Colleagues,

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

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


(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.
ASCLD Crime Lab Minute October 22, 2017

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

ASCLD is now accepting abstracts for the Symposium,

The ASCLD Symposium is an industry-leading conference designed for leaders and managers in the forensic laboratory space. The symposium boasts workshops and plenary talks designed around all aspects of forensic science, but particularly focuses on enhancing leadership and management in a forensic laboratory.

In addition to the workshops and plenary talks, the ASCLD Symposium is a key event for networking and interacting with the leading authorities in forensic laboratory management.

The ASCLD Symposium is typically held on or around the 1st week of May and locations are usually alternated between the western and eastern United States. Please see below for upcoming symposium dates and locations.

National Institute of Justice Awards

National Institute of Justice's latest Graduate Research Fellowships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. NIJ has made 20 new awards in 2017 for STEM fellows, totaling $960,861 for graduate students working towards advancing NIJ's mission. The GRF-STEM program funds dissertation research across a wide range of topics to criminal justice, including the forensic sciences.

See a full list of awards and descriptions, awardees, and dollar amounts
Sign up to get email notices when NIJ releases GRF and other funding solicitations.

Looking for a new opportunity

- Crime Lab Scientist – Forensic Biologist, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Georgia, Expires: November 7, 2017
- Forensic Scientist IV – DNA, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Flagstaff, Arizona, Expires: November 3, 2017
- Latent Print Examiner, Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Expires: November 12, 2017
- Latent Fingerprint Examiner, Miami-Dade Police Department, Doral, Florida, Expires: November 21, 2017
- Forensic Analyst – Biology, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: December 15, 2017
- Quality Assurance Specialist (Crime Scene Sciences), DC Department of Forensic Sciences, Washington, D.C., Expires: November 5, 2017
- Senior Firearm/Toolmark Examiner (Senior Criminalist – Firearms), Tarrant County Medical Examiner Criminalistics Laboratory, Fort Worth, TX, Expires: January 5, 2018
- Assistant or Associate Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY, NEW, NY, Expires: November 17, 2017
- Principal Chemist – Radiological/Nuclear (01597), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- Senior Chemist (01603), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- Staff Chemist – Radiological/Nuclear (01610), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- Associate Chemist – Radiological/Nuclear (01591), ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- **Principal Microbiologist (01601)**, ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- **Senior Microbiologist (1609)**, ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- **Staff Microbiologist (01596)**, ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- **Associate Microbiologist (01595)**, ORAU, Charlottesville, VA and OCONUS, Expires: January 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist IV**, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS, Expires: October 25, 2017
- **Firearms Examiner**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: November 15, 2017
- **Latent Print Examiner I, II, III, or Senior Examiner**, Onondaga County Center for Forensic Sciences, Syracuse, NY, Expires: October 31, 2017
- **Forensic Scientist Section Supervisor – Toxicology**, City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: October 23, 2017
- **Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science**, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX, Expires: December 31, 2017
- **Director, Forensic Science & Law Program, Duquesne University**, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, Expires: December 8, 2017
- **Assistant /Associate Professor – Forensic Science M.S. Program, Digital Evidence Emphasis**, Marshall University, Huntington, Expires: December 12, 2017
- **Forensic Coordinator, Assistant Professor**, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX, Expires: December 1, 2017
- **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**, M 1SS, Oak Ridge, Expires: December 31, 2017
- **Forensic Examiner – Firearms & Toolmarks (#01378)**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: December 31, 2017
- **Forensic Scientist IV**, City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: November 22, 2017
- **Forensic Scientist III**, City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: November 22, 2017
- **Forensic Scientist II**, City of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ, Expires: November 22, 2017
- **Crime Lab Director**, Office Of Attorney General, Bismarck, ND, Expires: November 30, 2017
- **Forensic Scientist I-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist II-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist III-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist IV-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
Writing a Standard Operating Procedures for a Laboratory Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP)

Jane Northup

Accreditation to ISO 17025:2005 standards require a quality assurance program, which includes proficiency testing, continuing education, customer relationships, and other programs to help the laboratory provide more effective overall service. Standards review all aspects of a laboratory's operation, including management practices, surveys of customer satisfaction, evidence handling procedures, laboratory security procedures, training programs, proficiency testing, competency testing records, health and safety programs and testimony monitoring records.  http://www.dps.texas.gov/CrimeLaboratory/index.htm

The Health and Safety plan should include a CHP. OSHA's Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories standard (29 CFR 1910.1450) states the first required element to a CHP is 1) Standard operating procedures (SOP) that are relevant to safety and health considerations for each activity involving the use of hazardous chemicals.

