



Dear Colleagues,

In a previous President's Message I told you that the Forensic Science Standards Board had unanimously supported the release of OSAC subcommittee documents at a earlier point in their process. I am very positive on this development, as I see it as an opportunity for our broader forensic community to access, review, evaluate and implement these improvements. Great news. There are 6 documents that have been released.

You can access the 6 documents on the appropriate subcommittee's website by accessing the site and scrolling to "Documents sent to SDO (ASB)" for each of the subcommittees. Subcommittee links are included below:

Biological Methods Subcommittee <https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-organizational-structure/biological-methods-subcommittee>

Wildlife Forensics Subcommittee <https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-organizational-structure/wildlife-forensics-subcommittee>

(Scroll to "Documents sent to SDO" section of webpage)

This is the first batch of documents and the OSAC will release more as they smooth out the release process and gauge interest from other subcommittees. There are 217 standards or projects in the works. As a result, there will be a great number more of these documents available for your lab's immediate consideration. Please direct your scientists to these documents and engage in this process of continuous improvement of our profession. To facilitate this process, we will post links to these documents as they become available in our Crime Lab Minute.

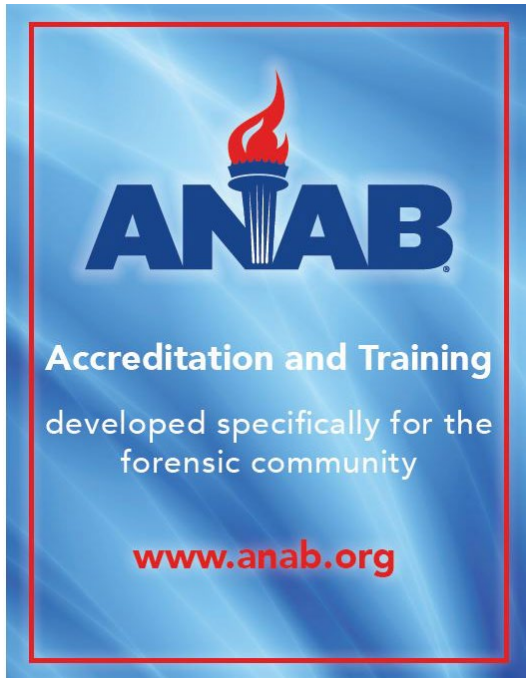
One of ASCLD's most important functions is representing you as lab leaders. ASCLD has a number of members serving in roles in OSAC and the FSSB. As these documents are released and reviewed by you and your scientists, we need to hear from you regarding all aspects of these draft standards and documents. Please provide feedback through our Points of Contact, Board Members or myself, so we can best represent your voice and those of all crime labs on behalf of the best application of forensic science.

Ray Wickenheiser
ASCLD President

Be sure to stay up-to-date with our [2017-18 National Priorities and Agenda!](#)
Our NEW mailing address: 65 Glen Road, Suite 123, Garner, NC 27529

A call for abstracts for the upcoming symposium are open for submission. All are encouraged to submit through the ASCLD website until October 31, 2017.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about upcoming ASCLD Symposia.



Forensic Science in the News

[Two Mitchell nurses to get forensic training to treat rape victims](#)

Sexual assault nurse examiners are trained on how to collect DNA evidence and counsel rape victims. The need for Mitchell to have sexual assault nurse examiners is to prevent victims from traveling long distances to be examined and to prevent the experience from being traumatic.

[Forensic experts: Mistakes made in original Rodney Reed trial](#)

Prosecutors argued she left home early in the morning, and at some point came across Rodney Reed who raped and then strangled her. Wednesday, Dr. Baden testified that based on his analysis of the original autopsy reports - critical mistakes were made. "In my opinion, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, she was dead before midnight, of the day, the next day she was found," said Dr. Baden.

[Forensic Nurses from Around the Globe Gather in Toronto for International Conference](#)

In 1992, 72 registered nurses came together to form the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN). This founding group envisioned an organization that would encompass the depth and breadth of those who practice nursing where the healthcare and the legal systems intersect.

[NIST urges caution in use of courtroom evidence presentation method](#)

Two experts at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are calling into question a method of presenting evidence in courtrooms, arguing that it risks allowing personal preference to creep into expert testimony

and potentially distorts evidence for a jury.

[Putting crime scene DNA analysis on trial](#)

NIST will invite all public and private forensics labs in the U.S. to participate by testing the same set of complex DNA samples, and will compare the results, which will be published online next summer. The goal is...to see, if presented with mixtures — and people are free to use manual methods or different software systems — what the different responses are. Nobody's ever really looked at the results from the same samples, across different platforms, to see what happens.

