President’s Message

Colleagues,

I hope that each of you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday and had the opportunity to slow down for a few days and spend time with family and friends. With all that we are tasked with day-to-day, I’ve found for myself, at least, it’s easy to forget that work isn’t my life or my identity. It’s nice to have a chance to put it all aside for a short time and reflect on the blessings we all enjoy. This is why I personally like this time of year so much.

Along those lines, I want to take a moment in this CLM to express my sincere appreciation for the special people that make up the ASCLD organization.

To the ASCLD Board of Directors – Jody, Ray, Andrea, Cecilia, Adam, Matthew, Debbie, Kris, Christian, Brooke, and Tim – thank you for a great 6 months so far. Thank you for the selfless service you provide to the organization, the long hours you put into conference calls and your own committee initiatives, and the work you more-often-than-not take home after the workday to finish. Thank you for meeting seemingly impossible deadlines and for tolerating my crazy ideas.

To the ASCLD Staff, Jean and Ramona – thank you for coming to work every day for this organization and keeping the ship afloat. Thank you for watching over the day-to-day operations, for keeping me on task when I need it, and for responding to the deluge of emails and requests for media interviews. Thank you for the hundreds of hours you put into the annual symposium planning. Thank you for your service to the greater forensic community by facilitating our organization’s mission.

Lastly, but certainly not least - to the ASCLD members – thank you for supporting this organization, the board of directors, and the forensic science community at large. Thank you for your commitment to pursuing world-class forensic science institutions with sound management and science principles. Thank you for leading organizations that provide scientific results to support both convictions and exonerations. Thank you for caring about those employees in your charge and developing the future leaders of forensic science. Thank you for your service to the communities in which you live and to criminal justice.

Have a great week and please let me know if I can ever be of service to you.

Kindest regards,

Jeremy Triplett
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

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) is now accepting applications from members interested in serving as instructors for the upcoming ASCLD Leadership Academy in 2017. We are looking to have an instructor teach 4 weekly 2 hour webinar sessions and a 4 hour in person “Capstone” session. Please see attached document for more details and an application form. Applications are due by Friday December 8, 2016. Lectures to start in the end of January 2017.
4. Four weekly topics for each monthly theme have been provided in the Call for Instructors.

-- In brief, what are 2 or 3 main points of instruction that you would deliver on each weekly topic for the theme of Leadership.

-- If you were to suggest a different weekly topic, what would it be and what are 2 or 3 main points of instruction that you would deliver?

5. Please describe your ideas on potential hands-on instruction/activities that you would deliver or lead at the 2017 ASCLD symposium in Dallas.

6. Please provide the name and contact information of 2 individuals that can provide the committee feedback regarding your qualifications as an instructor.

Please submit completed applications along with a current CV to:

Kristine Deters at Kristine.deters@state.mn.us.

Applications must be received by end-of-business Friday December 8, 2016.
PCAST related News
Publicly funded forensic crime laboratories:
Quality assurance practices, 2014
Andrea M. Burch and Matthew R. Durose et al
U.S. Dept of Justice; Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics; 11 pages; November 16, 2016

Top Stories
WVU Boasts Its Scientific Research
Wheeling Intelligencer
To help, his lab is also creating brain games, he said. ... The WVU Forensic Science and Investigative program, as it is known today, was begun in ...

Yearlong wait for DNA testing results frustrates Utah judge, who threatens to put a crime lab ...
Salt Lake Tribune
A Utah judge frustrated over a lack of DNA results from the state crime lab said if the results aren't complete by next month, he'll put a crime lab ...

After lab closure, daunting questions on DNA-based convictions remain
MyStatesman.com
If anyone has been falsely convicted because of bad DNA analysis, no one wants the person


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.

sitting in prison through years of forensic re-
   examination, ...

New evidence problems surface amid questions
   about crime lab analyst
   Houston Chronicle
   in the latest case, analyst Andrea Gooden at the
   Houston Forensic Science ... Gooden eventually
   reported the problem herself to the state
   forensic ...

Police highlight doubling of firearm thefts
   dailystelegraph.com.au
   Tasmania's gun theft problem has doubled in the
   past decade in what police ... the firearms were
   stolen from a safe or cabinet, a police analysis
   found.

84 Years Ago Today, the FBI's Crime Lab
   Opened in DC
   Washingtonian.com
   From fingerprinting and ballistics to handwriting
   analysis and moulage, the FBI's Scientific Crime
   Detection Laboratory is known for assisting the ...

As new opioids spread, coroners face a wave of
   medical mysteries.
   STAT
   Toxicologists needed a clean sample of the drug
   — what's called a standard — to adjust their
   screening procedures for it, and the companies that ...

Multnomah County reviews field drug test guilty
   pleas, asks that some be dismissed
   KATU
   At least in Portland, police say suspected illegal
   drug field tests are always verified with tests at the
   Oregon State Police crime lab once someone's ...

Nearly 9 In 10 Crime Labs Were Accredited In
   2014, Up From 7 In 10 In 2002
   Yahoo Sports
   WASHINGTON, Nov. 22, 2016 /PRNewswire-
   USNewswire/ -- At the end of 2014, 88 percent of
   the nation's 409 publicly funded forensic crime ...

How DNA Evidence Went From Airtight to Error-
   Prone
   Bloomberg
   Blind faith in any technology can be dangerous --
   especially when it comes to areas of forensic
   science such as DNA fingerprinting. For
   example, if ...

Lagos set to build forensic laboratory
   Guardian
   Lagos state government has reiterated its
   commitment to ensure the use of scientific
   methods in unraveling crimes by building a
   forensic laboratory in ...

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NIJ Funding Webinar Series

- Research Assistantship Opportunities at NIJ
  Date and time: November 29, 2016, 1-2pm ET
  Speakers: Amy Leffler, PhD, Research
  Assistantship Program Manager and Social
  Science Analyst; Maureen McGough, Esq.,
  Senior Policy Advisor
  Learn more and register.

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.

Dear OSAC Professional Association
   Representatives:

We understand that your members may have interest
   in recent OSAC events. If so, we have announced the
   SAVE THE DATE for the OSAC Scientific Area
   Committee Public Status Reports & Open Discussion
   Events at the 2017 AAFS Conference in New
   Orleans.

https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-
   newsletter-november-2016#SaveTheDate

Marshua University Forensic Science is offering the
   DNA Technical Assistance Program (DNA TAP) again
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**

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 stress, and workplace satisfaction. The findings of this research.

**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.
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 NJI-supported project to see if newborn testing of dried blood has broader applications in forensic toxicology. After analyzing dried blood samples for 26 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 Evidences**

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 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 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.

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 Prints Webinar - Archival
ASCLD Train the Directors DNA Discipline Webinar

Forensic Science Policy & Management

Current Online Issue here

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

Articles

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 Kolowski, 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-T12
Published online: 11 Oct 2016

http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ufpm20/current
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

Project FORESIGHT

FORESIGHT is a business-guided self-evaluation of forensic science laboratories across the globe. The participating laboratories represent local, regional, state/provincial, and national agencies. Faculty from the WVU College of Business and Economics provide assistance, guidance, and analysis. We link financial information to work tasks and functions. Laboratory managers can use these functions to assess resource allocations, efficiencies, and value of services—the 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 website http://be.wvu.edu/forensic/foresight.htm.

We are targeting a submission date of December 15, 2016.

Regards,
Paul J Speaker