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

The symposium planning committee of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) welcomes your abstracts for plenary talks, full and half-day workshops, and poster presentations for the 44th annual ASCLD Symposium in 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 should be to provide crime lab leadership with actionable tools and transportable information that can be directly applied to improve their operation.

Presentations should fit into one or more of the following categories:

- Lab Performance
- Quality Operations
- Lab Efficiency
- Personnel Performance
- Technology
- Training / Mentoring
- Case Studies / Reviews

To submit your abstract, please visit: https://www.regonline.com/ascldsymposiumabstractsubmission2017

Abstract submission deadlines is October 31, 2016.

Kindest Regard,
Jeremy Triplett
Greetings from the Project FORESIGHT team.

We invite you to join us and submit data for the past fiscal year.

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. **FORESIGHT is open to any forensic laboratory that completes and submits a LabRAT form. There is no charge for participation.** Attached you will find an example of an individualized report prepared for a participating laboratory.

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](http://be.wvu.edu/forensic/foresight.htm).

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

Regards,
Paul J Speaker

Mary M. Gibbons, Crime Laboratory Manager, is retiring in October.

After 35 years of public service, Mary M. Gibbons, Crime Laboratory Manager, is retiring in October.

We want to extend a most cordial invitation to join us at her retirement reception (to wish her well on her new adventure).

Jennifer S. Mihalovich, MPH F-ABC
DNA Technical Leader
Forensic Biology Unit Supervisor
Oakland Police Department
Criminalistics Laboratory
455 7th Street Room 608
Oakland, California 94607  |  510.238.3386

Hello Everyone,

Marshall University Forensic Science is offering the DNA Technical Assistance Program (DNA TAP) again this year. Attached is the DNA TAP Information flyer and the associated DNA TAP Request Form should you have validation or evaluation needs. Beginning this week, a limited number of DNA TAP students are in training.
Research Reports

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD
Crime Lab Minute Vol 6

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.


Registration Open for Looking Ahead: the National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium
Looking Ahead: The National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium, to be held September 8-9, 2016, supports efforts to solve sexual assault cases, provide justice to victims, and ultimately improve public health and public safety. This unprecedented event focuses on how the nation is moving forward and finding solutions to the complex issues that arise in testing sexual assault evidence. Register to attend soon; seating is limited.

Identifying Missing Persons Through Legislation
New York State Governor Cuomo recently signed Bill A10278, which will amend the executive law, section...
838, in relation to the identification of unknown dead and missing persons. Specifically it creates a requirement that, upon receipt of unidentified remains, all New York county medical examiners and coroners will be required to report identifying information of those remains to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, NamUs.

Using a Portable Mass Spectrometer to Analyze Crime Scene Evidence

The work of NIJ-supported researchers from Virginia Commonwealth University, was recently featured by the Chicago Tribune. Their study focuses on the development of a smaller, more portable version of a mass spectrometer to allow faster and simpler analysis of crime scene evidence.

Ballistics Toolmark Research Database

The National Institute of Standards and Technology, with support from NIJ, created an open-access database to collect 3D models of bullets and cases. Now researchers can get the data they need to develop a variety of ballistics-matching algorithms.

Forensic Science Research Evaluation Workshop - A Discussion on the Fundamentals of Research Design and an Evaluation of Available Literature

This NIJ and National Science Foundation-supported workshop was formed to discuss the fundamentals of research design and the evaluation of the forensic science literature. The NCFS recognized that forensic scientists and the OSACs would benefit from tools to help them assess the scientific literature in order to conform to higher scientific standards in critical thinking and laboratory performance. This publication is a resource for evaluating and elevating the research efforts in the forensic sciences and that it may be useful to OSAC members, advanced practitioners, and peer reviewers of the basics of research and evaluation of forensic science literature, as well as for Directors of Master of Forensic Science educational programs.

