



American Society of Crime Lab Directors

"THE CRIME LAB MINUTE" NEWSLETTER



Dear Colleagues,

It has been my distinct privilege and honor to serve you as the president of ASCLD for this past year. The time as flown by as our organization has been as busy as ever continuing our existing programs and services and starting new initiatives. The level of dedication and selfless service by our board, staff and volunteers has been nothing short of humbling. You are incredibly dedicated to complete the work necessary in your demanding day jobs, to then bring that high level of passion and energy to furthering our forensic science leadership via ASCLD to the greater forensic community. It is as inspiring as it is motivational.

Forensic science in many regards is at the pinnacle of public service. Many other career pursuits provide more opportunities for individual economic gain; however, few provide the level of positive impact on society as we can achieve. This is a very demanding realm, remaining neutral and objective in our application of science in an adversarial system. Very bad things have happened in the commission of crime; people are in their hour of need; it can be easy to become jaded or despair. However, our membership continues to rise to the challenge, providing a voice of reason to solve and prevent these the worst of society's problems, that of man's inhumanity to man.

I cannot thank-you all for the trust you have placed in me to serve in this position. I truly hope I have carried the baton to earn and maintain the respect of that trust. For President Elect Matthew Gamette and our new board, I am passing the baton to a most capable group. You have my best wishes and full support in our continuing mission. For those who were unable to join us in Atlanta this year, we hope to see you in St. Louis in 2019.

Ray Wickenheiser
ASCLD President

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors



EXECUTIVE EDUCATION DIGEST
*a leadership development resource for forensic
science laboratory directors and managers*

2018

Dear Colleagues,

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve you as ASCLD President this last year. The time has flown by and it has been a very eventful year. We have continued many exceptional programs such as our ISO TAG, Leadership Academy, many position statements and wide communication of activities, while adding very timely initiatives, such as the Rapid DNA and Opioid Task Forces. Welcome to our Atlanta Annual Meeting, where we take time to recharge our own batteries, sharpen our skills, sharing learning experiences to take back to our respective labs. This is our time to share comradery, best practices and gather the best of the world of forensics and leadership. This is our field and it is ours to nurture, guide and improve. We bear that responsibility with pride.

ASCLD Press Release Foresight 2020

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**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](#) to Jeremy Triplett at Jeremy.triplett@asclid.org.

Symposium Highlights

Laboratory Performance Metrics

In addition to several presentations that will cover the important topic of improving how laboratories monitor and measure their performance, we will have representatives also presenting from Business schools who will share strategies and tips for improving your laboratory's overall approach to business.

Social Events

For our more adventurous symposium attendees, we've arranged some fun and interesting leisure outings. These include a golf tournament and a visit to the Atlanta Aquarium where we will enjoy a catered dinner, networking opportunities, a scavenger hunt, a backstage tour of the large tank, and some important talks by emerging DNA technology companies.

Workshops

As is customary before the start of our symposium, the learning begins on Sunday and Monday during our workshop sessions:

- A2LA—preconference free webinars on preparing to transition to 17025:2017
- ANAB—conference workshop on transitioning to 17025:2017
- DVI workshop in conjunction with DOJ/NIJ/DHS
- Working with the Media and Crisis Communication
- Arbinger Institute—outward mindset workshop
- Getting into project FORESIGHT
- Quality Management topics (validation, root cause analysis, expert testimony)
- Management topics (working with government officials, SWOT, improving morale, using metrics)

2018 Board of Directors Candidates and Proposed Bylaws



Arlene Hall - Illinois State Police

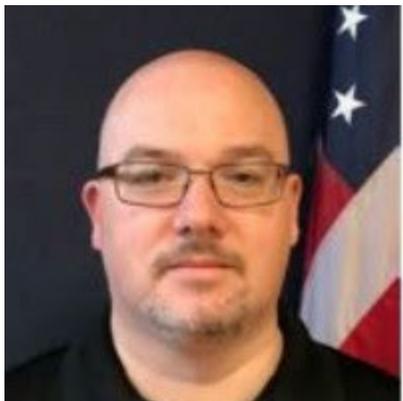
Brian Hargett - Georgia Bureau of Investigations



Bruce Houlihan - Orange County Crime Laboratory



Jennifer McNair - Utah Bureau of Forensic Sciences



Scott O'Neill - New York Police Department



Candidates and Proposed Bylaws

Board candidates:

Arlene Hall: <https://www.ascd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Arlene-Hall-Candidate-Profile.pdf>

Brian Hargett: <https://www.ascd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Brian-Hargett-Candidate-Profile.pdf>

Bruce Houlihan: <https://www.ascd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Bruce-Houlihan-Candidate-Profile.pdf>

Jennifer McNair: <https://www.ascd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Jennifer-McNair-Candidate-Profile.pdf>

Scott O'Neill: <https://www.ascd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Scott-ONeill-Candidate-Profile.pdf>

