

CLM October 18 2016

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President's Message

Colleagues,

Last week, Past-President Jody Wolf and I had the distinct honor of attending the International Forensic Manager's Symposium at Interpol in Lyon, France. We attended the event on behalf of ASCLD and participated in the symposium by presenting posters on ASCLD, the International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA), and the IFSA Minimum Requirements Documents (MRDs). As President of IFSA, Past-President Wolf also presided over the annual IFSA Board Meeting, composed of colleagues from the 6 IFSA Member Organizations, and our strategic partners from Interpol and the United Nations.

IFSA Member Organizations are:

- The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD)
- The European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI)
- The Senior Managers of Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories (SMANZFL)
- The Academia Iboamericana de Criminalística y Estudios Forenses (AICEF)
- The Asian Forensic Sciences Network (ASFN)
- The Southern Africa Regional Forensic Science Network (SARFS)

IFSA is just another example of how ASCLD is engaging the forensic space, internationally in this instance, to provide excellence in forensic science through leadership and innovation. Through our interactions with our international partners, ASCLD is able to foster the development of quality management principles, maintain the highest standards in the global forensic field, and network with critical stakeholders.

Past-President Wolf and I were honored to represent ASCLD at this auspicious meeting and look forward to continued networking among the global forensic organizations to include the addition of international members into the membership ranks of ASCLD.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your President. Have a GREAT week.

-Jeremy Triplett

Quote of the week: "It always seems impossible until it's done." - Nelson Mandela



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. 44th Annual ASCLD Symposium hotel room block for the 2017 Symposium is now available!

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action...>
<http://www.ascldsymposium.com/hoteltravel>

Links can also be found on the **ASCLD FACEBOOK** page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010477606575>



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.** This link will provide 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 web site <http://be.wvu.edu/forensic/foresight.htm>.

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

Regards,
Paul J Speaker

An overview of Project Foresight and an Overview of LabRAT can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzgeKYqldPQ&feature=youtu.be>

LabRAT Form

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.

A reception is being held on October 28, 2016, beginning at 5:30 pm at Bocanova Restaurant, Jack London Square, 55 Webster Street, Oakland

The cost is \$75 per person which include hors d'oeuvres, champagne toast and gift. Please RSVP by October 24th to Jennifer Mihalovich 510-238-3386 or JMihalovich@oaklandnet.com



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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 at the MU Forensic Science Center from now until May for their summer 2017 DNA TAP assignments. No assignments have been made at this time so please apply early this fall to have the best chance to be assigned a DNA TAP student.

Please feel free to call (304-634-5263) or email (staton1@marshall.edu) should you have questions or wish to apply but need more information. If you are new to this program, I would be happy to set up a conference call with your group to discuss this further.

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

Thank you,
Pam

Pamela J. Staton, Ph.D.
Professor & Graduate Programs Coordinator
Marshall University Forensic Science
1401 Forensic Science Drive
Huntington, WV 25701
Ph: 304-634-5263 Mobile; 304-691-8931 Office
staton1@marshall.edu
www.marshall.edu/forensics

[Research Reports](#)

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

These research reports have been submitted by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) especially for their relevance to crime laboratory activities. ASCLD has not reviewed nor does it necessarily endorse the findings of this research.

2016 National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium

The archival version of the "Looking Ahead: The National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium" that was hosted by The National Institute of Justice on September 8-9, 2016 is now available! The symposium focused 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. Be sure to check out panels on the role of evidence in sexual assault cases, testing sexual assault evidence, and building an efficient laboratory using technology and innovative processes.

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

The National Institute of Justice announced awards of more than \$63 million to 132 state and local jurisdictions to increase laboratory capacity and reduce the number of DNA samples awaiting analysis through its DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program. NIJ awarded an additional \$3.3 million to state and local governments through its new Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence – Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting program (SAFE-ITR).

Fiscal Year 2015 NIJ Funding for DNA Analysis, Capacity Enhancement and Other Forensic Activities

In FY15, NIJ received \$117 million in appropriations to assist state and local crime laboratories with DNA analysis, lab capacity enhancement, DNA and other forensic R&D, and training and technical assistance. This report documents how the funding was awarded.

Video: Progress Testing Sexual Assault Kits

In this video, members from the Nevada Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Working Group describe the importance of using a multidisciplinary, victim-centered approach in addressing complex issues that arise while responding to sexual assault. The team also describes the importance of utilizing available resources, including research and federal support from the National Institute of Justice, in making progress towards processing untested sexual assault kits.