[How 'Talking' Corpses Were Once Used to Solve Murders](#)

From unreliable hair analysis to mishandled DNA samples, modern forensic science has seen its share of troubles. But there's still plenty to be thankful for in the ways courts today gather evidence of a crime: Just a few centuries ago, people were convicted of murder based on the idea that a corpse would spontaneously bleed in its killer's presence.

[These Extraordinarily Detailed Dioramas Help Solve Murders](#)

Nineteen dioramas, each of which shows a different crime scene based on real cases, will be on display for the first time collectively in an exhibition called Frances Glessner Lee: Murder Is Her Hobby at the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C., starting October 20.

[Controversial Study Finds Fingerprint Evidence Scientifically Lacking](#)

"Fingerprinting is one of the most heavily used forensic methods. Routinely, fingerprint analysts report and testify to 'identification,' that is, that the person who left the mark at the crime scene is the same person whose fingerprint is in the database," says one of the study's investigators Joseph Kadane, a professor of statistics and social sciences at Carnegie Mellon University, in a CMU press release. "Our review of the scientific literature found that there is no scientific way to estimate the number of people in some community — a city, a state, the country, the world — who share the characteristics found, and hence no scientific basis for identification."

[Q+A: Experts weigh in on elusive motive in Las Vegas shooting](#)

Poland: Rehearsal. People think about, plan and rehearse what could potentially be tragic incidents all the time. Thankfully, most people never carry them out. What ignited this guy? There's something called a precipitating event. So what happened? What was going on in his life in the 24-48 hours before he checked into that hotel? What caused him to actually move forward?

[40 years. 3 sisters. 1 DNA test: The story of a cold case](#)

... A detective stepped forward and ushered the women into a room. He swabbed their cheeks for DNA. Perhaps, detectives said, there would be a match. The woman's body had been found in a patch of scrub brush used as an unauthorized trash dump in 1985 just outside downtown Tampa. Detectives didn't know her name...

[Blue Ash sets public hearing on plan for county crime lab](#)

The Hamilton County Coroner's Office is proposing a three-story, 91,000-square-foot crime lab for eight acres of vacant land near the former Sycamore Senior Center, [4455 Carver Woods Drive](#), bought by local development company Al. Neyer in 2016, which also bought 98 acres of the former Blue Ash Airport, beside Summit Park.

[As crime lab cases climb, Montana aims to make sex assault evidence kits more efficient](#)

In 2015, Attorney General Tim Fox created a Sexual Assault Evidence Task Force to look into the number of unsubmitted evidence kits and the reasoning behind them and to build a plan to address the issue. Since then, the state has received grants pay for testing and developing a way to inventory, track and report on kits as they are tested.

[Beshear to transfer \\$10,000 to state police lab to help test additional SAFE kits](#)

A day after announcing a nearly \$3 million federal National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative grant, Attorney General Andy Beshear said his office would transfer an additional \$10,000 to the Kentucky State Police crime laboratory to continue the testing of sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE) kits.

[W.Va. attorney general donates funds to ease crime lab backlog](#)

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey has given \$1 million from monies taken in from health-care-related court settlements to the State Police to help attack a backlog of cases in the State Police crime lab.

[Washington state gets \\$3M to ease backlog of 6,000 untested rape kits](#)

Half of the \$3 million will go toward testing 2,100 so-called rape kits, roughly a third of the estimated backlog of 6,000 that have sat untouched in police evidence rooms statewide. Each kit — which contains forensic evidence from an alleged victim's clothing and body and is collected by a sexual-assault nurse examiner — costs about \$700 to analyze for suspect DNA that is then entered into the FBI's Combined DNA Index System.

[US DOJ awards Kentucky \\$3m Sexual Assault Kit Initiative grant to investigate, prosecute sex crimes](#)

Attorney General Andy Beshear's office will establish a sexual assault cold case unit comprised of a victim advocate, investigator, prosecutor and a SAKI coordinator from the three-year U.S Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance \$2,998,090 grant. The unit will focus on investigating and prosecuting sexual assaults while providing key services to victims during the cold case process.

[The Pursuit of Convictions at Any Cost Too Often Taints Crime Lab Results and Justice](#)

Without adherence to consistently high standards and proper checks and balances, key evidentiary processes — like the collection, storage and analysis of DNA samples — can lose their extraordinary capacity for identification, enabling critical mistakes and impacting lives.