SOPs are step-by-step instructions created by an organization to help its workers carry out and follow routine operations. Their purpose is to achieve efficiency, quality output and uniformity of performance while reducing miscommunication and failure to comply with industry standards/regulations. An SOP may include all or some of the following elements:

1. Title of the SOP
2. Purpose of the SOP
3. The Scope of the SOP (what it applies to)
4. Definitions of terms, in applicable
5. Equipment, materials and supplies needed
6. The procedure for the technique or process. Include examples, such as what is examined and the expectations of the examination
7. Include additional protocols, if necessary. Were microscopes or other equipment used
8. Results and terminology for conclusions in the report
9. Were there limitations to the process?
10. Quality control measures and or health and safety concerns that may be present
11. References used for the process

Below are two examples of SOPs that could be modified for your facility.


The North Carolina State Crime Lab's accreditation in management and technical requirements programs. Examples of SOPs for individuals processes to be used in analytical procedure manuals.

For continued information on OSHA's Laboratory Safety Program, visit:
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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
- **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)**
  November 13-17, 2017, Emeryville, CA
- **Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Preparation (Testing)**
  November 13-15, 2017, Emeryville, CA

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

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

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

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

NIST urges caution in use of courtroom evidence presentation method
Two experts at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are calling into question a method of presenting evidence in courtrooms, arguing that it risks allowing personal preference to creep into expert testimony and potentially distorts evidence for a jury.

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

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

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

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

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

40 years, 3 sisters, 1 DNA test: The story of a cold case
... A detective stepped forward and ushered the women into a room. He swabbed their cheeks for DNA. Perhaps, detectives said, there would be a match. The woman's body had been found in a patch of scrub brush used as an unauthorized trash dump in 1985 just outside downtown Tampa. Detectives didn't know her name...

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

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

**Beshare 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 Beshare said his office would transfer an additional $10,000 to the Kentucky State Police crime laboratory to continue the testing of sexual assault forensic exam (SAFE) kits.

**W Va. attorney general donates funds to ease crime lab backlog**

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

**Washington state gets $3M to ease backlog of 6,000 untested rape kits**

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

**US DOJ awards Kentucky $3m Sexual Assault Kit Initiative grant to investigate, prosecute sex crimes**

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

**The Pursuit of Convictions at Any Cost Too Often Taints Crime Lab Results and Justice**

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

**New ballistics lab helping WSPD with local crime investigations**

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

**Community Newsletter: Racine County’s sexual assault kit initiative announced**

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

**Judge Orders Murder Retrial Based on ‘Invalid’ DNA Mixture Analysis**

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

**Utah Officer Fired After Nurse’s Arrest Caught on Video**

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

**Curious internet users may have solved Akron’s oldest active missing person’s case**

Scales 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.

**Students help advance forensic science reform in Massachusetts**

On October 2, the students’ work on forensic science reform culminated in a Wrongful Conviction Day event, held in the Massachusetts State House. The event focused on MA Senate Bill 1285 (introduced by Massachusetts State Senator Will Brownsberger ‘83, establishing an independent commission to reform forensic science practices in Massachusetts) and MA Senate Bill 877 (introduced by Massachusetts State Senator Patricia Jehlen for updating the wrongful conviction compensation law). Victor Rosario, and Senators Brownsberger and Jehlen delivered remarks at the event, and Molly Bunke, a 3L who took the CJPP class last year and worked closely on this project, introduced the short film on Rosario’s story.

**Court: Examine if Austin crime lab botched death penalty evidence**

In a brief order issued Wednesday, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals directed state District Judge David Wahlberg to examine claims that the crime lab produced false or misleading conclusions from DNA evidence in the case, particularly on tests performed on the shirt, jeans and shoes that tied Escobar to the murder.

**Can you solve this grisly dollhouse murder?**

Tiny details in the scenes matter too. For example, fibers on one doll’s wonds match those on a nearby door frame. At the Renwick exhibit, visitors will be given magnifying glasses and flashlights to conduct their own homicide investigations, but don’t ask museum staff for help — the scenes are still used in annual training seminars, so their secrets are closely guarded.

**South Africa: Van Breda Defence Did Not Retest DNA Samples**

She told the court that she considered the SAPS forensic science laboratory results "scientifically invalid" because the analysts had not followed its standard operating procedures (SOPs) by the book.