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

Abstract from the Times Leader:
The project, headed by State Police and Luzerne County District Attorney's Office, wasn't going to be cheap. Digging up one body from a single grave can cost upwards of \$10,000, according to Chuck Heurich, a senior scientist and program manager of the Department of Justice's forensics division [the National Institute of Justice]. That's where NIJ and their resources come in. The NIJ has given more than \$23 million to 32 law enforcement agencies since 2008, according to Heurich. The funding is awarded every other year and officials say it is integral to their efforts.

Genome-Wide Association Study Reveals Multiple Loci Influencing Normal Human Facial Morphology

NIJ-supported researchers from the University of Colorado Denver recently published an article in PLOS Genetics. Author summary retrieved 10/12/2016:

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS
LABORATORY ACCREDITATION BOARD
ANAB

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ANAB



ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) ANAB provides accreditation for ISO/IEC 17025 forensic test laboratories and ISO/IEC 17020 forensic inspection agencies and a wide variety of training, workshops, and academic programs.

ASCLD-LAB Training

Training classes to help forensic laboratory personnel understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 General Requirements for the Competency of Testing and Calibration Laboratories.

- [ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Testing Laboratories](#)
- [ASCLD/LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Breath Alcohol Calibration](#)
- [ASCLD/LAB-International Internal Auditor Training Course](#)
- [ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for Testing Laboratories](#)
- [ASCLD/LAB-International Preparation Course for](#)

There is a great deal of evidence that genes influence facial appearance. This is perhaps most apparent when we look at our own families, since we are more likely to share facial features in common with our close relatives than with unrelated individuals. Nevertheless, little is known about how variation in specific regions of the genome relates to the kinds of distinguishing facial characteristics that give us our unique identities, e.g., the size and shape of our nose or how far apart our eyes are spaced. In this paper, we investigate this question by examining the association between genetic variants across the whole genome and a set of measurements designed to capture key aspects of facial form. We found evidence of genetic associations involving measures of eye, nose, and facial breadth. In several cases, implicated regions contained genes known to play roles in embryonic face formation or in syndromes in which the face is affected. Our ability to connect specific genetic variants to ubiquitous facial traits can inform our understanding of normal and abnormal craniofacial development, provide potential predictive models of evolutionary changes in human facial features, and improve our ability to create forensic facial reconstructions from DNA.

[Improving the confidence of “questioned versus known” fiber comparisons using microspectrophotometry and chemometrics](#)

NIJ-supported researchers from the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis recently published an article in *Forensic Chemistry*. Abstract retrieved 10/12/2016:
Microspectrophotometry followed by chemometric data analysis was conducted on pairs of visually similar blue acrylic fibers, simulating the “questioned versus known” scenarios often encountered in forensic casework. The relative similarity or dissimilarity of each pair was determined by employing principal component analysis, discriminant analysis and Fisher’s exact test. Comparison of fibers from within each set resulted in a correct inclusion result in 10 out of 11 scenarios, with the one false exclusion attributed to a lack of reproducibility in the spectra. Comparison of fibers from different sets resulted in a correct exclusion result in 108 of 110 scenarios, with two sets that shared identical dye combinations being indistinguishable. Although the presented methods are not infallible, they may nonetheless provide a path forward for forensic fiber examiners that has a more scientifically rigorous basis on which to support their findings in a court of law.

[A cooperative-binding split aptamer assay for rapid, specific and ultra-sensitive fluorescence detection of cocaine in saliva](#)

NIJ-supported researchers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety recently published an article in *Chemical Science*. Abstract retrieved 10/12/2016:
Sensors employing split aptamers that reassemble in the presence of a target can achieve excellent specificity, but the accompanying reduction of target affinity mitigates any overall gains in sensitivity. We for the first time have developed a split aptamer that achieves enhanced target-binding affinity through cooperative binding. We have generated a split cocaine-binding aptamer that incorporates two binding domains, such that target binding at one domain greatly increases the affinity of the second domain. We experimentally demonstrate that the resulting cooperative-binding split aptamer (CBSA) exhibits higher target binding affinity and is far more responsive in terms of target-induced aptamer assembly compared to the single-domain parent split aptamer (PSA) from which it was derived. We further confirm that the target-binding affinity of our CBSA can be affected by the cooperativity of its binding domains and the intrinsic affinity of its PSA. To the best of our knowledge, CBSA-5335 has the highest cocaine affinity of any split aptamer described to date. The CBSA-based assay also demonstrates excellent performance in target detection in complex samples. Using this CBSA, we achieved specific, ultra-sensitive, one-step fluorescence detection of cocaine within fifteen minutes at concentrations as low as 50

Calibration Laboratories

[American Association for Laboratory Accreditation \(A2LA\)](#)
A2LA’s Training Program



[Bode Cellmark Forensics](#) provides advanced forensic solutions offering crime labs ways to reduce their workloads and budgets.

