President’s Message 2 11May17

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. A link to the NOPA is: http://www.ascld.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ASCLD-2017-2018-NOPA.pdf. 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.

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 Arlene Hall at Arlene.Hall@isp.state.il.us

Click here for the link to the QIC survey for proposed standard ANSI/NIST ITL-1 2011. Data Format for the Interchange of Fingerprint, Facial & Other Biometric Information: https://goo.gl/forms/R2z5PvF003euU682

Click here for the link to the QIC survey for proposed standard ASTM E2927-16 Standard Test Method for Determination of Trace Elements in Soda-Lime Glass Samples Using Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry for Forensic Comparisons: https://goo.gl/forms/wL8i6eAMawP6Li32

Click here for the link to the QIC survey for proposed standard ASTM E3085-17 Standard Guide for Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy in Forensic Tape Examinations: https://goo.gl/forms/anDLp0N5OSkBdBljZ

NOTE: Access to these proposed standards and the formal public comment period for each closes on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at 11:59 PM EDT.  The associated QIC surveys will also close at that time.  Please participate; your feedback is important.

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 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


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

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/

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.

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...
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 project, hosted at West Virginia University.

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.

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).

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 external).

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.

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...
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 ways. You can change the position of the caption and set styles in the block’s settings tab.

**NEWS STORIES**

**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 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


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.

http://www.thecfso.org/newsletter/CFSO_Newsletter_201705.pdf

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

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 ...
interactive lecture on the new SWGDAM Guidelines for Interpretation of DNA profiles and 45 minutes of Q & A.

ARCHIVAL Webinar Registration Link:

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