Bylaws:

Bylaws change proposal: <https://www.ascd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/2018-Membership-and-Board-Bylaws-Revision-Proposal.pdf>

Gender Neutrality: https://www.ascd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ASCLD-Bylaws-2018_genderneutral.pdf

Click below to hear the latest ASCLD Educational Series - 2018 Grant Considerations

<https://www.ascd.org/nij-coverdell-webinar/>

The image shows a navigation bar with the following items: ABOUT US, RESOURCE LIBRARY, MEETINGS & TRAININGS (highlighted), JOBS, and MEMBER SITE. Below the navigation bar is a graphic of the United States map composed of various colored pills. A dark banner across the map contains the text "Opioid Resource Center". Below the graphic is the URL <https://www.ascd.org/opioid-resources/>.

Forensic Science in the News

[Fingerprint Analysis Could Finally Get Scientific, Thanks to a New Tool](#)

That number, produced by a software program called FRStat, told the court the probability that the similarity between two fingerprints in question would be seen in two prints from the same person. Basic as it may sound, using any empirical or numerical evidence in fingerprint analysis is a major addition to a discipline that typically just relies on the interpretation of an individual expert—which opens it up to criticism. Fingerprint evidence isn't infallible and, like a lot of forensic science, has led to high-profile false convictions.

[NEW CRP: Applying Nuclear Forensic Science to Respond to a Nuclear Security Event \(J02013\)](#)

The IAEA is launching a new coordinated research project in which nuclear forensic scientists from different States with various capabilities will work together to improve the implementation of nuclear forensics in the context of national laws, and to support investigative needs.

[Met urgently reviews suspected forensic science blunders](#)

The new crisis revolves around a scientist with the Metropolitan police who has been suspended following concerns about their work.

A Met police spokesperson said it was believed that the cases the scientist had worked on had resulted in convictions. A key question will be how crucial her work was in convincing juries of guilt.

[Forensic lab testing of controlled substances in Va. increased last month](#)

Submissions of suspected heroin, cocaine, fentanyl and methamphetamine and other drugs from police for testing by the Virginia Department of Forensic Science spiked last month, but it is not known why.

[Forensics: New tool predicts eye, hair and skin color from a DNA sample of an unidentified individual](#)

An international team has developed a novel tool to accurately predict eye, hair and skin color from human biological material -- even a small DNA sample -- left, for example, at a crime scene or obtained from archeological remains. This all-in-one pigmentation profile tool provides a physical description of the person in a way that has not previously been possible by generating all three pigment traits together using a freely available webtool.

[Police mishandling digital evidence, forensic experts warn](#)

"One of the problems is the sheer amount of digital evidence the police have to look at," said Dr Jan Collie, of Discovery Forensics, who specialises in defence work. "You have to consider the cloud [for digital storage], too. There's evidence everywhere. With cuts in funding, officers don't have the time to do all that.

[Internship takes MU forensic science students to Dubai](#)

Receiving a master's degree after years of hard work and dedication will be the highlight of collegiate careers for many Marshall University graduates this weekend, but for two forensic science students, an internship that sent them around the world created lifelong memories.

[A controversial stance on shaken baby syndrome upends forensic science](#)

According to SBS theory, shaking is the only possible cause of three autopsy findings known as "the triad" -- brain swelling, bleeding around the brain and bleeding at the back of the eyes. When the theory became popular in the 1990s, I believed it. So did Plunkett.

[International Consortium Wants to Sequence the DNA of 1.5 Million Species](#)

Considered one of the most ambitious undertakings in the history of biology, the project is only now feasible according to its coordinators thanks to advances in genome sequencing technology, high-performance computing, data storage and bioinformatics, as well as the rapidly falling cost of genome sequencing and the growth of biobanks, repositories of catalogued biodiversity such as museums, herbariums, and crop collection centers.

[Forensic science advancements revolutionize time measurements](#)

Research has been progressing over the past few years where a new area has been the focus; temporal forensics. The progression of this study will improve our understanding of what happens to the human body after it dies.

[Sheriff's Office applies for grant to help decrease backlogs, increase proficiency in crime lab](#)

The sheriff's office is in the process of applying for a Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Grant, which includes \$64,862 in partial funding to continue a forensic lab specialist position, in the lab's firearms unit, and to create one, toxicology chemist position, in the lab's drug chemistry unit.

[AFTER THE GOLDEN STATE KILLER'S APPREHENSION, PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRIVACY OF GENETIC TESTS. THEY SHOULDN'T BE.](#)

Last month, police in Sacramento arrested a man for a series of rapes and murders that had gone unsolved for four decades. The break in the case came when investigators searched a public DNA database and found a partial match to DNA found at the crime scenes. That clue ultimately led investigators to Joseph DeAngelo, a former police officer who stands accused of being the notorious Golden State Killer, responsible for nearly 50 rapes and 12 murders spanning the 1970s and '80s.*

[Houston-based Forensic Lab Approves Mixed DNA Profile Forensic Software](#)

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences (HCIFS) in Houston, TX is the latest U.S. forensic lab to approve the use of STRmix™, the sophisticated forensic software used to resolve mixed DNA profiles previously thought to be too complex to interpret.