Bode’s newest offerings include:

[Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction Program](#) streamlines processes to eliminate backlogs of untested sexual assault kits.

[Bode Buccal 2™](#) is uniquely designed to improve DNA databanking collecting and automate processing. The Bode Buccal 2 is a DIRECT COLLECTION SYSTEM that requires minimal training. There is NO Transfer Step Required.

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

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Information Technology Specialist \(LIMS\)](#), Department of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, Expires: October 23, 2016

[Deputy Chief Toxicologist](#), Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences, Houston, Texas, Expires: November 14, 2016

[Forensic Scientist – DNA](#), Austin Police Department, Austin, TX, Expires: November 2, 2016

[Latent Fingerprint Examiner](#), Miami-Dade Police Department, Doral, Florida, Expires: October 27, 2016

[Forensic Scientist I, II or III – Digital Multimedia Evidence](#), Johnson County Sheriff’s Office, Kansas, Olathe, Kansas, Expires: October 21, 2016

[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

[Forensic Examiner – Document & Media Exploitation](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: November 30, 2016

[Sheriff’s Supervising Forensic Scientist – Fingerprints and Crime Scene Investigation](#), Ventura County Sheriff’s Office, Ventura, CA, Expires: November 30, 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: October 31,

nM in 10% saliva without signal amplification. This limit of detection meets the standards recommended by the European Union's Driving under the Influence of Drugs, Alcohol and Medicines program. Our assay also demonstrates excellent reproducibility of results, confirming that this CBA-platform represents a robust and sensitive means for cocaine detection in actual clinical samples.

[An Examination of the Conditions Affecting Forensic Scientists' Workplace Productivity and Occupational Stress](#)

The NIJ-supported research team at Michigan State University surveyed 899 crime lab technicians and forensic scientists regarding work conditions, job satisfaction, and working relationships with police and prosecutors. By and large, forensic scientists exhibited very high rates of job satisfaction but also exhibited the similar stress levels as other criminal justice professionals. Also, many forensic scientists feel pressure from prosecutors and police to produce results quickly and a majority of scientists felt that prosecutors did not understand that they worked hard on a case even if no evidence is found.

[Dried Blood Spot Analysis as an Emerging Technology for Application in Forensic Toxicology](#)

Investigators often encounter dried blood spots as they examine a crime scene, but such evidence often isn't collected because very little work has been done in the analysis of dried blood for forensic applications. Researchers at RTI International, noting that dried blood spot analysis is well established in newborn testing, conducted this NIJ-supported project to see if newborn testing of dried blood has broader applications in forensic toxicology. After analyzing dried blood samples for 28 drugs, the researchers showed it was comparable to more routine blood tests and useful in forensic investigations.

[Developing DNA Friendly Fluorogenic Methods for Detecting, Enhancing, and Preserving Bloody and Proteinaceous Impression Evidence](#)

Impressions are commonly found as evidence associated with crime scenes and current fluorogenic enhancement methods for such evidence are problematic for DNA preservation. The goal of this project, by NIJ-supported researchers at Madonna University and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Laboratory, was to produce simple, effective, non-toxic methods for recovery and enhancement of impression evidence that allowed for subsequent DNA recovery. The project used Zar-Pro Fluorescent Lifters and focused on optimizing the detection, enhancement, and preservation of impressions deposited in blood, semen, saliva, sweat, and non-human oil. The researchers found that DNA capable of producing full STR profiles can be extracted from semen and blood impressions, but not from impressions in any biofluid treated with Fluorogenic Enhancement Sprays. The researchers concluded that in many instances, both impression evidence and DNA can be recovered from a single evidentiary item.

