The President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Members are the heart of our organization. Indeed, the central purpose of a professional organization is to provide value to its membership. ASCLD seeks to achieve its mission of "providing excellence in forensic science through leadership and innovation" by investing in crime laboratory leaders through training, equipping, educating, and mentoring. The impact of this mission is then multiplied by recruiting additional members and broadening our membership base. Do you know an emerging leader at your laboratory that could benefit from the mentorship, networking, and leadership education that ASCLD provides? Do you know a colleague who is looking for continuing forensic management training and resources to continue to improve their management skills? Do you know someone who wants to take a more active role in the forensic management community? If you said yes to any of these, we are asking you to let those individuals know how they can join the organization.

The key objectives of ASCLD include the fostering of professional interests, assisting the development of laboratory management principles and techniques; acquiring, preserving and disseminating forensic based information; maintaining and improving communication; and promoting, encouraging and maintaining the highest standards of practice in the field. Benefits to membership include networking opportunities with other forensic laboratory leaders, current news and updates via the weekly Crime Lab Minute newsletter, the annual Executive Education Digest, free access to the Forensic Science Policy and Management journal, discounts on symposium registration fees, and access to the Members Area of the website.

Anyone in a leadership position within a forensic laboratory is eligible to join ASCLD. This includes technical leaders, program managers, supervisors, quality managers, and directors.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of ASCLD, please visit http://www.ascld.org/about-us/membership for an application. If you would like to talk to a current ASCLD member for more information, please contact the Membership Committee Chair Brooke Arnone at Brooke.Arnone@ascld.org.

Have a great week!

Kindest regards,
Jeremy Triplett

"Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." --Aristotle
Symposium Details...

44th Annual ASCLD Symposium, April 30 – May 4, 2017, Dallas, Texas

The theme for the 2017 symposium is “Continuous Improvement – Leading through Continuous Learning.” ASCLD is interested in presentations that focus on innovative techniques to permit managers to mentor and inspire their employees as they strive to continuously improve their organizations. The key goal of 2017 ASCLD presentations is to provide crime lab leadership with actionable tools and transportable information that can be directly applied to improve their operation.

44th Annual ASCLD Symposium hotel room block for the 2017 Symposium is now available!

https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action...
http://www.ascldsymposium.com/hoteltravel

Links can also be found on the ASCLD FACEBOOK page at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010477606575

Sponsorship and Exhibits

The ASCLD Symposium is an opportunity to meet the industry leading Crime Lab Directors from the United States and throughout the globe. We invite you to take the opportunity to participate in the Symposium through networking opportunities in exhibiting.

http://www.ascldsymposium.com/sponsors-exhibitors

Download the ASCLD Symposium Mobile App

Download the app for free to your iPhone, iPad, or Android and get instant access to features like:

- The full event schedule
- Detailed info about speakers, exhibitors & sponsors
- Important ASCLD Member Documents
- Notifications of essential updates

Ready to get started? Visit the App or Play store and search for “ASCLD Symposium”!
PCAST related News
Office of the Public Defender - State of Minnesota October 24, 2016
State of Minnesota v Dennis Ivan Yellow, Crt File No.69DU, CR15-1363
Where Traditional DNA Testing Fails, Algorithms Take Over
by Lauren Kirchner
ProPublica, Nov. 4, 7 a.m.

Forensic Science International - A comment on the PCAST report: Skip the “match”/“non-match” stage
http://www.fsijournal.org/article/S0379-0738(16)30455-8/fulltext

Abstract
This letter comments on the report “Forensic science in criminal courts: Ensuring scientific validity of feature-comparison methods” recently released by the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). The report advocates a procedure for evaluation of forensic evidence that is a two-stage procedure in which the first stage is “match”/“non-match” and the second stage is empirical assessment of sensitivity (correct acceptance) and false alarm (false acceptance) rates. Almost always,
quantitative data from feature-comparison methods are continuously-valued and have within-source variability. We explain why a two-stage procedure is not appropriate for this type of data, and recommend use of statistical procedures which are appropriate.

Welcome to The Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society Response to PCAST Report http://anzfses.org/

Top Stories

Contentious race for NC governor narrows spotlight at crime lab
WNCN
RALEIGH, N.C. (WNCN) — This year’s bitterly contested North Carolina gubernatorial election has an unusual focus: the state’s crime lab. Gov.

Slow DNA analysis in Austin has ‘reached a critical point,’ judge says
MyStatesman.com
The temporary closure of Austin’s DNA lab has slowed the prosecution of Travis County ... The DNA lab at the Austin Police Forensic Science center.