Bath Salt-type Aminoketone Designer Drugs: Analytical and Synthetic Studies on Substituted Cathinones

Forensic laboratories face an ongoing problem of trying to analyze and identify “designer drugs” that, by definition, are being designed in clandestine drug laboratories to be structurally different than previous drugs. This NIJ-supported project from researchers at Auburn University focused on issues of resolution and discriminatory capabilities of forensic drug tests to increase the reliability and selectivity of such tests in identifying “new analytes of the so-called bath salt-type drugs.” The project provides the methodology and analytical data to allow investigators to “discriminate between those regioisomeric and isobaric molecules having the same molecular weight and major fragments of equivalent mass.” In summary, the research will better allow forensic experts to identify changing designer drugs.

Modern Compendium of Microcrystal Tests for Illicit Drugs and Diverted Pharmaceuticals

Intended for use by forensic scientists in the crime laboratory and researchers in the analytical chemistry laboratory, this NIJ-supported compendium contains information on 19 illicit or diverted pharmaceutical drugs for which microcrystal tests, using various reagents, have been previously developed.

Utility of Postmortem X-ray Computed Tomography (CT) in Supplanting or Supplementing Medicolegal Autopsies

This NIJ-supported study tested hypotheses regarding the use of postmortem X-ray computed tomography (CT) scans for the following types of cases: blunt force injuries, childhood traumatic fatalities, firearm injuries, and potential drug poisoning deaths. Comparison of autopsy to PMCT revealed neither modality is perfect, but both independently allow correct assessment of severity of injuries and cause of death.

Computerized Reconstruction of Fragmentary

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.
Skeletal Remains for Purposes of Extracting Osteometric Measurements and Estimating MNI

Identifying, matching and reconstructing human bone fragments from commingled mass graves, highly fragmentary individual burials, or in the wake of mass disasters, has long been a serious challenge to forensic anthropologists. In this NJI-supported project, researchers at the University of Tennessee developed an osteological scene management tool in the form of software that enables investigators to quantify and reconstruct fragmentary human skeletal remains from three-dimensional surface files generated by computed-tomography or laser scans. The project expands the usefulness of the existing statistical atlases into the analysis of fragmentary and commingled remains and provides anthropologists with a means to quantify and reconstruct remains that are damaged or fragmentary, thereby enhancing analyses in challenging cases.

Genomic Tools to Reduce Error in PMI Estimates Derived from Entomological Evidence

Forensic entomologists routinely estimate the age of immature insects like blow flies in determining the time of death of crime victims. In this NJI-supported project, researchers from Texas A&M University sought to improve the precision of estimates of blow fly age through the use of genetics – specifically the role and consequences of genetic variation in blow fly traits. While describing their work as “preliminary,” the researchers said it “has expanded our knowledge of the role of genetics in development time variation, showing that there is ample wild genetic variation that could potentially impact forensic predictions.”

News Around the Globe

Kim Kardashian Paris robbery finds dropped gemstone that may have crucial DNA on Daily Mail

A gemstone dropped outside the Paris hotel where she was targeted could provide vital DNA evidence in an investigation which has so far made little.

Experts Wrote Bihar Controversial Topper Ruby Rai's Copy, Forensic Report

NDTV

A report prepared by the forensic science laboratory has confirmed that “experts” had written examination for Bihar Intermediate Arts “topper” Ruby Rai. ...

Bihar topper scam: Someone else wrote exam for Ruby, claims forensic report - India Today

Forensic probe confirms Bihar Class 12 topper Ruby Rai never wrote her exams - Hindustan Times

Forensic evidence makes case solid, says top cop Times of India

MANGALURU: Investigations that are built on the solid foundation of forensic evidence will never let down the investigators, said M Chandra Sekhar. ...

North East forensic teams join forces to create region wide unit - Chroniclivelive

Durham and Northumbria police have pooled their resources creating the team which will cover an area stretching from Berwick to Darlington.