[New ballistics lab helping WSPD with local crime investigations](#)

"We get things done a lot quicker and more efficiently like she had said. We can work at a better pace and we're more organized and that just helps everyone move the case along," Jenifer Fanelli, a latent print examiner, said.

[Community Newsletter: Racine County's sexual assault kit initiative announced](#)

This grant began on July 1... has been able to increase staff time to provide more direct service to survivors. We do not yet know what the repercussions will be when results begin to come in from previously unsubmitted and untested SAKs, but we suspect that the demand for supportive services for survivors may increase. SAS is now ready to meet that need, as well as aid law enforcement in notifying victims when previously unsubmitted kits are tested and return a positive DNA hit.

[Judge Orders Murder Retrial Based on 'Invalid' DNA Mixture Analysis](#)

"It is not disputable that (the analyst's) testimony at the second trial was based on analyses that were then invalid under his own agency's new protocols," San Diego Superior Court Judge Charles G. Rogers ruled on Oct. 6. "Moreover, at no time during his direct and cross-examination at the second trial did (the analyst) disclose that the changes in policy had occurred."

[Utah Officer Fired After Nurse's Arrest Caught on Video](#)

Salt Lake City Police Chief Mike Brown made the decision to fire Detective Jeff Payne after an internal investigation found he violated department policies when he arrested nurse Alex Wubbels and dragged her screaming from the hospital, department spokesman Sgt. Brandon Shearer said.

[Curious internet users may have solved Akron's oldest active missing person's case](#)

Scates uploaded the case to Reddit, a social media platform where users can participate in forums on a variety of topics. Her target audience was a forum where she had already watched strangers successfully work together to identify a hitchhiker killed in a car accident 20 years earlier.

[White House and NRA Open to \(a Little\) Gun Control](#)

The National Rifle Association joined the Trump administration and top congressional Republicans Thursday in a swift and surprising embrace of a restriction on Americans' guns, though a narrow one: to regulate the "bump stock" devices the Las Vegas shooter apparently used to horrifically lethal effect.



Looking for An Opportunity?

- [Latent Fingerprint Examiner](#), Miami-Dade Police Department, Doral, Florida, Expires: November 21, 2017
- [Police Crime Scene Specialist](#), City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale, AZ, Expires: October 18, 2017
- [Forensic Analyst – Biology](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: December 15, 2017
- [Quality Assurance Specialist \(Crime Scene Sciences\)](#), DC Department of Forensic Sciences, Washington, D.C., Expires: November 5, 2017
- [Senior Firearm/Toolmark Examiner \(Senior Criminalist – Firearms\)](#), Tarrant County Medical Examiner Criminalistics Laboratory, Fort Worth, TX, Expires: January 5, 2018
- [Assistant or Associate Professor](#), John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY, New York, NY, Expires: November 17, 2017
- [Criminalist II \(DNA\) – Grant](#), Broward County Sheriff's Office, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Expires: October 20, 2017
- [Principal Chemist – Radiological/Nuclear \(01597\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Senior Chemist \(01603\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Staff Chemist – Radiological/Nuclear \(01610\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Associate Chemist – Radiological/Nuclear \(01591\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Principal Microbiologist \(01601\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Senior Microbiologist \(1609\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Staff Microbiologist \(01596\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Associate Microbiologist \(01595\)](#), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist IV](#), Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS, Expires: October 25, 2017
- [Firearms Examiner](#), Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: November 15, 2017
- [Latent Print Examiner I, II, III, or Senior Examiner](#), Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences, Syracuse, NY, Expires: October 31, 2017
- [Forensic Scientist Section Supervisor – Toxicology](#), City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: October 23, 2017
- [Firearms & Toolmarks Section Supervisor](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Manassas, VA, Expires: October 18, 2017
- [Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science](#), Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, Expires: December 31, 2017