[A crime lab analyst failed an exam. A Winston-Salem man convicted of rape says he wants new DNA tests because of it.](#)

A Winston-Salem man convicted of breaking into a woman's apartment and raping her several times wants additional DNA testing partially because the DNA analyst who testified at his trial failed a certification exam, according to court papers filed in an appeal.

[Judiciary Charts Steps Taken to Rectify Crime Lab Irregularities](#)

Alleged misconduct by a New Jersey crime lab technician has prompted charges against 1,160 criminal defendants to be marked for dismissal because purported drug evidence in those cases was destroyed, according to a judge supervising cases impacted by the lab's problems.

[Tackling The Backlog: Solutions To NC's Thousands Of Untested Rape Kits](#)

On Wednesday, state lawmakers introduced a bill that would create a statewide rape kit tracking system that would give

investigators and victims the ability to check the status of their kit. It's something that's been implemented before - take a look at Idaho.

[Plans Filed For City's New 40,000 Square Foot Crime Lab](#)

The City of New Orleans has finally filed its plans for the new NOPD Criminal Evidence and Processing Facility to be located at [2761 Gravier Street](#).

[Wisconsin crime labs unable to keep up with evidence testing, attorney general says](#)

It was Nov. 3, 2016, and a Racine homicide trial involving the death of a 14-year-old girl had just been delayed for a second time because of incomplete tests at state crime labs.

[2018 Election Lake County voters approve crime lab levy](#)

This is the first new funding approved for the Painesville Township-based lab since 1999. The newly approved levy will cost county tax payers \$14 annually per \$100,000 property valuation. The crime lab's existing levy annually costs tax payers \$7.51 per \$100,000 property valuation.

[Proposed Ohio bill would end statute of limitations for rape](#)

Statutes of limitations are designed to protect against convictions rooted in deteriorated evidence. Advocates for eliminating Ohio's limit argue that recent advances in DNA testing technology have eliminated many of these concerns.

[Alaska lawmakers approve funding to test rape kits](#)

The funding boost this week aims to make a dent in the backlog of kits by sending the untested DNA evidence from sexual assault cases over the past few decades to outside labs for examination, the Juneau Empire reported Thursday.

[Gov. Jerry Brown approves \\$1.95-million payment to man wrongly imprisoned for Simi Valley murders](#)

The Simi Valley Police Department and the Ventura County district attorney supported the clemency claim after their own follow-up probe found "significant exculpatory evidence," including new DNA testing of Wicht's bedsheets that identified DNA from another man, according to a report by legislative analysts. No DNA belonging to Coley was found at the crime scene, the report said.

[With \\$1 million grant and DNA, DA's office hopes to bring closure to long-unsolved rapes](#)

That man, prosecutors said, is finally facing charges thanks to a new unit using grant money to prosecute those long-neglected rape kits. Members of New Orleans' Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Unit, or SAKI Unit, said DNA from previously untested kits helped link Alfred Berry to the woman's attack -- plus five other cold case sexual assaults.

[Investigators use DNA, genealogy database to ID suspect in 1987 double homicide](#)

More than 30 years after a young Canadian woman was raped and shot in the back of the head, a 55-year-old SeaTac man was arrested Thursday in connection with her death after DNA found at the crime scene was used to map the suspect's family tree, according to the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

[VHS tape that survived lke could help solve murder of Galveston woman stabbed in heart](#)

On Halloween day 1989, a Galveston woman was robbed and stabbed to death in her own grocery store. Now, 29 years later, detectives are re-evaluating old evidence after we brought this story back into the spotlight.

[Suspect Tells Agents He Built Small Bomb to Help With Neighbor's 'Gopher Problem'](#)

The former boyfriend and business associate of a woman killed in a bombing at an Orange County medical building told federal agents he had constructed a small explosive to help with his neighbor's "gopher problem."

[Untested rape kit numbers may be going down](#)

Sgt. Brian Holcombe of the Bakersfield Police Department said rape kits go untested for several reasons. The most common reasons are false reports and victims being too scared to go to court, but "untested" doesn't mean "forgotten."

[Case Study: Man With Bullet Lodged in Head — Is It a Cop's Round?](#)

A team of ballistics and chemistry experts have now demonstrated exacting computed tomography (CT) methodology about how they determined whether the shot was fired by a police officer, as described in the Journal of Forensic Sciences this week.