Sleep loss may impair facial recognition: Study Daily News & Analysis

... “passport task” is affected by poor sleep, and our research has important implications for those working in security or forensic settings,” she added.

‘Prodigal Science’ Student Ruby Rai Didn’t Even Write The Paper She Topped, Forensic Lab Finds! Indiatimes.com

This is what a report prepared by the forensic science laboratory confirmed. Experts* wrote the examination

Independent Validation Services are customized to meet your laboratory’s needs. Validation services provide completely unbiased analysis on your equipment, chemistries, or process.

Employment Opportunities


Forensic Scientist I-III (Latent Print Examiner). Johnson County Sheriff’s Office Criminalistics Laboratory, Olathe, KS (Kansas City metro area), Expires: October 21, 2016

Tenure Track: Assistant or Associate Professor of Biology (Forensic Biologist). Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, Expires: December 2, 2016


Firearms Examiner. Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: December 26, 2016

Criminalist 2. Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division, Reno, Nevada, Expires: November 31, 2016


Digital Forensics Tenure Track Faculty Position. Marshall University Forensic Science Center, Huntington, WV 25701, Expires: November 15, 2016

Associate Medical Examiner. Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Georgia, Expires: December 31, 2016

Associate Medical Examiner. Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Savannah, Georgia, Expires: December 31, 2016

Supervisory DNA Analyst. CAMRIS International, Dover, Delaware, Expires: November 22, 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, 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
for Ruby Rai who had pronounced political ... More than 3000 rape tests untested in Pennsylvania Herald-Mail Media

One of Pennsylvania's three main crime laboratories has nine employees — the same staffing level in place prior to the existence of DNA testing.

Study Uncovers How DNA Repair Protein Finds Damage

Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News

Maintaining genomic integrity is the primary focus of DNA repair proteins. Though scientists have been able to elucidate many of the underlying..

Forensic evidence back in the spotlight at Garcia murder trial

WOWT

... specifically dealing with digital forensics and he told the court he has been involved with approximately 1,500 cell phone forensic examinations.

Witness, new DNA evidence puts another person at scene of 1987 Huntington killing

Charleston Gazette-Mail (subscription)

Ira Cremeans was riding in the passenger seat on her way home from work when she pulled up to a red light in front of the Wendy's restaurant on U.S. ...

Government will not conduct forensic audit of

GECOM

Antigua Observer

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Oct 7, CMC – The Guyana government has dismissed any notion that it will order a forensic audit into the operations of the ...

2016 election preview: Lorain County crime lab, coroner's office seeking levy

The Morning Journal

Lorain County Crime Lab Director Emmanuel G. de Leon with the lab's Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer, used to identify unknown substances.

Michael T. Johnson sentenced to prison

Clinton Herald

22, 2014, an Iowa Department of Public Safety DCI crime lab report was returned to the Clinton Police Department. The lab report identified a DNA ..

Judge blasts police over shoddy investigations

NewsDay

The judge appealed to the executive arm of government to capacitate the police department particularly in establishing an effective forensic laboratory.

DNA testing closes case of missing Virginia teen 30 years later

Fox News

COVINGTON, Va. – More than 30 years after two fishermen stumbled across human remains, a Virginia sheriff says they belonged to a 17-year-old

NHGRI Awards $6.8M in Grants for DNA, RNA Sequencing Technology Development

GenomeWeb

NEW YORK (GenomeWeb) – The National Human Genome Research Institute committed nearly $6.8 million in grant funding in September to support ..

Fingernail DNA may play new role in 1999 murder trial

NJ.com

NEWARK — A man who was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the 1999 murder of his live-in girlfriend has been awarded a hearing that could allow ...

Akron man goes on trial in rape linked to DNA evidence; Efrem Johnson already in prison for murder

Akron Beacon Journal

Johnson's DNA was on file because of his murder conviction. This is ... Peacock said state forensic specialists matched Johnson's DNA to the woman's..