- [Director, Forensic Science & Law Program, Duquesne University](#), Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, Expires: December 8, 2017
- [Assistant /Associate Professor – Forensic Science M.S. Program, Digital Evidence Emphasis](#), Marshall University, Huntington, Expires: December 12, 2017
- [Forensic Coordinator, Assistant Professor](#), Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX, Expires: December 1, 2017
- [Assistant Professor – Forensic Chemistry](#), Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO, Expires: October 19, 2017
- [Quality Assurance Manager](#), Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Forensic Services Division, Omaha, NE, Omaha, NE, Expires: October 19, 2017
- [Crime Lab Unit Manager \(Forensic Biology/DNA\)](#), Broward County Sheriff's Office, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Expires: November 3, 2017
- [Senior Scientific Advisor](#), Texas Forensic Science Commission, Austin, TX, Expires: December 5, 2017
- [Forensic Scientist IV](#), City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: November 28, 2017
- [Forensic Scientist III](#), City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: November 28, 2017
- [Forensic Scientist II](#), City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: November 28, 2017
- [Forensic Examiner DNA 3 \(#01377\)](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: December 31, 2017
- [Forensic Examiner DNA 1 \(#01376\)](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: December 31, 2017
- [Forensic Examiner Latent Print 1 \(#01375\)](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: December 31, 2017
- [Forensic Examiner Latent Print 3 \(#01374\)](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: December 31, 2017
- [Forensic Chemist \(#01373\)](#), ORAU, Oak Ridge, Expires: December 31, 2017
- [Laboratory Manager/Theater Liaison \(#01365\)](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: December 31, 2017
- [Laboratory Manager/Theater Liaison](#), MISS, Oak Ridge, Expires: December 31, 2017
- [Forensic Examiner – Firearms & Toolmarks \(#01378\)](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: December 31, 2017
- [Forensic Scientist IV](#), City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: November 22, 2017
- [Forensic Scientist III](#), City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: November 22, 2017
- [Forensic Scientist II](#), City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: November 22, 2017
- [Crime Lab Director](#), Office Of Attorney General, Bismarck, ND, Expires: November 30, 2017
- [Forensic Scientist I-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist II-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist III-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist IV-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist II-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist III-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist IV-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Chemistry/Controlled Substances](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Latent Prints](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Forensic Scientist Trainee-Trace Evidence](#), Nassau County Medical Examiner, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- [Property & Evidence Manager](#), NMS Labs, Grand Prairie, TX, Expires: October 18, 2017
- [Forensic Biologist III or IV Trainer](#), NMS Labs, Willow Grove, PA, Expires: October 18, 2017
- [Forensic Chemist III or IV](#), NMS Labs, Willow Grove/Warminster PA, Expires: October 18, 2017

Writing a Laboratory Safety Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP)

OSHA's Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories standard (29 CFR 1910.1450), referred to as the Laboratory standard, specifies that the mandatory requirements of a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) to protect laboratory workers from harm due to hazardous chemicals. The CHP is a written program stating the policies, procedures, and responsibilities that protect workers from the health hazards. Forensic labs have a variety of chemical, biological, and other hazards that fall within the exposure guidelines of the OSHA laboratory standard.

A CHP is one part of the Health and Safety program your lab should have. ISO/IEC 17025 and 17020 mention safety issues in the lab in several sections, therefore, mention of the CHP should be made wherever a requirement for safety is stated. For example, ISO/IEC 17025; 5.4.4 Nonstandard methods state procedure and safety measures are to be addressed and 5.8 Handling of test and calibration items, sub-section 5.8.4 requires the lab to have procedures for test and calibration items during storage, handling, and preparation. These sections could be addressed in the CHP. In addition, numerous references to environmental conditions throughout the standard should be addressed in the CHP. The elements of a CHP per the OSHA website:

1. Standard operating procedures that are relevant to safety and health considerations for each activity involving the use of hazardous chemicals.
2. Criteria that the employer will use to determine and implement control measures to reduce exposure to hazardous materials (i.e., engineering controls, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and hygiene practices) with particular attention given to selecting control measures for extremely hazardous materials.
3. A requirement to ensure that fume hoods and other protective equipment are functioning properly and identify the specific measures the employer will take to ensure proper and adequate performance of such equipment.
4. Information to be provided to lab personnel working with hazardous substances include:
 - The contents of the Laboratory standard and its appendices.
 - The location and availability of the employer's CHP.
 - The permissible exposure limits (PELs) for OSHA regulated substances or recommended exposure limits for other hazardous chemicals where there is no applicable OSHA standard.
 - The signs and symptoms associated with exposures to hazardous chemicals used in the laboratory.
 - The location and availability of known reference materials on the hazards, safe handling, storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals found in the laboratory including, but not limited to, the Safety Data Sheets received from the chemical supplier.
5. The circumstances under which a particular laboratory operation, procedure or activity requires prior approval from the employer or the employer's designee before being implemented.
6. Designation of personnel responsible for implementing the CHP, including the assignment of a Chemical Hygiene Officer and, if appropriate, establishment of a Chemical Hygiene Committee.
7. Provisions for additional worker protection for work with particularly hazardous substances. These include "select carcinogens," reproductive toxins and substances that have a high degree of acute toxicity. Specific consideration must be given to the following provisions and shall be included where appropriate:
 - Establishment of a designated area.
 - Use of containment devices such as fume hoods or glove boxes.
 - Procedures for safe removal of contaminated waste.
 - Decontamination procedures.
8. The employer must review and evaluate the effectiveness of the CHP at least annually and update it as necessary.