Chem Centre
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Forensic Science Laboratory
Postal: PO Box 1250, Bentley DC WA 6983
Location: Corner Manning Road and Townsing Drive, Bentley WA 6102
T +61 8 9422 9819 F +61 8 9422 9831 jcoumbaros@chemcentre.wa.gov.au

FORENSIC SCIENCE RESEARCH DIGEST
Issue 11/12, December 2017/January 2018

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)

- [Forensic Examiner I or II](#), Rapid City Police Department, Rapid City, Expires: May 29, 2018
- <https://www.austincityjobs.org/postings/67085>
- [Forensic Scientist IV -Firearms Section Supervisor](#), Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS, Expires: June 15, 2018
- [Assistant Laboratory Director](#), Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS, Expires: June 14, 2018
- [Forensic Services Manager](#), City of Austin – Police Department, Austin, Texas, Expires: June 8, 2018
- [Forensic Technician](#), The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN, Expires: August 17, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist 2 – Latent Print](#), Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, Madison, TN, Expires: May 24, 2018
- [Latent Print Examiner](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 30, 2018
- [Sheriff's Supervising Forensic Scientist \(Controlled Substances/Forensic Alcohol\)](#), Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Ventura, CA, Expires: July 3, 2018
- [Forensic Examiner – DNA 2](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem GA and OCONUS, Expires: August 4, 2018
- [Forensic Examiner – DNA 1](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem GA and OCONUS, Expires: August 4, 2018
- [Forensic Examiner – Latent Print 1](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem GA and OCONUS, Expires: August 4, 2018
- [Forensic Examiner – Latent Print 2](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem GA and OCONUS, Expires: August 4, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist 1. Chemistry Analyst](#), New Mexico DPS Forensic Laboratory Bureau, Hobbs, NM, Expires: August 3, 2018
- [Administrative Operations Manager -Forensics](#), New Mexico DPS Forensic Laboratory Bureau, Santa Fe, NM, Expires: August 3, 2018
- [Forensic Services Manager](#), Baltimore County Government, Towson, MD, Expires: December 31, 2018
- [Chief Medical Examiner](#), The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Chief Medical Examiner](#), MS, Memphis, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Analyst – Biology](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 15, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist 1. Chemistry Analyst](#), New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Forensic laboratory Bureau, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Expires: July 19, 2018
- [Forensic Biology – Training Coordinator](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: May 31, 2018
- [Supervisor – Forensic Biology](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: May 31, 2018
- [Forensic Pathologist](#), MS, Memphis, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Medicolegal Death Investigator](#), The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [State Dept Antiterrorism Assistance Program Worldwide Investigator / Examiner / Trainer](#), PAE, Washington, D.C., Expires: July 10, 2018

- [Forensic Account Manager or Forensic Account Representative](#), Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Utah, Expires: June 1, 2018
- [Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science](#), University of New Haven, West Haven, CT, Expires: May 22, 2019
- [Assistant CODIS Administrator](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 28, 2018
- [Accreditation Manager](#), ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, Cary, NC, Expires: June 26, 2018
- [Crime Scene Supervisor](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: June 15, 2018
- [ICITAP Worldwide Forensics Advisor 15 -Washington DC](#), Engility Corp, Washington DC, Expires: May 26, 2018
- [Associate Medical Examiner](#), Arkansas State Crime Laboratory, Little Rock, Arkansas, Expires: May 31, 2018
- [Latent Print Examiner](#), InCadence Strategic Solutions, Forest Park, GA, Expires: May 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist II-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist III-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist IV-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist II-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist III-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist IV-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Chemistry/Controlled Substances](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Latent Prints](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner, East Meadow, NY, Expires: July 31, 2018

The Need for Safety Officers and a Health and Safety Committee

The elements of a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) have been the subject over the last few weeks. Previous topics have been 1) the need for SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures), 2) Criteria for Implementing Control Measures, 3) requirement to ensure that fume hoods and other protective equipment are functioning properly and identify the specific measures the employer will take to ensure proper and adequate performance of such equipment, and 4) Required Information to be provided to lab personnel working with hazardous substances. This week's topics are 5) the circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer's designee before being implemented, and 6) Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee.

5) The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer's designee before being implemented. Prior to any new work being conducted in a lab that uses a hazardous chemical, prior approval must be acknowledged. Prior approval would normally come from the Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) or Safety Officer in your lab. Many procedures use chemicals that require special considerations. Additionally, some labs may not have the proper storage or work area for its use. Also, the chemical must be added to the chemical inventory, all personnel who will work with or come in contact to the chemical must read the Safety Data Sheet

(SDS). Having a plan where an employee has read the SDS and understands the hazards by signing a review sheet or some other acknowledgement is a good way to improve compliance. Additionally, ordering and purchasing hazardous chemicals should go through one person or a team so that proper storage locations, policies, and procedures can be appropriate for chemicals ordered.

