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 an 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:


(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.
This grant began on July 1… has been able to increase staff time to provide more direct service to survivors. We do

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 AI, 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," Jennifer 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.
- **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 Scientist – Firearms & Toolmarks (#01378)**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: December 31, 2017
- **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 Trainee – Trace Evidence**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist Trainee – Trace Evidence**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, 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:


- Appendix A of 29 CFR 1910.1450 provides non-mandatory recommendations to assist in developing a CHP.


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

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

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.

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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.

Subscribe to the channel at:
- Google Play
- ITunes
- 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

SWGDAM Interpretational Guidelines


Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes


NIST has published a request for information on OSAC 2.0. Comment is open until October 30, 2017.

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.

Buy Now

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


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.
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
2800 South Potomac Ave  Arlington  Virginia  22202  USA

CALL for ABSTRACTS and CALL for WORKSHOPS are now open
Call for ABSTRACTS closes October 13th, 2017
Call for WORKSHOPS closes October 18th, 2017
Registration for attendees and presenters is FREE!

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

For questions please contact forensicCOE@rti.org

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

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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.