Worker Training Must Include:

- Methods and observations that may be used to detect the presence or release of a hazardous chemical (such as monitoring conducted by the employer, continuous monitoring devices, visual appearance or odor of hazardous chemicals when being released, etc.).
- The physical and health hazards of chemicals in the work area.
- The measures workers can take to protect themselves from these hazards, including specific procedures the employer has implemented to protect workers from exposure to hazardous chemicals, such as appropriate work practices, emergency procedures, and personal protective equipment to be used.
- The applicable details of the employer's written CHP.
- Medical Exams and Consultation

The employer must provide all personnel who work with hazardous chemicals an opportunity to receive medical attention, including any follow-up examinations, which the examining physician determines to be necessary, under the following circumstances:

- Whenever a worker develops signs or symptoms associated with a hazardous chemical to which the worker may have been exposed in the laboratory, the worker must be provided an opportunity to receive an appropriate medical examination.
- Where exposure monitoring reveals an exposure level routinely above the action level (or in the absence of an

action level, the PEL) for an OSHA regulated substance for which there are exposure monitoring and medical surveillance requirements; medical surveillance must be established for the affected worker(s) as prescribed by the particular standard.

- Whenever an event takes place in the work area such as a spill, leak, explosion or other occurrence resulting in the likelihood of a hazardous exposure, the affected worker(s) must be provided an opportunity for a medical consultation to determine the need for a medical examination.
- All medical examinations and consultations must be performed by or under the direct supervision of a licensed physician and be provided without cost to the worker, without loss of pay and at a reasonable time and place.

For additional information on developing a CHP, consult the following sources:

- View the complete standard at the OSHA Web site, www.osha.gov.
- Appendix A of 29 CFR 1910.1450 provides non-mandatory recommendations to assist in developing a CHP.

OSHA Fact Sheet:

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/laboratory/OSHAfactsheet-laboratory-safety-chemical-hygiene-plan.pdf>
Magazine articles on Chemical Safety <https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2004/09/chemical-safety-forensic-lab>
http://www.evidencemagazine.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=507
<https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2004/06/osha-and-forensic-laboratory>

CHP Template:

http://www.dsps.wi.gov/Documents/Industry%20Services/Forms/Public%20Sector%20Employee/Template-Chemical_Hygiene_Plan.pdf

Examples of CHP's:

University of California, Santa Barbara: <http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/labsafety-chp>
University of Rhode Island: <http://web.uri.edu/ehs/files/ChemicalHygienePlan.pdf>

Crime Lab Safety Plans:

Raleigh/Wake City County, Bureau of Identification: <https://www.forensicmag.com/article/2004/06/osha-and-forensic-laboratory>

ANAB

[Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17025](#)

November 13-15, 2017, San Francisco, CA

[Fundamentals of Measurement Uncertainty](#)

November 16-17, 2017, San Francisco, CA

[Principles of Internal Auditing and Measurement Uncertainty](#)

November 27-29, 2017, Indian Rocks Beach, FL

[Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17020](#)

October 17-19, 2017, Alexandria, VA

[ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Agencies](#)

November 2-3, 2017, Alexandria, VA

[Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Internal Auditor](#)

October 23-26, 2017, Fort Worth, TX

[Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Assessor Training \(Testing\)](#)

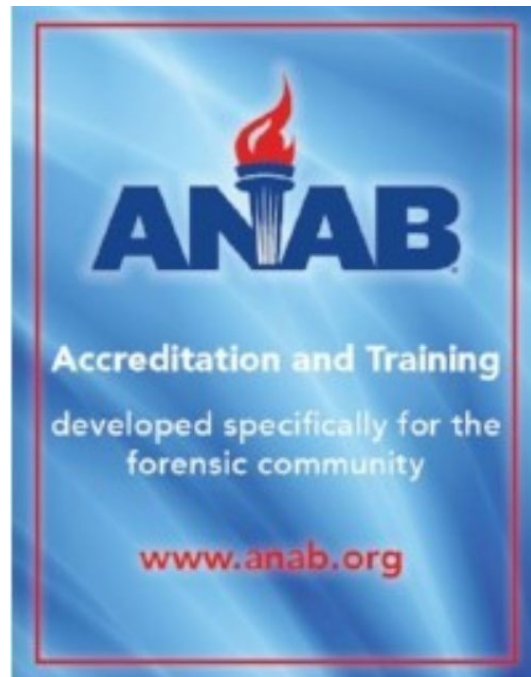
October 16-20, 2017, Hillsboro, OR

November 13-17, 2017, Emeryville, CA

[Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Preparation \(Testing\)](#)