Trace evidence databases for forensic investigators now available online
Phys.Org
In the forensics lab, examiners determine, using advanced microscopy and chemical analysis, that the characteristics of that silver match those of the ...

Greenville Police receive federal grant to test sexual assault kits
WTVC
Due to the parameters set by the State of North Carolina Crime Lab, not all sexual assault evidence collection kits are eligible for automatic testing.

Branford police build voluntary DNA database; but ACLU says it's bad public policy
New Happenings Register
It took more than two years to receive a response from the state forensic crime laboratory on the DNA evidence gathered from the violent home ...

Justice Unraveled: How flawed forensics will impact high-profile cases
KXAN.com
The revelation that decades of DNA evidence could be skewed has set off a ... It appeared all DNA mixture analyses done before 2010 could need ...

Fee for DNA samples on city agenda
WoodwardNews.net
After approving the minutes from the Oct. 17th meeting, commissioners will discuss the need for a way to assess fees for the collection of DNA, a costly ...

Fingerprints to firearms: BCI lab handles that and more.
Sentinel-Tribune
The BCI is an investigative arm of the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, which began as a clearinghouse for fingerprints, said Jeff Cook, who oversees ...

Many sexual assault survivors await justice with backlog of rape kits
KTVU San Francisco
Anna’s rape kit wouldn’t be processed by a crime lab for several months. In the meantime, Anna tried to apply for a protective order, but said it was ...

The Douglas County Crime Lab is now internationally-recognized for its work
Top Stories

Investigations, ISO/IEC 17025 2005: General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories, and ASTM E2329-14 Standard Practice for Identification of Seized Drugs, as well as any new documents that are approved, will be located in one place.

Recent OSAC Accomplishments
Documents Approved for the OSAC Working with an SDO Process
The Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee (SAC) recently reviewed and approved the recommendation from the Biological Data Interpretation Subcommittee to submit the following potential documents to a Standards Developing Organization (SDO). The following two projects were sent to the Academy Standards Board (ASB) at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS).

- Validation Standards for Probabilistic Genotyping Systems
- Standards for Validation Studies of DNA Mixtures and Development and Verification of a Laboratory’s Mixture Interpretation Protocol
- The Wildlife Forensics Subcommittee sent their Wildlife Forensics Morphology Standards to ASB for review. The document will now move through the ASB process where it hopefully will be converted into an SDO approved standard. It can then be considered by the OSAC for inclusion on the OSAC Registry.

Upcoming Schedule - On the Horizon

(Internal OSAC Meeting) FSSB, Dec. 1-2, 2016 in Atlanta, GA • (Open to the Public) OSAC Scientific Area Committees Public Status Reports & Open Discussions occur at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) in New Orleans, LA on Feb. 13-14, 2017. (Save the Date)

February 13, 2017 (Monday)
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM   OSAC Digital/Multimedia Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion
10:15 AM – 12:00 PM   OSAC Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM   OSAC Crime Scene/Death Investigation Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion

February 14, 2017 (Tuesday)
8:30 AM – 12:00 PM   OSAC Physics/Pattern Interpretation Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM  OSAC Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis Scientific Area Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion

(Internal OSAC Meeting) Full OSAC Meeting, April 2017 tentatively in Leesburg, VA.

OSAC Vacancies

There is a vacancy on the Digital/Multimedia SAC. To apply, complete the OSAC Application Form.
The Board is a world-wide forensic accrediting body that represents more than 2,000 crime labs. Douglas County's crime lab is only the 6th crime lab ...

Forensic lab gets equipment to boost crime-solving capabilities
Jamaica Gleaner
The State-run Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine has acquired a a scanning electron microscope valued approximately $42.3 million or ...

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

Local cold case victims' buried remains puzzle pieces for renowned forensic expert
Abstract from the Times Leader:
The project, headed by State Police and Luzerne County District Attorney's Office, wasn't going to be cheap. Digging up one body from a single grave can cost upwards of $10,000, according to Chuck Heurich, a senior scientist and program manager of the Department of Justice's forensics division [the National Institute of Justice].