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

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/CFR-2011-title29-vol6/CFR-2011-title29-vol6-sec1910-1450/content-detail.html>

The National Registry of Certified Chemists

<http://nrcc6.org/>

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Training

https://www.osha.gov/dep/facosh/osha_training_guidelines2014.pdf

OSHA Fact Sheet:

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/laboratory/OSHAfactsheet-laboratory-safety-chemical-hygiene-plan.pdf>

CHP Template: http://www.dsps.wi.gov/Documents/Industry%20Services/Forms/Public%20Sector%20Employee/Template-Chemical_Hygiene_Plan.pdf

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>

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



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

SWGAM Interpretational Guidelines

<https://forensiccoe.org/webinar/ascl-d-webinar-dna-standards-and-guidelines/>

Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes

<https://forensiccoe.org/webinar/ascl-d-webinar-series-dna-standards-and-guidelines-webinar-part-2/>



Forensic Training in 2018!

Quick Links to ANAB

[Forensic ISO/IEC Assessor Training \(Testing\)](#)

June 11-15, 2018, Milwaukee, WI
August 20-24, 2018, Denver, CO

[Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Preparation for Testing Laboratories \(Classroom\)](#)

June 11-13, 2018, Milwaukee, WI
August 20-22, 2018, Denver, CO
*Web-based courses also available

[ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Agencies](#)

May 31-June 1, 2018, Houston, TX
October 8-9, 2018, San Antonio, TX

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Assessor Training (Testing)

Course Description

If you are interested in becoming an Assessor, or just learning more about the mechanics of the assessment process, this is the course for you!

During this 4.5-day course attendees will receive a thorough review of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and the ANAB Forensic Accreditation Requirements (AR 3125). As demonstrated through various practical exercises, classroom discussions and a final written examination each attendee will understand and be able to apply the ANAB Forensic Testing Laboratory accreditation process when serving as an assessor during an assessment. Additionally, each attendee will gain specific knowledge, skills and abilities for designing an ISO/IEC 17025 compliant management system, and for planning and conducting an internal audit within their own testing laboratory. Attendees will also be prepared to assist their own laboratory prepare for an accreditation assessment.

Learning Objectives

- Understand and apply the accreditation process when serving as an ANAB forensic assessor.
- Gain specific knowledge, skills and abilities for designing an ISO/IEC 17025 compliant management system, and for planning and conducting an internal audit within your own testing laboratory.
- Be prepared to assist your own laboratory with preparing for an ANAB accreditation assessment.

Note: All registered attendees will receive a copy of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard!



June 11-15, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

For a full list of ANAB forensic training courses, visit: <https://www.anab.org/training/forensic>

For more information about these workshops, contact training@anab.org or 414-501-5466 for more information. For registration, click the links for each training course above.

2018 National Institute of Justice Forensic Science Symposium

Benzylfuranylfentanyl

The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) at the Department of Justice through a partnership with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is working with NMS Labs to identify newly emergent Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) found in seized drug samples entering the United States. You have been identified as a stakeholder in the process of notifying US public health and public safety agencies, and other international entities of the appearance of these novel substances, to allow for appropriate public health policy development and public safety actions through enforcement and interdiction.

Although the priority for this project is to identify emergent opioids and fentanyl derivatives and precursors, other drug classes including benzodiazepines, stimulants (cathinones and amphetamine derivatives), hallucinogens and cannabinoids have also been identified. The purpose of this email is to announce the identification of:

Benzylfuranylfentanyl

Benzylfuranylfentanyl is classified as a suspected fentanyl analogue precursor. Fentanyl analogue precursors are modified based on the structure of fentanyl or its analogues with the absence of notable functional groups or structural features. Fentanyl analogue precursors are often used in the synthesis of a variety of fentanyl analogues. Benzylfuranylfentanyl is not a scheduled substance in the United States.

3,4-Dichloroethcathinone

3,4-Dichloroethcathinone (DCEC) is classified as a substituted cathinone. Substituted cathinones are modified based on the structure of cathinone, an alkaloid found in the Khat plant. Substituted cathinones have been reported to cause stimulant-like effects, similar to amphetamines, which are structurally related to substituted cathinones. Substituted cathinones have also caused adverse events, including deaths, as described in the literature. Structurally similar compounds include cathinone, mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), 4-methylethcathinone (4-MEC), ethcathinone (ETH-CAT), and N,N-diethylcathinone. Cathinone, mephedrone, and 4-MEC are all explicitly Schedule I substances in the United States, while ethcathinone is listed as a mephedrone isomer.

Details are contained in the attached documents. Through this service we are reporting only novel compounds not previously reported in the NFLIS reports, or for which SWGDRUG has not yet issued a monograph. If reference standards are commercially available, they are indicated in the report. If not, identifications are based made on EI-GCMS, LCHRMS (QTOF), and NMR testing.

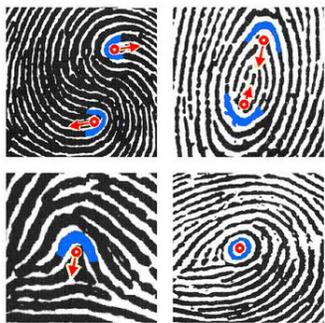
If you have questions about the substance(s) involved, wish to be added to the list for direct notification, or do not wish to receive future notifications, please contact me directly at barry.logan@nmslabs.com.