October 16-18, 2017, Hillsboro, OR

November 13-15, 2017, Emeryville, CA



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 11

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.

[NIJ-FBI Fingerprint Partnership Identifies 200 Missing Persons](#)

In March of this year, a new collaboration began between the National Institute of Justice and the FBI Laboratory. Fingerprints from unidentified missing persons are sent to the FBI where a new technology, known as Next Generation Identification, along with enhanced processing protocols, is improving the odds of identification. Identifications are increasing even with poor quality prints or with those that have been searched in the past.

[National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach](#)

The National Institute of Justice recently released a report on National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach in response to the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act of 2013, which focuses on the accurate, timely, and effective collection and processing of DNA evidence in sexual assault investigations. A practitioner working group developed 35 recommendations that provide a roadmap for collecting, transferring, preserving, storing and analyzing sexual assault kits. The recommendations apply to medical professionals, members of law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors and laboratories. A coordinated, collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to sexual assault investigations helps reassure and support victims of sexual violence, encourages victim engagement and increases the potential for just legal resolutions.

[The Fingerprint Sourcebook is Now Available in Spanish](#)

NIJ has released a Spanish-language version of The Fingerprint Sourcebook, which aims to be the definitive resource on the science of fingerprint identification. The Sourcebook was prepared by the International Association for Identification and topics covered include the anatomy and physiology of friction ridge skin; techniques for recording exemplars from both living and deceased subjects; AFIS; latent print development, preservation and documentation; equipment and laboratory quality assurance; perceptual, cognitive and psychological factors in expert identifications; and legal issues.

[Forensic Identification Using Individual Chemical Signatures](#)

NIJ-funded researchers developed an approach to translate chemical signatures recovered from personal objects such as phones into a lifestyle sketch of the owner, using mass spectrometry and informatics approaches.

[Quantifying Error Rates for the Measurement of Human Skeletal Remains](#)

NIJ-funded researchers revised forensic anthropology procedures to include an "error metric" for the measurement of human skeletal remains. This article summarizes findings from that study.

[Designing Methods to Identify Evolving Designer Drugs](#)

This article describes an NIJ-supported research project focused on issues of resolution and discriminatory capabilities needed to increase the reliability and selectivity of forensic evidence and analytical data for new bath salt-type drugs of abuse.

[Standardized Process Developed for Identifying Dyes in Fibers](#)

This article summarizes method with the twofold purpose of producing a novel, reliable, and useful microfluidic system for fabric dye extraction and increasing the knowledge needed to guide criminal justice policy and practice related to the forensic analysis of dyed fabric.

[The Most Important Features for an Effective Sexual Assault Response Team](#)

Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) hold the promise of improving victim experiences, increasing prosecution rates, and reducing the prevalence of sexual assault. To understand how an effective SART works, NIJ-funded researchers studied the structure and operations of SARTS across the United States.

[Identifying Ignitable Liquids in the Aftermath of A Fire](#)

In a wide-ranging analysis of the effects of weathering and biological degradation on ignitable liquids, NIJ-supported researchers at the University of Central Florida's National Center for Forensic Science studied and classified 50 liquids in the Ignitable Liquids Reference Collection database.

[Scale Modeling in Fire Reconstruction](#)

After reviewing scaling theory used in fire research, this project developed scaling rules for design fires and enclosure material boundaries, followed by the full-scale testing of a gas burner, heptane pool fire, pine wood crib, and polyurethane foam, and the scaling theory was applied to the full-scale scenario and a 1/8 scale compartment.

[Evaluation of the Use of a Non-Contact 3D Scanner for Collecting Postmortem Fingerprints](#)

Historically, the recording of postmortem fingerprint impressions from decedents is a manual and labor-intensive process. 3D scanners are potentially an important tool to help forensic scientists address the challenges of postmortem fingerprint recovery due to the contactless scanning capabilities, as well as the ability to scan complex surfaces and capture scale. This NIJ-supported study evaluated the potential for using a contactless, 3D fingerprint scanner to capture examination-quality postmortem fingerprints and facilitate rapid identification of the deceased.