Genome-Wide Association Study Reveals Multiple Loci Influencing Normal Human Facial Morphology
NIJ-supported researchers from the University of Colorado Denver recently published an article in PLOS Genetics. Author summary retrieved 10/12/2016:

Improving the confidence of “questioned versus known” fiber comparisons using microspectrophotometry and chemometrics
NIJ-supported researchers from the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis recently published an article in Forensic Chemistry. Abstract retrieved 10/12/2016:

A cooperative-binding split aptamer assay for rapid, specific and ultra-sensitive fluorescence detection of cocaine in saliva
NIJ-supported researchers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety recently published an article in Chemical Science. Abstract retrieved 10/12/2016:

An Examination of the Conditions Affecting Forensic Scientists' Workplace Productivity and Occupational Stress
The NIJ-supported research team at Michigan State University surveyed 899 crime lab technicians and forensic scientists regarding work conditions, job
satisfaction, and working relationships with police and prosecutors. By and large, forensic scientists exhibited very high rates of job satisfaction but also exhibited the similar stress levels as other criminal justice professionals.

**Dried Blood Spot Analysis as an Emerging Technology for Application in Forensic Toxicology**

Investigators often encounter dried blood spots as they examine a crime scene, but such evidence often isn’t collected because very little work has been done in the analysis of dried blood for forensic applications. Researchers at RTI International, noting that dried blood spot analysis is well established in newborn testing, conducted this NIJ-supported project to see if newborn testing of dried blood had broader applications in forensic toxicology. After analyzing dried blood samples for 28 drugs, the researchers showed it was comparable to more routine blood tests and useful in forensic investigations.

**Developing DNA Friendly Fluorogenic Methods for Detecting, Enhancing, and Preserving Bloody and Proteinaceous Impression Evidence**

The researchers found that DNA capable of producing full STR profiles can be extracted from semen and blood impressions, but not from impressions in any biofluid treated with Fluorogenic Enhancement Sprays. The researchers concluded that in many instances, both impression evidence and DNA can be recovered from a single evidentiary item.

**Development of Individual Handwriting Characteristics in about 1800 Students: Statistical Analysis and Likelihood Ratios That Emerge Over an Extended Period of Time**

For decades, questioned document examiners (QDE) have conducted handwriting comparisons based on the assumption that no two people write the same way and no one person writes exactly the same way twice.

**Analysis of Drugs of Abuse in Human Hair: Surface Contamination and Localization of Analysis**

For more than two decades, researchers and scientists have utilized hair testing for drug abuse in addition to blood and urine tests. Despite considerable research and current analytical technologies and interpretive methods, environmental contamination remains an unresolved issue for hair, and controversy exists over the source of drug residues found in hair and the potential for environmental contamination to cause false-positive test results.

**Characterization of Designer Drugs: Chemical Stability, Exposure, and Metabolite Identification**

Designer drugs, such as synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones have become increasingly prevalent, as have their health and societal consequences. Currently, little is known about the pharmacological and toxicological profiles of these products. The consequences of long-term usage have yet to be studied, and behavioral and metabolic studies have only been performed on a relatively limited number of compounds. The objective of this research is to gain a more thorough understanding of designer drugs with respect to their chemical exposure profiles and biological elimination pathways.

**Separation and Identification of Drugs by Electrospray Ionization-Ion Mobility Spectrometry-Mass Spectrometry**

Ion mobility spectrometry (IMS) has been described in scientific literature as both a stand-alone separation technique and as a hyphenated technique to enhance other analytical determinations. Despite this flexibility and versatility, the applications of IMS have not grown as quickly as those of gas chromatography (GC) or liquid chromatography (LC). This research describes the use of IMS as a lab-based analytical technique able to perform separations on par with GC and LC.
Error Rates for Latent Fingerprinting as a Function of Visual Complexity and Cognitive Difficulty
The comparison of forensic fingerprint images for purposes of identification is a complex task that, despite advances in image processing, still requires highly trained human examiners to achieve adequate levels of performance. This NIJ-supported project by researchers at the University of California aims to determine more about the relationship between the measurable, visual dimensions of fingerprint pairs and the level of comparison difficulty for human examiners, both experts, and to a lesser degree, novices.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Fighting Bias - Self-Paced Online Professional Training
This self-paced online professional training program focuses on Minimizing bias in Forensic Decision Making. This program covers brain and cognitive issues relating to bias and cognitive processing. It then connects the cognitive science issues to practical and specific issues in forensic decision making. In addition to knowledge about the cognitive factors in forensic decision making, the program also provides practical solutions to address weaknesses as well as best practices to enhance forensic practices.

This program is directly relevant to the document recently adopted by the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS). The practical implementation of this document ("Ensuring That Forensic Analysis Is Based Upon Task-Relevant Information") is presented and discussed, as are the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences report on forensic science.