[Development of Individual Handwriting Characteristics in \[about\] 1800 Students: Statistical Analysis and Likelihood Ratios That Emerge Over an Extended Period of Time](#)

For decades, questioned document examiners (QDE) have conducted handwriting comparisons based on the assumption that no two people write the same way and no one person writes exactly the same way twice. Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension researchers in this NIJ-supported study focused on how individual handwriting characteristics develop by analyzing writing from 1,800 children as they progressed through second, third, and fourth grades in two Minnesota school districts. The study developed "the beginning of a true statistical model that may be used to scientifically prove why forensic handwriting comparisons are possible," the authors said. "The study has made it possible to replace theory with solid statistics that are scientifically accurate and reliable."

2016

[Senior Forensic DNA Analyst](#), CAMRIS – Dover, DE, Dover, Delaware, Expires: December 15, 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

[Nuclear DNA Analyst](#), CAMRIS – Dover, DE, Dover, Delaware, United States, 19901, Expires: November 20, 2016

[Assistant Technical Leader \(Mid-Senior Level\)](#), CAMRIS International, Dover, DE, Expires: November 20, 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, 19902, 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

[Criminalist, Level II](#), New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York, New York, Expires: December 30, 2016

[Forensic Examiner – DNA 1](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: November 30, 2016

[Forensic Examiner – Latent Print 1](#), ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: November 30, 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](#)

[Analysis of Drugs of Abuse in Human Hair: Surface Contamination and Localization of Analysis](#)

For more than two decades, researchers and scientists have utilized hair testing for drug abuse in addition to blood and urine tests. Despite considerable research and current analytical technologies and interpretive methods, environmental contamination remains an unresolved issue for hair, and controversy exists over the source of drug residues found in hair and the potential for environmental contamination to cause false-positive test results. NIJ-supported researchers from the Research Triangle Institute examined the effects of environmental contamination of human hair leading to external deposition of methamphetamine and heroin on drug tests designed to identify drug use. This study shows that a decontamination step alone is likely not sufficient to remove contributions from external contamination.

[Characterization of Designer Drugs: Chemical Stability, Exposure, and Metabolite Identification](#)

Designer drugs, such as synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones have become increasingly prevalent, as have their health and societal consequences. Currently, little is known about the pharmacological and toxicological profiles of these products. The consequences of long-term usage have yet to be studied, and behavioral and metabolic studies have only been performed on a relatively limited number of compounds. The objective of this research is to gain a more thorough understanding of designer drugs with respect to their chemical exposure profiles and biological elimination pathways. New designer drugs are still coming to market faster than targeted testing can keep up. However, within each class of designer drugs, the elements of chemical structure and design often follow known or rational substitution patterns required to enhance or retain pharmacological activity. By performing a thorough and systematic study looking at families of structurally related compounds, NIJ-supported researchers at the Research Triangle Institute are able to predict markers for broad classes of compounds and help practitioners keep up with designer drug manufacturers.

[Separation and Identification of Drugs by Electrospray Ionization-Ion Mobility Spectrometry-Mass Spectrometry](#)

Ion mobility spectrometry (IMS) has been described in scientific literature as both a stand-alone separation technique and as a hyphenated technique to enhance other analytical determinations. Despite this flexibility and versatility, the applications of IMS have not grown as quickly as those of gas chromatography (GC) or liquid chromatography (LC). This research describes the use of IMS as a lab-based analytical technique able to perform separations on par with GC and LC separations. It was motivated by the necessity to perform rapid and inexpensive analyses on substances commonly encountered by law enforcement, in particular, analysis of controlled amphetamine type substances and the emerging designer drugs, some of which are very similar in structure. The results from this NIJ-supported research by Florida International University suggest that chiral separation by an achiral modifier in the gas phase and the detection and identification of designer drugs are possible using an electrospray ionization ion mobility mass spectrometer (ESI-IMS-MS) with an optimal solvent system. A total of four peer-reviewed manuscripts were published and more than 20 oral and poster presentations were presented at national and international scientific conferences.

[Error Rates for Latent Fingerprinting as a Function of Visual Complexity and Cognitive Difficulty](#)

The comparison of forensic fingerprint images for purposes of identification is a complex task that, despite advances in image processing, still requires highly trained human examiners to achieve adequate levels of performance. This NIJ-supported project by researchers at the University of California aims to determine more about the relationship between the measurable, visual dimensions of fingerprint pairs and the level of comparison difficulty for human

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.

Academy tuition is \$2,500.00 with only 25 seats available.