[Evidential Value of Particle Combination Profiles on Common Items of Evidence](#)

This project used the analytical tools and statistical methods developed in previous research funded by NIJ

to measure the evidential value of very small particle (VSP) profiles found on four common types of physical evidence: handguns, cell phones, drug packaging, and ski masks.

[Method Development and Validation of Toolmark Imaging, Virtual Casing Comparison, and In-Lab Verification using a GelSight-Based Three Dimensional Imaging and Analysis](#)

Stemming from a previous project that developed a 3D surface topography imaging and analysis system for casings based on the GelSight scanning technology and custom feature-based image comparison, this NIJ-supported project aimed 1) to develop the ability to scan and compare firing pin impressions; 2) to examine the use of the imaging and analysis technology in a live lab experiment; and 3) to investigate Virtual Microscopy, the use of measured 3D surface topographics as a substitute for physical casings

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- [Stitcher](#)
- [Soundcloud](#)

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](#)

ASCLD /RTI DNA Standards and Guidelines Webinar Series

SWGDM Interpretational Guidelines

<https://forensiccoe.org/webinar/ascl-d-webinar-dna-standards-and-guidelines/>

Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes

<https://forensiccoe.org/webinar/ascl-d-webinar-series-dna-standards-and-guidelines-webinar-part-2/>

2018 National Institute of Justice Forensic Science Symposium

NIST has published a request for information on OSAC 2.0. Comment is open [until October 30, 2017](#).
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/08/30/2017-18355/request-for-information-on-the-development-of-the-organization-of-scientific-area-committees-osac>

New Narcotics Protection Kit as You Face the Dangerous Opioid Epidemic

We designed this single-use kit following DEA & CDC guidelines

Small amounts of Fentanyl can cause an overdose, a significant threat to you & your department. We designed this kit to help you stay safe.

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<http://www.sirchie.com/nark-ppe-kit-available-in-med-large-x-large-2xl.html#.WaNzc-mQxPb>



[September 2017 Newsletter](#)



Establishment of an Office of Forensic Sciences and a Forensic Science Board Within the Department of Justice
Revision 2/14/17

http://thecfso.org/advocacy/20170214_CFSO_OFS_Proposal_Rev.pdf

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.

[Read the CFSO Newsletter here.](#)

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.

Impression, Pattern and Trace Evidence Symposium January 22-25, 2018

Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel<<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/waspy-renaissance-arlington-capital-view-hotel/>>

2800 South Potomac Ave Arlington Virginia 22202 USA

<<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/waspy-renaissance-arlington-capital-view-hotel/>>

CALL for ABSTRACTS and CALL for WORKSHOPS are now open

Call for ABSTRACTS closes October 13th, 2017<x-apple-data-detectors://3>

Call for WORKSHOPS closes October 18<x-apple-data-detectors://4>th<x-apple-data-detectors://4>, 2017<x-apple-data-detectors://4>

Registration for attendees and presenters is FREE!

Attendee Registration will be opening soon.

All selected domestic presenters, except federal employees, will be funded for this event. Funding includes airfare and lodging that is arranged and prepaid by RTI. Other travel related expenses such as meals (at per diem rate), taxi, mileage and parking will be reimbursed following the workshop. Further detail will be provided to those selected with acceptance letters. International travel will not be funded.

For more information and to submit your abstract(s) or workshop proposal(s) please go to<<http://www.forensiccoe.org/workshop/18-IPTES>>[www.forensicCOE.org/workshop/](http://www.forensiccoe.org/workshop/18-IPTES)<<http://www.forensiccoe.org/workshop/18-IPTES>>18-IPTES<<http://www.forensiccoe.org/workshop/18-IPTES>>

For questions please contact forensicCOE@rti.org<mailto:[forensicCOE](mailto:forensicCOE@rti.org)>

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 11

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.

[NIJ-FBI Fingerprint Partnership Identifies 200 Missing Persons](#)

In March of this year, a new collaboration began between the National Institute of Justice and the FBI Laboratory. Fingerprints from unidentified missing persons are sent to the FBI where a new technology, known as Next Generation Identification, along with enhanced processing protocols, is improving the odds of identification. Identifications are increasing even with poor quality prints or with those that have been searched in the past.