Two new courses to join online graduate offerings

GW Hatchet (subscription)

The course covers the history, biology, development, classification, methodology of comparison of fingerprints, latent fingerprints and errors that ..

Forensic DNA Technical Leader, Mitotyping Technologies (Division of Health Network Laboratories, State College, PA, Expires: October 17, 2016

Laboratory Director, Identity Testing, Mitotyping Technologies (Division of Health Network Laboratories, State College, PA, Expires: October 17, 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 Conferences

WVU Forensic Management Academy

Six days on-site in Pittsburgh, PA

Click here for course description and registration.


Oct 16-21, 2016: Society of Forensic Toxicologists – Dallas, TX

Oct 2016: Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists – Galveston, TX

Training

Ron Smith & Associates Training

National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy

APPLY NOW!

Ron Smith & Associates National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy

March 20, 2017 - March 31, 2017 in Pearl, MS

It is truly amazing that, until now, there has never been a national training academy specifically designed for Quality Managers. Forensic Quality Managers have been expected to learn from "on the job" training that they may receive from a variety of sources, but none of this training has been consistent in the industry. Organizations like the Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers have been huge in taking up the mantle of providing various workshops and classes, but it was never intended to take the place of a complete training program. With forensics being under such intense scrutiny these days, agencies who perform forensic analysis must ensure that their work is performed under the guiding principles and standards which are now becoming more clearly defined each day. We, in the forensic should.

Ron Smith & Associates, Inc. is known as one of the premier forensic training companies in the world. Our teams of subject matter experts and support staff have successfully designed and offered hundreds upon hundreds of highly sought after training opportunities all across the United States and abroad. RS&A is now ready to take on the challenge of building a National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy which will soon become the cornerstone of forensic training in this very critical area.
Ex-FBI scientist and criminal justice prof testify in libel trial
News & Observer
The N&O story said some firearms experts suspected that State Bureau of Investigation agent Beth Desmond had falsified evidence in her analysis of ...

Did Failures at APD's Crime Lab Lead to Sexual Assaults in Houston? Rape case goes...
Austin Chronicle
The man accused of committing the rape responsible in part for shutting down Austin Police's crime lab was, until Tuesday, in custody in Harris County.

Forensic laboratories put samples at risk
News24
This is according to whistleblowers in the Department of Health's forensic chemistry laboratories and a 2015/16 Auditor General's report into the ...

Cuyahoga County heroin body count strains medical examiner's office
cleveland.com
Toxicology test results are delayed, equipment is wearing down and staff are overworked, said Hugh Shannon, administrator of the county medical ...

Answers in steelworker’s death may be weeks or months off
nwitimes.com
Chief Deputy Scott Selton said the coroner's office does not release such information, except in the case of homicides or suicides, until a toxicology ...

Operation That's All Folks ends in 21 arrests for alleged drug, gun trafficking ring
NJ.com
BRIDGETON — After an investigation spanning several months, Cumberland County authorities arrested 21 people allegedly part of a drug and gun ...

Special report: Fears government amnesty of drug users being used to create 'kill list' in Philippines ...
Telegraph.co.uk
Three-year-old Natalie Magno stared bewildered at the crowd outside her family home in the Filipino capital, Manila, as she clung to her grandmother.

Oregon matches DNA from 33 rape kits, still has backlog
The Register-Guard
Oregon matches DNA from 33 rape kits, still has backlog ... SALEM — Oregon State Police say they have matched DNA from more than two dozen ... year included $1.5 million for the state police to hire more ...

New forensic analysts also included $1.5 million for the state police to hire more ...

Oregon matches DNA from 33 rape kits, still has backlog
The Register-Guard
Oregon matches DNA from 33 rape kits, still has backlog ... SALEM — Oregon State Police say they have matched DNA from more than two dozen ... year included $1.5 million for the state police to hire more crime lab analysts. ... New forensic analysts also need extensive training that requires a veteran ...

