Past presidents Brady Mills and Jay Henry attended the Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers (AFQAM) meeting in Little Rock and taught a workshop titled “Project FORESIGHT, Laboratory Efficiency and Beyond”. There were 32 participants including several from international laboratories. The presentation introduced Project FORESIGHT and included the study of metric data and scenarios in which FORESIGHT was used to provide guidance to the Utah laboratory system. Further, the overall 2014/2015 data was reviewed and an interactive discussion ensued regarding laboratory efficiency and the meaning of metric outliers.

The attendees were also introduced to the FORESIGHT 2020 project, a freeware software program that seeks to interface a laboratory's LIMS system with casework and financial data with the goal of automating the data collection portion of FORESIGHT. Future initiatives were also discussed and all participants were encouraged to enroll in Project FORESIGHT.
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.asclds_symposium.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.asclds_symposium.com/sponsors-exhibitors
Letter Report on Action Needed to Protect against Biological Attack

On November 15, 2016, PCAST released a letter report to the President on Action Needed to Protect against Biological Attack

- Full report (pdf)

Forensic Organizations Responding to PCAST Report

International Association for Identification

Association of Firearms and Tool Mark Examiners

Forensic Science International - A comment on the PCAST report: Skip the “match”/“non-match” stage
http://www.fsjournal.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


Message from the FSSB: Consolidating OSAC Registries by January 2017

The OSAC Registries are a trusted repository of high-quality, science-based standards and guidelines for forensic science. Since the program inception, the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science has operated with two registries, the OSAC Registry of Approved Standards as well as the OSAC Registry of Approved Guidelines.

All approved documents, whether they are a standard, guideline, test method, or other product, will soon be contained on one registry.

The anticipated timeframe to fully transition to one registry is by January 2017.

Williams, R., & Maupin, J. (2016). DNA fingerprinting has improved throughout the years. But, contrary to popular TV shows, it isn’t as accurate as one might believe.

**Better access to database may help police solve cases faster**

The Olympian

However, they have to wait months to get results from the forensic lab, which could be valuable in solving cases that can go cold within days.

**Why We Can’t Always Trust DNA Evidence**

MSN.com

DNA fingerprinting has improved throughout the years. But, contrary to popular TV shows, it isn’t as accurate as one might believe.

**Probabilistic genotyping: Controversial new frontier in DNA crime investigations**

Genetic Literacy Project

The emergence of algorithmic analysis programs, however, is creating a new frontier of DNA science. The tools are so new and expensive that only a ...
Former crime lab employee charged
Valdosta Daily Times

VALDOSTA — A former evidence custodian at the Valdosta/Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory has been charged in connection with taking ...

City Awarded Grant To Process Backlogged DNA Samples
NewsOn6

The City of Tulsa has been awarded a federal grant for $176,000 to process DNA samples now backlogged in the system. The taxpayer funded grant ...

Hair Analysis Could Become an Important Alternative to DNA Testing
Newsweek

DNA can also get contaminated at the crime scene. But that isn't the only problem with using DNA to solve crimes. DNA also can degrade quickly if ...

Lab director's criminal record uncovered; what does it mean?
12news.com

The former lab director and chief toxicologist for the Maricopa County Office of the Medical Examiner, Norman Wade, has been harboring a secret for ...

Op-ed: Update law so labs can use Rapid DNA to solve crimes faster
Salt Lake Tribune

Rapid DNA can help Utah law enforcement, as well as law enforcement elsewhere in the country, get results within two hours. This quick response ...

'DNA evidence is most important clause in Anti-Rape Bill'
DAWN.com

Given the importance of evidence, Ms Haroon said: “Isn't it important to have a DNA laboratory in Karachi, which is a city of more than 20 million ...

Nigeria: DNA Centre Will Eliminate Conviction of Innocent Suspects - AG
AllAfrica.com

Lagos — The Lagos State Government yesterday said its DNA forensic centre which is the first to be established in Nigeria by any state government, ...

Home Secretary asked to file report on augmenting facilities in forensic lab
The Hindu

Piqued by almost every other police officer citing huge time lags in getting reports from Forensic Sciences Laboratory, Chennai, as the reason for ...

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.

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 7. 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.

National Institute of Justice Invests $63 Million in Nation’s Crime Labs

The National Institute of Justice announced awards of more than $63 million to 132 state and local jurisdictions to increase laboratory capacity and reduce the number of DNA samples awaiting analysis through its DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program.

Local cold case victims' buried remains puzzle pieces for renowned forensic expert

(statlon1@marshall.edu) should you have questions or wish to apply but need more information. If you are new to this program, I would be happy to set up a conference call with your group to discuss this further.

Also, please feel free to forward this email and its attachments to a colleague.

Thank you,
Pam

Pamela J. Staton, Ph.D.
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Bode Cellmark Forensics
LabCorp Specialty Testing Group

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Local cold case victims’ buried remains puzzle pieces for renowned forensic expert
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].

Abstract from the Times Leader:

Genome-Wide Association Study Reveals Multiple Loci Influencing Normal Human Facial Morphology
NIJ-supported researchers from the University of Colorado Rino 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 has 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.


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 toxico logical 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 separations.

**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.

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**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 how information and knowledge is acquired, processed, represented, encoded, stored, utilized, retrieved, compared, and evaluated
- Describe how decisions are made
- Describe the connection between information and a variety of

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**Forensic Science Policy & Management**

Current Online Issue [here](http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ufpm20/current)
We are targeting a submission date of December 15, 2016.

Regards,

Speaker at email paul.speaker@mail.wvu.edu
Paul J Speaker

FORESIGHT: LabRat Video

2016 ASCLD Symposium Key Note
Topic: How Great Leaders Inspire Action

ASCLD President Jeremy Triplett presents a poster on the organization at the 18th International Forensic Science Manager's Symposium in Lyon

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>