For more information about this DOJ program, please contact the program sponsor, AUSA MJ Menendez, at OCDETF (MJ.Menendez@usdoj.gov)

Benzylfuranylfentanyl

3,4-Dichloroethcathinone

OSAC Catalog of External Standards and Guidelines



The OSAC Catalog of External Standards and Guidelines is a collection of standards, guidelines and other documents applicable to forensic science. None of the documents in the catalog have been developed or approved by OSAC (the Organization of Scientific Area Committees). The catalog was compiled by NIST staff in early 2015 for OSAC members to assess existing standards, guidelines and best practices that are already publicly available.

The catalog was updated in April of 2017. The catalog is available to download as a [sortable Excel spreadsheet](#) (link opens an Excel .xlsx file). It contains the titles and source information for more than 700 standards, guidelines and related documents. The catalog also lists web addresses for documents that are available online.

NEW The ASCLD reps on the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC) Quality Infrastructure Committee's (QIC) Impact Assessment Task Group are seeking informal feedback from lab directors to assess the laboratory impact of the following proposed standard(s) being considered for inclusion on the OSAC Registry of Standards. This survey should take less than 4 minutes to complete. For further information, and to review each proposed standard, click the appropriate link(s) below. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Impact Assessment Task Group Chair Rita C. Dyas @ Rita.Dyas@chandleraz.gov

Click on each proposed standard to link to the QIC survey: (1) [ASTM E1610-18 Standard Guide for Forensic Paint Analysis and Comparison](#) (2) [ASTM E2937-18 Standard Guide for Using Infrared Spectroscopy in Forensic Paint Examinations](#)

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

2018 [February](#) | [May](#) | [August](#) | [November](#)

2017 [January](#) | [February](#) | [March](#) | [April](#) | [May](#) | [June](#) | [July](#) | [August](#) | [September](#) | [November](#)
(Moved to quarterly publication, effective November 2017)

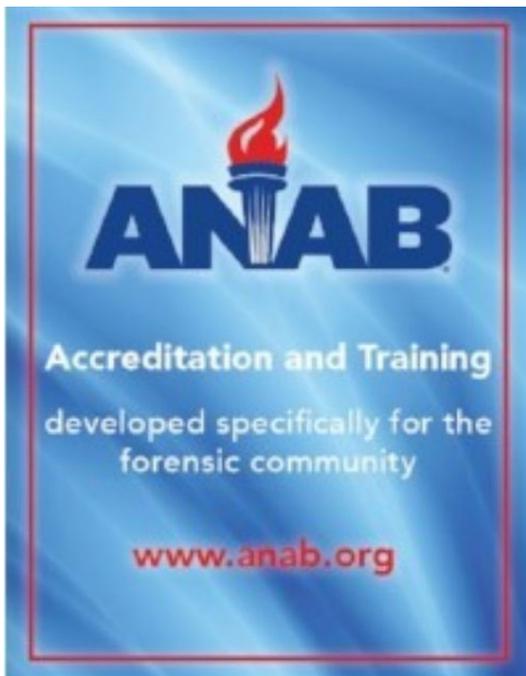
This Bulletin provides an update on forensic science standards that are moving through the development process at Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs), and those that are moving through the Registry Approval Process at the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC)

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/organization-scientific-area-committees-osac>

<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-standards-and-guidelines>

OSAC May Standards Bulletin

OSAC Subcommittees
<https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-subcommittees>

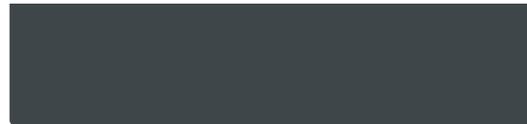


The new year is upon us. Invest in yourself in 2018 by attending one of the upcoming programs hosted by the WVU Center for Executive Education

[Forensic Management Academy](#)
September 9 - 14, 2018
Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office
Pittsburgh, PA
REGISTER NOW

[Lean Six Sigma Certification for Forensic Science Professionals](#)
March 20 - September 11, 2018
Via online webinar with one face-to-face class held on September 11, 2018 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. in Pittsburgh, PA at the Hyatt Regency Pittsburgh International Airport.
REGISTER NOW

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.



NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

The summary for the NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics grant is detailed below. This summary states who is eligible for the grant, how much grant money will be awarded, current and past deadlines, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers, and a sampling of similar government grants. Verify the accuracy of the data. FederalGrants.com provides by visiting the webpage noted in the [Link to Full Announcement](#) section or by contacting the appropriate person listed as the [Grant Announcement Contact](#). If any section is incomplete, please visit the website for the National Institute of Justice, which is the U.S. government agency offering this grant.