[National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach](#)

The National Institute of Justice recently released a report on National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach in response to the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting (SAFER) Act of 2013, which focuses on the accurate, timely, and effective collection and processing of DNA evidence in sexual assault investigations. A practitioner working group developed 35 recommendations that provide a roadmap for collecting, transferring, preserving, storing and analyzing sexual assault kits. The recommendations apply to medical professionals, members of law enforcement, victim advocates, prosecutors and laboratories. A coordinated, collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to sexual assault investigations helps reassure and support victims of sexual violence, encourages victim engagement and increases the potential for just legal resolutions.

[The Fingerprint Sourcebook is Now Available in Spanish](#)

NIJ has released a Spanish-language version of The Fingerprint Sourcebook, which aims to be the definitive resource on the science of fingerprint identification. The Sourcebook was prepared by the International Association for Identification and topics covered include the anatomy and physiology of friction ridge skin; techniques for recording exemplars from both living and deceased subjects; AFIS; latent print development, preservation and documentation; equipment and laboratory quality assurance; perceptual, cognitive and psychological factors in expert identifications; and legal issues.

[Forensic Identification Using Individual Chemical Signatures](#)

NIJ-funded researchers developed an approach to translate chemical signatures recovered from personal objects such as phones into a lifestyle sketch of the owner, using mass spectrometry and informatics approaches.

[Quantifying Error Rates for the Measurement of Human Skeletal Remains](#)

NIJ-funded researchers revised forensic anthropology procedures to include an "error metric" for the measurement of human skeletal remains. This article summarizes findings from that study.

[Designing Methods to Identify Evolving Designer Drugs](#)

This article describes an NIJ-supported research project focused on issues of resolution and discriminatory capabilities needed to increase the reliability and selectivity of forensic evidence and analytical data for new bath salt-type drugs of abuse.

[Standardized Process Developed for Identifying Dyes in Fibers](#)

This article summarizes method with the twofold purpose of producing a novel, reliable, and useful microfluidic system for fabric dye extraction and increasing the knowledge needed to guide criminal justice policy and practice related to the forensic analysis of dyed fabric.

[The Most Important Features for an Effective Sexual Assault Response Team](#)

Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) hold the promise of improving victim experiences, increasing prosecution rates, and reducing the prevalence of sexual assault. To understand how an effective SART works, NIJ-funded researchers studied the structure and operations of SARTS across the United States.

[Identifying Ignitable Liquids in the Aftermath of A Fire](#)

In a wide-ranging analysis of the effects of weathering and biological degradation on ignitable liquids, NIJ-supported researchers at the University of Central Florida's National Center for Forensic Science studied and classified 50 liquids in the Ignitable Liquids Reference Collection database.

[Scale Modeling in Fire Reconstruction](#)

After reviewing scaling theory used in fire research, this project developed scaling rules for design fires and enclosure material boundaries, followed by the full-scale testing of a gas burner, heptane pool fire, pine wood crib, and polyurethane foam, and the scaling theory was applied to the full-scale scenario and a 1/8 scale compartment.

[Evaluation of the Use of a Non-Contact 3D Scanner for Collecting Postmortem Fingerprints](#)

Historically, the recording of postmortem fingerprint impressions from decedents is a manual and labor-intensive process. 3D scanners are potentially an important tool to help forensic scientists address the challenges of postmortem fingerprint recovery due to the contactless scanning capabilities, as well as the ability to scan complex surfaces and capture scale. This NIJ-supported study evaluated the potential for using a contactless, 3D fingerprint scanner to capture examination-quality postmortem fingerprints and facilitate rapid identification of the deceased.

[Evidential Value of Particle Combination Profiles on Common Items of Evidence](#)

This project used the analytical tools and statistical methods developed in previous research funded by NIJ to measure the evidential value of very small particle (VSP) profiles found on four common types of physical evidence: handguns, cell phones, drug packaging, and ski masks.

[Method Development and Validation of Toolmark Imaging, Virtual Casings Comparison, and In-Lab Verification using a GelSight-Based Three Dimensional Imaging and Analysis](#)

Stemming from a previous project that developed a 3D surface topography imaging and analysis system for casings based on the GelSight scanning technology and custom feature-based image comparison, this NIJ-supported project aimed 1) to develop the ability to scan and compare firing pin impressions; 2) to examine the use of the imaging and analysis technology in a live lab experiment; and 3) to investigate Virtual Microscopy, the use of measured 3D surface topographics as a substitute for physical casings

NIFS Newsletter --
<http://www.anzpa.org.au/forensic-science/our-work/newsletters>

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

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