**Man tied to 1993 Mesa murder by DNA sentenced to life plus 10.5 years**

"Contemporary forensic science and DNA analysis is allowing us to reach back in time and identify perpetrators of
crimes who most likely falsely believed they had escaped justice," Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery said when Hanley was indicted in 1993.

The Influential Trailblazer Who Inspired Mindhunter's Dr. Wendy Carr
According to Screenrant, the character of Dr. Wendy Carr (played by Fringe star Anna Torv) is based on Dr. Ann Wolbert Burgess, a pioneer in the treatment of trauma and abuse victims. In the 1970s, she cofounded one of the first-ever hospital-based counseling programs for rape victims at Boston City Hospital with sociologist Lynda Lytle Holmstrom. The two created the phrase "rape trauma syndrome," which is still used to describe the psychological trauma a victim experiences after having been raped.

Head of state alcohol testing fired
The 126-page report concludes that the Office of Alcohol Testing, which is overseen by the Massachusetts State Police, "made serious errors in judgment" in responding to requests for documentation sought by defense attorneys on behalf of clients — a process known in legal parlance as "discovery."

'Too little DNA to get valid results from 40 samples' – defence expert in Van Breda trial
The defence’s DNA expert in the trial of alleged axe murderer Henri van Breda told the Western Cape High Court on Wednesday that there was not enough DNA in 40 samples taken from the crime scene to yield valid results. Dr Antonel Olckers faced her third day of gruelling cross-examination in the trial of 22-year-old Van Breda who is accused of the axe murders of his parents and brother, and the attempted murder of his sister at their home in a security estate in Stellenbosch in January 2015.

Israel's Chief Pathologist: State Prosecutor Misled Court in Controversial Murder Trial
Israel's chief pathologist, Dr. Hen Kugel, recently asserted that the prosecution hid his professional opinion from the court during the controversial 2006 murder trial of Roman Zadorov — and in doing so, misled the judges. Despite the severity of the accusations, former judge David Rozen, the ombudsman in charge of overseeing the State Prosecutor's Office, declined to order an examination of Kugel's claims.

How Forensic Artists Aid Investigations
Dateline episode: Sandie Enslow, Lead Forensic Artist for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, shares how she fills in the blanks of the investigation with pencil, paper and personal touch.

New DUI equipment headed to South Arizona Crime Lab
Department of Public Safety officials announced Friday that a grant of more than $200,000 has been awarded to the state crime lab in Tucson to help investigate DUIs.

LSP Crime Lab proves crucial asset in solving recent shootings
Long before Ryan Sharpe, 36, was hauled off to prison Wednesday night, fingered for allegedly killing three men and seriously hurting another in shootings spanning months in East Baton Rouge and East Feliciana parishes, the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab was busy working to determine whether the shootings were connected then identifying the person believed to be responsible.

At Johnson & Wales, it's CSI 101, and a lot more
The 2,400-square-foot space includes a crime-scene staging room, with a bullet-trajectory research window and a crime lab with specialized forensic equipment to analyze fingerprints, footprints and blood evidence, as well as dummies to suffer various heinous deaths.

Mass Killings Rate Steady Over Decade, But Totally Random
But the statistics over the last decade point to a routine, if grim, reality: the rate of mass killings has remained completely steady. At the same time, it remains completely unpredictable, report two scientists at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the journal Victims and Violence.

'Murder Insurance' or Protection in Self-defense Cases?
The National Rifle Association is offering insurance for people who shoot someone, stirring criticism from gun-control advocates who say it could foster more violence and give gun owners a false sense of security to shoot first and ask questions later.

'They're Just Sitting Here': A CODIS Rape Kit Conundrum in Ohio, and Beyond
At the Akron Police Department there is a backlog of 400 to 500 CODIS hits produced by elimination of the backlog of rape kits. The hits are all potential breakthroughs in long-unsolved sexual assaults—but they don’t lead anywhere if the manpower isn’t there to do the follow-up work, said Lt. David Whiddon, supervisor in the APD’s Crimes Against Persons unit.
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

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

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.

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.

Read the CFSO Newsletter here.

Grant Assistance for DNA
There is no charge for participation. Attached you will find an example of an individualized report prepared for a participating laboratory.

To participate, simply complete the attached 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, 2017.

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.

Please read about the openings at https://justicetrax.com/employment/

Also, please consider attending the 2017 User Group Meeting: https://justicetrax.com/sales/2017-user-group-meeting/

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 <x-apple-data-detectors://3>
Call for WORKSHOPS closes October 18, 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 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.