- [Start-Up Business Funding](#)
- [Federal Grant For Single Moms](#)
- [Apply For College Grants](#)
- [Grants For Education](#)
- [Apply For Free Grants](#)
- [Free Money Grants](#)
- [Bad Credit Personal Loans](#)

NIJ FY18 Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics: The Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (GRF-STEM) provides awards to accredited academic institutions to support graduate research leading to doctoral degrees in topic areas that are relevant to ensuring public safety, preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States.



LabCorp Specialty Testing Group

[Bode Cellmark Forensics](#) provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

Bode's newest offerings include: [Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction Program](#) streamlines processes to eliminate backlogs of untested sexual assault kits.

[Bode Buccal 2™](#) is uniquely designed to improve DNA databanking collecting and automate processing. The Bode Buccal 2 is a DIRECT COLLECTION SYSTEM that requires minimal training. There is NO Transfer Step Required.

[Independent Validation Services](#) are customized to meet your laboratory's needs. Validation services provide completely unbiased analysis on your equipment, chemistries, or process.



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

<https://judiciary.house.gov/hearing/examine-state-forensic-science-united-states/>

Membership:
For Membership information:
matthew.gamette@thecfso.org

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS
NIJ National Institute of Justice
 STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE.

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.](#)

[CFSO Board of Directors](#)

- Matthew Gamette, MS Chair Representing ASCLD matthew.gamette@gmail.com
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- Yale Caplan, PhD Representing ABFT fortox@aol.com
- Beth Lavach, Legislative Liaison bethlavach@elsandassociates.com

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

Federal Grant Assistance for Rapid DNA	State Grant Assistance for Rapid DNA
<p>Rapid DNA is included in two Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Authorized Equipment Lists (AEL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07BD-02-DNRN: Analysis, DNA/RNA Detection • 09MY-01-DNAK: Kit, DNA Tools <p>These AEL's are in these FEMA grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Stonegarden • Port Security Grant Program • Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program • Transit Security Grant Program • Urban Areas Security Initiative Program • Homeland Security Grant Program • State Homeland Security Program <p><u>Grants.gov</u> discusses these FEMA Grants and other Federal Grant opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of these are submitted through your State – see other side of this card <p>How to find applicable Grants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On <u>Grants.gov</u>, under Search Grants <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Keyword search with terms: DNA, identity, biometric, security, mass casualty, etc. b. Use checklists to limit number of grants, e.g., Eligibility, Category c. Select a grant by Opportunity Number View Grant Opportunity page for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Synopsis - key information, e.g. dates, POC ii. Package - under Actions-Apply provide email to get info on application package 2. On <u>Grants.gov</u>, under Search Applicants: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use Register to apply for Workspace as either Organizational or Individual b. Get your DUNS number from your organization's finance office or call DUNS at: 1-866-705-5713 c. Use Apply tab under Applicants for Workspace instructions d. Complete required forms e. Submit and track application 3. Get alerts for new or revised grants at: apply07.grants.gov/search/subscribeAll.do 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find contact information for your State Emergency Management (EM) Office at: www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies 2. Call or go to the website of your State EM Office. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Request information on FEMA and other Federal grants. b. Request a contact in the EM Office for grants. 3. If EM Office cannot help, find a contact who works with grant applications in your State. Key offices to contact: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Administration b. Finance c. Budget 4. Identify appropriate grant(s). 5. Apply under all applicable grants. 6. Comply with Open-Close times. 7. Request proper forms. 8. Complete forms. Cite the proper FEMA AEL Item ID: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07BD-02-DNRN - Analysis, DNA/RNA Detection • 09MY-01-DNAK - Kit, DNA Tools 9. File forms on time 10. Periodically monitor <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Call or email your State contact b. Call or email the contact given in the grant announcement 11. Request feedback on your application and apply the next year. Many are successful on their 2nd or 3rd year <p>Contact the Rapid DNA vendors for assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANDE (NetBio): www.ANDE.com sales@ANDE.com 817-705-4055 • IntegenX www.IntegenX.com sales@IntegenX.com

Forensic Technology Center of Excellence
 A program of the National Institute of Justice

LEADERSHIP SERIES

OVERVIEW | MODULES | INSTRUCTORS | OTHER RESOURCES

<https://forensiccoe.org/leadership-series/>

Leadership series instructors and modules available.

Jody Wolf
 Modules: Generations, Cultural Diversity, Leadership Principles and Concepts

Dr. Terry Anderson
 Modules: Personal Leadership, Practical Emotional Intelligence, Moral Compass

Dean Gialamas
 Modules: Leadership and Ethics, Leadership and Power

Deputy Chief Timothy P. Scanlan
 Modules: Leadership and Change, First-Line And Mid-Level Supervision

Jeremy Triplett
 Modules: Leadership Theories and DiSC Styles, Founding Fathers on Leadership



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.

