Dear Colleagues,

I had the privilege of attending the Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) meeting for three days this last week, which included a full day Leadership Strategy Session with Scientific Area Committees and Subcommittees, and the Resource Committees. Participants were very forthcoming in their feedback on the strengths and areas for improvement in the development of standards. As you know, ASCLD has been vocal in our support of OSAC and our scientists, who have volunteered countless hours and efforts towards moving forensic science forward. Our membership has been very supportive of permitting their staff to spend time away from their labs and daily duties to develop these standards.

It is incumbent on us as lab leadership to support, implement, provide feedback and continuously improve these procedures as they are developed. At this meeting the FSSB voted unanimously to release draft documents prior to finalization as standards for immediate review, evaluation and implementation in crime labs. There are currently 217 standards projects in process. It is important to recognize that scientific improvement is incremental, and while these procedures represent a move forward for forensic science, they are not the final end point, but rather a step on the road of continuous improvement. As scientists, we do not rest with the status quo, but always seek better methods. Therefore, the adoption of these improvements in our crime labs is imperative, such that we can elevate and unify best practices, gather constructive feedback through evaluation and use, and provide the best service available for our cases.

Toward that end, we will post links to these developing draft standards as soon as they are made available via the Crime Lab Minute. We urge you to share these with your staff and encourage their active engagement in the process of moving our field forward. We are the stewards of the field of forensic science; let's continue to lead by evaluating, implementing and improving these procedures.

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
In Memory of Dr. Jay Siegel

This week the forensic science community lost an influential and dedicated leader, Dr. Jay Siegel. "Just Science" is releasing a special "Just So You Know" episode interviewing Dr. Max Houck and John Collins, two of Dr. Siegel's closest colleagues. In this short episode we remember a kind hearted, dedicated educator of forensic scientists, whose reach was felt internationally. The community has lost someone who is considered a forefather for education in forensics, please join us as we celebrate a life that gave so much to his beloved community.

Jay Siegel, PhD was the Director of the Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program and Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. He was Director of the Forensic Science Program at Michigan State University for 25 years from 1980-2004 until his retirement as Professor Emeritus. Dr. Siegel is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and was named as Distinguished Alumni Scholar by his alma mater, George Washington University in 2011. He was the co-editor of Forensic Science Policy and Management: An International Journal. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences Forensic Science Committee from 2006-09.

Maggie Segal
Consolences:
3106 Woodmont Court Mt. Arlington NJ 07856

Looking for a new opportunity?

- Crime Laboratories Deputy Director, State of Wisconsin-Department of Justice, Madison, Milwaukee, and Wausau Wisconsin, Expires: October 9, 2017
* 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
* Chemist CS 9 (Entry Level), Department of Forensic Sciences, Washington, DC, Expires: October 5, 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
* Criminalist III – Forensic Biology (DNA) Supervisor, SFPD, San Francisco, CA, Expires: October 6, 2017
* Firearms and Tool Marks Researcher (Public Health Laboratory Scientist Developmental I) – GRANT, Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division, Pikesville, , Maryland, Expires: October 7, 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
* Criminalist I FingerPrint Examiner, University of Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory, Kingston, RI, Expires: October 13, 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 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 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
- Forensic Analyst – Toxicology, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: October 13, 2017
- 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
- Non-Tenure Track Forensic Science Faculty Position, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, Expires: October 13, 2017
- Staff DNA Analyst (#01611), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: October 2, 2017
OSHA regulations and Crime Labs

State employees do not always receive the same worker safety guarantees as those in the private sector. Federal OSHA regulations are for private sector employees and therefore, may not cover employees in many crime labs throughout the country. Richard E. Fairfax, Director, Directorate of Enforcement Programs in a standard interpretation states:

Please be advised that Federal OSHA neither has regulations, nor jurisdiction, over State, municipal, or volunteer fire departments. Section (3)(5) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 specifically excludes Federal OSHA's authority over employees of State and local government. The Act provides for States to assume responsibility for occupational safety and health programs under the State's own plan, which must be approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. Each State-plan must include coverage of public employees of the State, and it must be "at least as effective" as Federal OSHA's protection of private sector employees. All states must have a program in place, but the governance of the program is sometimes overlooked. Section 18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (Federal OSHA), sets regulations and rules on how individual states may administer their job safety and health programs (State Plans), with the requirement that they meet minimum federal requirements. Currently, there are 22 states and jurisdictions that administer State Plans covering both public and private sector employees. Federal OSHA approved them as being "at least as effective" as the Federal OSHA program.