Minimizing Bias in Forensic Decision Making

Learning Objectives:
Describe background information regarding the human mind and cognitive system

- Describe how information and knowledge is acquired, processed, represented, encoded, stored, utilized, retrieved, compared, and evaluated
- Describe how decisions are made
- Demonstrate the connection between information and a variety of forensic decision making processes that forensic examiners typically use
- Describe how cognitive factors can be utilized to make forensic experts' work more efficient
- Describe the pitfalls and errors that can occur in forensic decision making

http://concept.leadpages.co/minimizing-bias-forensic-science/
Visit the website for registration or abstract submission:
or contact Glenn Langenburg (glenn.langenburg@state.mn.us) for more information.

The American Society of Crime Lab Directors, along with RTI, have made the below webinars available.

ASCLD Train the Directors Latent

November 20, 2016
Senior Forensic Toxicologist (Chemist), CAMRIS International, Dover, Delaware, United States, 19901, Expires: November 22, 2016

Mitochondrial DNA Analyst, CAMRIS International, Dover, Delaware, United States, 19902, Expires: November 20, 2016

Tenure Track Faculty Position: Assistant/Associate Professor in Forensic Science Department, University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut, Expires: November 20, 2016

CHIEF FORENSIC LABORATORIES, The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner – Coroner, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: November 15, 2016


Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science, Department of Forensic Science, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, Expires: December 31, 2016

Forensic Science Policy & Management
Current Online Issue here
http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ufpm20/current

Editorial
Moving Toward New Requirements for the Admissibility of Evidence
Barry A. J. Fisher
Pages: 51-53
Published online: 11 Oct 2016

Articles
Leadership Decisions Influencing Medicolegal Death Investigation: "We wear a lot of hats."
Stacy A. Drake, Eileen Giardino, Angelo Giardino & Kurt Nolte
Pages: 54-60
Speaker at email paul.speaker@mail.wvu.edu

For complete the LabRAT workbook and submit to Paul.

mission is to measure, preserve what works, and change what does not. To participate, simply complete the LabRAT workbook and submit to Paul Speaker at email paul.speaker@mail.wvu.edu. Please send any questions to the same email address. For additional information, please visit the program web.

Published online: 06 Apr 2016

Up from "Arts and Crafts": Division of Labor in Forensic Science Laboratories
William P. McAndrew & M. Garrett Roth
Pages: 61-68

Published online: 06 Apr 2016

Novel Technological Approaches for Pedagogy in Forensic Science: A Case Study in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis
Mike illes, Cathy Bruce, Theresa Stotesbury & Robyne Hanley-Dafoe
Pages: 87-97

Published online: 11 Oct 2016

Design Considerations for the Implementation of Artificial Fluids as Blood Substitutes for Educational and Training Use in the Forensic Sciences
Theresa Stotesbury, Cathy Bruce, Mike illes & Robyne Hanley-Dafoe
Pages: 81-86

Published online: 11 Oct 2016

Jason Koldowski; Catherine Barden, Catherine Brown, Janine Leete & Christopher Czyryca
Pages: 98-105

Published online: 11 Oct 2016

Risk, Reward, and Redemption: Root Cause Analysis in Forensic Organizations
Max M. Houck
Pages: 106-112

Published online: 11 Oct 2016

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 1:00:00 PM EST - 3:00:00 PM EST
Duration: 2 hour(s)

Sponsored by NJ
This webinar will focus on the practical application of E2926-13 to the forensic analysis of glass, with additional discussion regarding validation of XRF instrumentation for use in forensic casework.

www.nij.gov/training

Troy Ernst is a Forensic Scientist in the Trace Evidence Unit at the Michigan State Police Grand Rapids Forensic Laboratory. He has been employed with the Michigan State Police for 18 years, with casework involving glass, paint, fibers, fire debris, tape, footwear impressions, bloodstain pattern analysis, and miscellaneous materials. He is a member of ASTEE, MAFS, and AAFS. He was a participant in the NJI-sponsored Elemental Analysis Working Group and serves on the editorial board for JASTEE.

Ted Manasian is a Forensic Scientist with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Bowling Green Laboratory. Ted has worked in the Trace Evidence Unit for 23 years, with casework including glass, paint, fibers, tape, footwear/fire track impressions and miscellaneous materials. Ted is currently serving as President-Elect for the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) and is also a member of ASTEE and AAFS.
We are targeting a submission date of December 15, 2016.

Regards,
Paul J Speaker