2017

Software development and installations for JusticeTrax Alpha labs is progressing. The software provides a dashboard of the labs’ own stats and FORESIGHT stats, among other information. The information, formatting, and interface may vary somewhat by vendor.

Just Science Podcast Interviews

RTI International in partnership with the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, a program of the National Institute of Justice, Department of Justice, is producing 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, RTI 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 the 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 Dallas, Texas. The available dates are Tuesday, May 2nd and Wednesday, May 3rd, and we can accommodate your schedule. Please e-mail Lauren Mangum from RTI International at lmangum@rti.org with 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 waysþere. You can change the position of the caption and set styles in the block’s settings tab.

Bode’s newest offerings include:

- **Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction Program** streamlines processes to eliminate backlogs of untested sexual assault kits.
- **Bode Buccal 2™** is uniquely designed to improve DNA databanking collecting and automate processing. The Bode Buccal 2 is a DIRECT COLLECTION SYSTEM that requires minimal training. There is NO Transfer Step Required.
- **Independent Validation Services** are customized to meet your laboratory’s needs. Validation services provide completely unbiased analysis on your equipment, chemistries, or process.

Featured Article:

**His name was Wilmer Souder.** A physicist at the National Bureau of Standards, now known as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Souder played an important role in the early days of forensic science. He helped send countless murderers, bootleggers, gangsters and thieves to prison, and he kept such a low profile partly out of concern for his and his family’s safety. Perhaps as a result, he was not long remembered for his forensic work, and his influence on the developing field of forensic science was not as great as it might have been.

NIST Library just finished scanning Souder’s nine notebooks and has made them available for anyone to view via the NIST Digital Archives:

http://nistdigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16009coll67

Bringing together experts from the forensic, research, legal, and law enforcement communities to strengthen forensic science and create a safer, more just society.

https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science

Upcoming Events

- International Forensic Science Error Management Symposium
  July 24-28, 2017
- Technical Colloquium: Quantifying the Weight of Forensic Evidence,
  June 27-29, 2017

Establishment of an Office of Forensic Sciences and a Forensic Science Board Within the Department of Justice

Revision 2/14/17

Drug Evolution: Changes make synthetic marijuana difficult to track
WSBT-TV

Synthetic marijuana, or "K2," is one of the toughest drugs to track. Local police say they're changing tactics to keep up with its tricky technology.

Opioid problem is so bad, the morgue is turning bodies away.
WJXT Jacksonville

Our toxicology budget every year is a half a million dollars. That's a lot of money," explained Rao. She says she needs more money for autopsies and ...

"High-Potency Opioids" Spark More Than 40 Deaths This Year Outside Chicago
The Daily Caller

The medical examiner is still waiting on toxicology reports for a number of overdose cases, meaning fatalities attributed to the synthetic opioid may rise ...

Scores of convictions in doubt amid forensic test manipulation claims
The Guardian

Police say scores of convictions may be overturned because of the suspected manipulation of forensic tests at a private laboratory in Manchester.

Expanded DNA testing leads to charges in 1990s prostitute slayings on Long Island
The Daily Freeman

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. >> As lab technicians analyzed a DNA sample from a New York man following a small-time criminal conviction, they discovered the ...

Science targets crime: Inside Ireland's first DNA database
Irish Independent

3 Swab team: A technician at Forensic Science Ireland examines a crime scene sample; and inset, Dr Geraldine O'Donnell, director of DNA at FSI.

SLED's faulty gunshot residue tests delaying some prosecutions around South Carolina
The State

Police agencies around the state depend on SLED's labs to process crime scene evidence. Due to the near-quarter-million dollar cost of the machine ...

Out-of-state lab solving Wisconsin death cases
WTMJ-TV (press release) (registration) (blog)

The skull or hands were missing making a positive ID more challenging. With few clues Kenosha turned to one of the nation's foremost forensic labs ...

Toxicology samples could be involved in forensics lab data manipulation
Daily Mail

"However, RTS provided toxicology tests for other offences including rape, assault and murder so it is possible these cases could be affected," a ...

Standardisation of digital forensic data agreed across Europe
SC Magazine UK

In a press release, EC3's Forensic Lab explains that it was able to convince the vast majority of the market leaders to adopt this open-source data ...

Formed in 2000, CFSO is an association of six forensic science professional organizations: American Academy of Forensic Sciences; American Society of Crime Lab Directors; International Association for Identification; International Association of Forensic Nurses; National Association of Medical Examiners; and Society of Forensic Toxicologists - American Board of Forensic Toxicology.

These professional organizations together represent more than 21,000 forensic science professionals across the United States.

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is local, state and national policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

Grant Assistance for DNA

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Coming soon...... The Forensic Research Committee