Whether you have a program or not, following the OSHA standards is the minimum requirement for the health and safety of your employees. To help labs understand safety issues they may encounter in the lab, OSHA's Laboratory Safety Guidance is a great place to start. When writing your Health and Safety plans, include the guide as a reference. When following ISO 17020 or 17025 standards, many of the details needed for a health and safety program are discussed in the guide including the necessity for a safety officer/chemical hygiene officer. Also, know if your state has a plan and are there more stringent guidelines that must be followed.

Safety is sometimes overlooked. The expectation is that employees will follow the practices set forth and use good judgment. That isn’t always the case. There still exists the need to review policies on a continual basis and update when needed. Having safety meetings on a frequent basis rather than once a year where old issues are addressed is not conducive to safety in the lab. Meet more frequently and find a topic to discuss. Use the meetings for training in safety issues or related health concerns. Do you have Narcan or an AED defibrillator onsite where training should be kept up to date? What about fire extinguisher safety or CPR training? Keep safety relevant for your employees so that an emergency doesn’t become a catastrophe. For continued information on lab safety, look for the next installment, How to Write a Chemical Hygiene Plan, in the next couple weeks.

1 To read full standard interpretation here: https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=25539
2 To see if your state has a state plan: https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/statestandards.html
3 OSHA’s Overview for Laboratory Workers, in particular, look at the Laboratory Safety Guidance under Highlights: https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/laboratories/index.html
October 17-19, 2017, Alexandria, VA
ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Training
October 9-10, 2017, Houston, TX
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
Forensic Measurement Confidence (Web-based)
October 4-6, 2017
Root Cause Analysis for Forensic Service Providers (Web-based)
October 3-5, 2017

Recorded Training:

Episode 9 Podcast!!
Just Blood Spatter

In episode nine of Just Science, funded by the National Institute of Justice’s Forensic Technology Center of Excellence [Award 2016-MU-BX-K110], we spoke with Dr. Marc Smith, from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Smith’s NIJ funded research in blood spatter has connected computational fluid dynamics with empirical studies to improve the understanding of blood spatter onto solid, slanted surfaces. His work looks at many variables, including droplet size, speed, surface roughness and wettability. Listen and Subscribe HERE.

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
Forensic Science in the News

Albemarle sheriff, forensic scientists find mismatch in DNA samples of former U.Va. student convicted of murder
Albemarle County Sheriff J.E. "Chip" Harding, forensic scientists Dr. J. Thomas McClintock and Richard L. Hudson, Jr., the former Detective Sergeant to Gov. Terry McAuliffe, held a press conference Wednesday afternoon to disprove the 1990 murder conviction of former University student and Jefferson Scholar Jens Soering.

Security: Lagos Govt Inaugurates DNA Forensic Centre
Governor Ambode expects the facility to go a long way in resolving all forms of crimes, paternity issues, and others through technology which is the modern trend across the world.

Alabama forensic sciences director running for state Senate
Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences Director Mike Sparks is running for an east Alabama seat in the state Senate.

Austin police hiring new forensics leader to run crime lab
Austin police are planning to hire a new forensics director with a deep scientific background to ensure the proper collection and analysis of evidence — a move that officials hope will bolster public confidence in an operation that has been under scrutiny for the past year.

DNA, forensic evidence becomes focus in 2014 triple homicide trial
Prosecutors called two agents from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation to explain some of the forensic evidence collected from the April 9, 2014, slayings of Caleb Boozer, John Lang and Jon Morris. These agents received DNA samples from Morse and his alleged co-conspirators, Skyler Allen and Jacob Allison, and checked to see if any of it was on three alleged murder weapons.

County Won't Renew SLU Agreement — Pay Month to Month
Franklin County will not renew its yearly contract with St. Louis University (SLU) for medical examiner and forensic services, but will instead pay on a month-to-month basis. The decision comes as the county commission is exploring the options of contracting with a forensic pathologist in St. Francois County.

Inside Look: Baltimore City Crime Lab
On the 9th floor of the Baltimore City Police Department are a group of scientists who spend their days examining evidence from crime scenes. There are nine different laboratories. Each scientist has a specialty. Terri Labbe, explained, "this particular section is part of the forensic biology section".

The Genomic Revolution Reaches the City Crime Lab
Ziegert's case is already being touted as an example of the power of new DNA technologies to solve crimes. In many ways, it's the perfect example to take to the media: a young female victim, an infamous murder, a 25-year-old case. It's unclear exactly how pivotal the DNA evidence was—the district attorney said "a number of factors" contributed to narrowing down the suspects—but there will almost certainly be more cases like this involving DNA.