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

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 examination 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 IAI Footwear 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.

examiners, both experts, and to a lesser degree, novices. These experiments showed that experts have substantial, albeit imperfect, subjective knowledge about the difficulty of print pairs. Experiments also showed that novices perform very poorly and showed no consistent pattern of feature use. Results indicate the plausibility of using objective fingerprint image metrics to predict expert performance and provide a subjective assessment of difficulty in fingerprint comparisons. While further research is necessary, this research provides strong support for the plausible but previously untested assumption that for expert fingerprint analysis, difficulty is in significant part a function of measurable, visual dimensions of print comparison pairs.

[News Around the Globe](#)

[Police await toxicology reports after family of four found dead in Sydney home](#)
[The Guardian](#)

Police are awaiting toxicology reports for a family of four who died in Sydney's north. The bodies of father Fernando Manrique, 44, Maria Lutz, 43, their ...

[In 2015, meth becomes most common substance after alcohol in DUI blood tests](#)
[Billings Gazette](#)

Meth has also been detected more often in other cases that the crime lab's toxicology division handles, according to a summary report from the ..

[Backlog at state crime lab concerning to officials who expect it to worsen](#)
[Concord Monitor](#)

Tim Pifer, director of New Hampshire's forensics lab in the evidence control office this week. GEOFF FORESTER—Monitor staff » Buy this Image.

[Ohio AG DeWine to speak in Springfield today](#)
[WHIO](#)

Some rape kits would take more than 120 days to be processed at the lab, DeWine said, which was unacceptable. "DNA matching is solving crimes ...

[Regional crime lab moves closer to reality](#)
[Castle Rock Newspress \(registration\)](#)
[Closure of APD's DNA lab causing crisis in the court system](#)
[KXAN.com](#)

AUSTIN (KXAN) — The closure of the Austin Police Department's DNA lab has created a problem within the Travis Criminal Justice System. KXA
[Montana Receives \\$2 Million to Test and Track Rape Kits](#)

[Flathead Beacon](#)

Receiving the grant in late September means the state can inventory, test, and track kits that were not submitted to the state crime lab. The grant also ..

[Attorney general candidates Fox, Jent split over experience, lawsuits](#)
[KTVH](#)

During the campaign, Jent has been critical of operations at the state crime lab. He says several drug cases have been or will be dismissed because ...
[Massachusetts uses DNA test to predict a cold case killer's appearance](#)
[Albany Times Union](#)

Since DNA phenotyping gives investigators a baseline description of a ... His office went to a private firm because a State Police forensic lab scandal ...

[NA Advances Help Solve 2006 Baltimore Co. Murder](#)
[CBS Local](#)

BALTIMORE (WJZ)—Recent DNA advances help close a 2006 Baltimore County murder case and now the victim's husband is to blame.

[Backlog at state crime lab concerning to officials who](#)

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.

10 Hours | \$395
Self-Paced Online Professional Training

The information is at: www.fightingbias.com

This self-paced online professional training program focuses on Minimizing bias in Forensic Decision Making. This program covers brain and cognitive issues relating to bias and cognitive processing. It then connects the cognitive science issues to practical and specific issues in forensic decision making. In addition to knowledge about the cognitive factors in forensic decision making, the program also provides practical solutions to address weaknesses as well as best practices to enhance forensic practices.

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

[ASCLD Train the Directors Latent Prints Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors DNA Discipline Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Controlled Substance Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Digital Multimedia Evidence Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Toxicology Webinar - Archival](#)

[ASCLD Train the Directors Firearms Webinar - Archival](#)
[False-Positive/Negative Error Rates in Cartridge Case Comparisons](#)

[ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 1 - Archival](#)

[VersionASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 - Archival](#)

[VersionASCLD](#)

[Rapid DNA Webinar 3 - Archival VersionASCLD Webinar Series:](#)

Please find attached (or online [here](#)) the TOC for the current issue of **Forensic Science Policy & Management**, the journal of the **American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors**.

[expect it to worsen](#)

[Concord Monitor](#)

One of the Mass Spectrometers the State of New Hampshire uses for analyzing drugs. The lab will be getting a fourth to keep up with the volume of ...

[How Medicinal Genomics Is Using DNA Sequencing to Improve the Cannabis Industry](#)

[MERRY JANE](#)

The company, which brothers Brian, Kevin, and Brendan McKernan founded in 2011, is using DNA technology to create "fingerprints" for

[Closure of APD's DNA lab causing crisis in the court system](#)

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