With installations ranging from small, single-site



laboratories of five users, to extremely large multi-site installations with 500+ users, we are honored to serve some of the most sophisticated crime laboratories in North America, Australia, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. Of these 175+ laboratories, greater than 95% are accredited to the ISO/IEC 17025 International Standard.

JusticeTrax is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company.

The JusticeFacts newsletters are found at <http://JusticeTrax.com/sales/newsletters>



NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 11

These research reports have been submitted by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) especially for their relevance to crime laboratory activities. ASCLD has not reviewed nor does it necessarily endorse the findings of this research.

[NIJ-FBI Fingerprint Partnership Identifies 200 Missing Persons](#)

In March of this year, a new collaboration began between the National Institute of Justice and the FBI Laboratory. Fingerprints from unidentified missing persons are sent to the FBI where a new technology, known as Next Generation Identification, along with enhanced processing protocols, is improving the odds of identification. Identifications are increasing even with poor quality prints or with those that have been searched in the past.

[National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach](#)

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.

LEAP

Bridging the gap

The goal of the Laboratories and Educators Alliance Program (LEAP) is to facilitate collaborative research between academia and forensic science laboratories. This joint effort between the American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD) and the Council of Forensic Science Educators (COFSE) identifies forensic science needs and provides a platform for laboratories, researchers, and students to seek projects aligning with their mutual research capabilities.

Laboratories	Academia
Expands the research climate within the laboratory, leading to meaningful contributions to forensic science practices.	Promotes impactful research by providing a list of forensic science needs and research interests that can lead to future collaborations.
Provides educational opportunities, such as conference presentations and guest lectures.	Enriches the knowledge base of university faculty with limited or no prior forensic laboratory experience.
Supports the laboratory through hosting student interns to assist in validation and evaluation projects.	Enhances academic achievements through the valuable internship experiences provided to students.
Facilitates the connection between the laboratory and university programs, potentially assisting with future hiring actions and research needs.	Streamlines vital connections and collaborations between universities and forensic science laboratories as required for accreditation.



<http://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/newsletters>

To keep you up-to-date, we issue a free quarterly e-newsletter which provides an overview on the work on the Australia New Zealand forensic science community. In this issue of The Forensic Exhibit:

- News from the forensic community - updates from ANZFEC; Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences; Australia New Zealand Forensic Science Society
- ANZPAA NIFS forensic project updates: Research and Innovation Roadmap and Strategy; ANZPAA NIFS Groups Review
- Meetings and workshops reports from: The Impression, Pattern and Trace Evidence Symposium 2018; SOFT/TIAFT Conference; Clandestine Laboratory Advanced Practitioners Workshop
- Events Calendar

NIFS Newsletter --
<http://www.anzpaa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/newsletters>

Please check out NIJ this week for an abundance of forensic material:

<https://www.nij.gov/Pages/welcome.aspx>.

Sexual Assault and Non-DNA Evidence

When DNA is not available or not probative in

[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 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

sexual assault cases, other forensic evidence can help establish the facts, recreate a series of events, corroborate or refute testimonies, and include or exclude a potential suspect. [Read the article.](#)

Sexual Assault Response Recommendations (Best Practices for SAKs)

Check out research-based recommendations for processing sexual assault kits. These include victim-centered responses to sexual assault and ultimately results in safer communities.

[Review best practices \(pdf, 140 pages\).](#)

Recent Articles

[Defining the Difficulty of Fingerprint Comparisons](#)

[New Software Improves Rigor of Latent Fingerprint Examination](#)

[The Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in the Forensic Sciences](#)

Director's Corner Message on Responding to Sexual Assaults:

<https://www.nij.gov/about/director/Pages/muhlhausen-responding-to-sexual-assault.aspx>

research, this project developed scaling rules for design fires and enclosure material boundaries, followed by the full-scale testing of a gas burner, heptane pool fire, pine wood crib, and polyurethane foam, and the scaling theory was applied to the full-scale scenario and a 1/8 scale compartment.

[Evaluation of the Use of a Non-Contact 3D Scanner for Collecting Postmortem Fingerprints](#)

Historically, the recording of postmortem fingerprint impressions from decedents is a manual and labor-intensive process. 3D scanners are potentially an important tool to help forensic scientists address the challenges of postmortem fingerprint recovery due to the contactless scanning capabilities, as well as the ability to scan complex surfaces and capture scale. This NIJ-supported study evaluated the potential for using a contactless, 3D fingerprint scanner to capture examination-quality postmortem fingerprints and facilitate rapid identification of the deceased.

[Evidential Value of Particle Combination Profiles on Common Items of Evidence](#)

This project used the analytical tools and statistical methods developed in previous research funded by NIJ to measure the evidential value of very small particle (VSP) profiles found on four common types of physical evidence: handguns, cell phones, drug packaging, and ski masks.

[Method Development and Validation of Toolmark Imaging, Virtual Casings 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 topographics as a substitute for physical casings.

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

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