Prosecution rests in Brickle-Hicks murder trial
Most notable was detailed testimony from North Dakota State Forensic Examiner Dr. William Massello over the conditions of Misty Coffelt's death.

DPS speeding up crime scene investigation
Changes at the state's four crime labs have resulted in quicker analysis of crime scenes and blood evidence, and faster reporting to law enforcement agencies, according to an announcement by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Rape Victim Sues City of Houston Over Former Massive Rape-Kit Backlog
DeJenay Beckwith has sued the current and former mayors and police chiefs going back to Mayor Kathy Whitmire and Chief Lee P. Brown, who each took office in 1982, saying the successive city leaders each knew about severe rape kit testing backlogs for years yet were indifferent, never provided the funding to address the problem and bring rapists to justice quickly.

Police: Opioid Carfentanil Found in Dozen Samples This Year
Massachusetts State Police say their crime lab this year has identified a dozen samples of carfentanil (kahr-FEHN'-tuh-nihl), an extremely powerful synthetic opioid sometimes used to sedate elephants.

Study Provides First Estimate of Total US Population with Felony Convictions
New research led by a University of Georgia sociologist on the growth in the scope and scale of felony convictions finds that, as of 2010, 3 percent of the total U.S. population and 15 percent of the African-American male population have served time in prison. People with felony convictions more broadly account for 8 percent of the overall population and 33 percent of the African-American male population.

Electronics-sniffing Dog Recruited in Pennsylvania to Help Solve Crimes Against Children
That's why the Internet Crimes Against Children task force in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, which serves the entire state, is bringing in Charlie, a 2-year-old Labrador retriever capable of sniffing out even the smallest and most well-hidden of electronics, to aid them in their searches for evidence of child exploitation.

Could Insect Larvae Help Solve Rape Murder Cases?
In a small pilot study, the researchers found that human DNA sourced from semen could be successfully identified in the larvae of a species of carrion fly for up to 12 days after it began feeding on biological material.


October 30, 2017
Understanding Live Scan & FBI NGI Technologies

Lunch and Learn Series:

Joining in for a quick bite of knowledge. Sirchie Lunch & Learn sessions are 5-10 minute topics about relevant topics requested by our customers. Topic for Today's Session: Understanding Live Scan & FBI NGI Technologies. We will cover the technology advancements in Live Scan and where biometric identification is going with FBI Next Generation Identification Technologies.

This webinar meets 4 times.

4. Fri, Sep 29, 2017 1:00 PM - 1:15 PM EDT

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/70061139340126082

Don't take it from us, quote from a 20+ year LEO:
"I believe every officer who investigates crime scenes NEEDS this course"

Register now for our popular Evidence Collection course. Get hands-on practice with the tools and techniques used to investigate criminal activity.

Dates: November 6-10

Our Evidence Collection Accelerated Training Program provides law enforcement professionals and crime scene investigators with hands on training using forensic tools that will help to execute the best crime scene investigation mission possible.

This class, commonly known as Crime Scene Technology, covers the scientific methods of collection, identification, evaluation, and preservation of physical evidence. It is the perfect Forensics training for any investigator from new detectives to police officers with more than 25 years on the force.

You need to attend this program if:

- You process crime scenes
- You want to learn more about the latest forensic and crime scene investigation tools and techniques used to process potential crime scenes
- You want to find as much evidence as possible at the crime scene

Footwear Impressions

Footwear impression evidence is the most overlooked evidence at crime scenes. In this course, students will get hands-on training in the proper processing, photographing, lifting, casting, and preservation of footwear impression evidence.

Date: October 2 - October 6

Comprehensive Crime Scene Photography

A good crime scene photo can be the difference between conviction and acquittal. Develop your skills and expertise in our week-long class, taught by a former US Army CID Special Agent in Charge/photography expert.

Date: October 9 - October 13

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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.

**OSAC Subcommittees**
https://www.nist.gov/topics/forensic-science/osac-subcommittees
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.

Grant Assistance for DNA

1. Visit the DEA website for more information on the DNA database.
2. Use the search engine to find grants.

Jeff Teitelbaum, MLIS | Forensic Science Library

The 2015 Heroin Signature Program Report

DEA Intelligence Brief; 13 pages; August; 2017

Download the report here

Two excellent job opportunities are available at JusticeTrax; Come join our Great Team! We have a Software Tester position and a Customer Care IT Support Specialist II position open.


Read the CFSO Newsletter here.
Here is a report just released by the National Institute of Justice:


ACEware Latent Fingerprint Identification Research and Software Development
William J. Chapman, R. Austin Hicklin
Noblis; 56 pages; 2017

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!
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>

For questions please contact 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.

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.