Uni to launch pioneering forensic experiments
Liverpool Echo
A forensic scientist has plans to launch new "body farm" experiments at North Wales University. Amy Rattensbury joined Wrexham Glyndwr University ...

Forensic evidence in the firing line in the US Chemistry World (subscription)
The Post report calls for empirical studies, which will test error rates, accuracy, repeatability and reproducibility of forensic methods that compare DNA ...

Judge halts dog's ordered death for DNA testing
KHOU.com
District Judge Michael Hulewicz ruled today the owner of the dog has a month to do a DNA test on a dead Pomeranian to try to clear his dog as the ...

Prosecution DNA expert testifies at Bennett murder trial
IFBER One News
EPHRATA – Chad Bennett’s DNA matched DNA found on the pillow covering ... Moore’s face, according to a Washington State Patrol crime lab employee. Anna Wilson, a forensic scientist with the state patrol, testified on Monday and ...

DNA evidence supports alleged rape on UCSB campus
Academy tuition is $2,500.00 with only 25 seats available.

Click here for complete academy details and to complete an application today! (Link to: Ron Smith And Associates QAcademy)

National Footwear & Tire Track Training Academy

OCTOBER 3-14, 2016 (2 weeks Footwear)
OFF (October 17-28, 2016
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 11, 2016 (2 weeks Tire Track)

RS&A now offers a Footwear and Tire Track Training Academy which includes 4 weeks of footwear examination training followed by 2 weeks of tire track training. Applicants can elect to complete the entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy or break it up and choose only the 4 weeks of footwear training or the 2 weeks of tire track training. The academy graduates of this 6 week program will learn the skills necessary to complete supervised footwear and tire track casework and will be ready to apply for a IAIFootwear Certification once time requirements have been met.

It is scheduled to begin September 5, 2016 in Hattiesburg, MS at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Only 20 academy applicants will be selected to attend.

The entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy the cost is set at $11,250.00.

The 4 week footwear only academy is set at $7,500.00.

The 2 week tire track only academy is $3,750.00.

Cost includes academy instruction, room and board, and 3 meals per day according to training selection.

Click here for complete details and to apply for admission today. (Link to: http://www.RonSmithandAssociates.com/Footwear)

Looking Ahead: The National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium

NIJ, through its Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, is hosting Looking Ahead: The National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium on September 8-9, 2016. The symposium focuses on how the nation is moving forward and finding solutions to the complex issues that arise in sexual assault cases and in testing sexual assault evidence.

NIJ expects more than 350 high-level government officials from national, state, and local levels, along with decision-makers from law enforcement agencies, the legal community, and criminal justice coalitions from all 56 states and territories. This unprecedented event will support our nation’s policymakers and practitioners as they drive future efforts to solve sexual assault cases, provide justice to victims, and ultimately improve public health and public safety.

Speakers include Pulitzer Prize winners T. Christian Miller and Ken Armstrong, co-authors of "An Unbelievable Story of Rape," Alicia O’Neill from TNT’s Cold Justice: Sex Crimes, and victims advocate Natasha Alexenko, founder of Natasha’s Justice Project.

Learn more and read the agenda.

Register now.

Seating is limited and hotel courtesy blocks expire soon.

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

ASCLD Train the Directors Latent Prints Webinar -
KEYT
Police say that arrest, and the collection of his DNA linked him to the UCSB gang rape. ... Levi from the California Department of Justice crime lab in Santa Barbara. ... Levi said the condoms had DNA evidence belonging to Chen.

Nanoscale electronic motion sensor as DNA sequencer
Researchers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have proposed a design for the first DNA sequencer based on an ...

DNA links Anglesey human foot to missing Avril Whitfield
A human foot which washed up on an island near Anglesey has been identified as the body part of a missing woman from Gwynedd. The foot, in a ...

Supreme Court denies DNA testing in Montgomery Co. capital murder case
The U.S. Supreme Court denied a petition for post-conviction DNA testing in the 1998 slaying of a Montgomery County college student, closing ...