Dear Colleagues,

On Monday, October 23, we emailed you an outline of our strategy to address the opioid crisis. Through your input to our surveys circulated in the last few months and statistics gathered from your participation in the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS), we have compiled compelling data. NFLIS data originates from all 50 states, and includes detailed information from approximately 94% of crime labs, representing every level of government and type of jurisdiction. This information demonstrates the critical role of crime labs in providing objective data to law enforcement and government officials, enabling decisions based on accurate information.

Our data demonstrates increases in crime lab fentanyl and fentanyl analogue cases mirror national increases in overdose deaths. Crime lab fentanyl and fentanyl analogue cases have skyrocketed, with an over 6000% increase from 2012 to 2016. Crime labs are on track for a further 54% increase in fentanyl and fentanyl analogue cases and samples this year, and an 18% increase in opioid cases in the first 6 months of 2017. Illegal drug manufacturers are creating new fentanyl analogues faster than labs can develop and validate methods and state legislators can schedule them. Backlogs have increased sharply due to the increasing complexity of cases represented by analyzing increasing numbers of drug analogs and drug mixture cases, downstream effects of screening not being done at the crime scene (increased documentation, counting, weighing, etc) and safety concerns. Investigators have been instructed not to open or test suspected fentanyl cases in the field, hence work has shifted into crime labs.

This increase of fentanyl and its analogs has precipitated an epidemic of fatal overdoses due to their increased toxicity. Fentanyl analog carfentanil is 100 times more lethal than fentanyl, which is already 50 times more toxic than heroin. Quality control for drug companies taken through medical prescriptions is very good. Overprescription and abuse has generated addicts. As prescriptions become controlled and anti-abuse mechanisms have increased (gelling pills), addicts have turned to cheaper and more lethal illegal drugs. Quality control on a dealer’s kitchen table is very poor. Increasing heroin and drug concentration for profit via spiking with far more lethal fentanyl and its analogs has created the overdose crisis. Addicts go from a known dose to highly variable and very concentrated doses, causing ODs.

ASCLD is getting the word out regarding the critical role crime labs are playing in the fight against the opioid crisis. Your labs stories and data are crucial. Please keep them coming and keep up the great work!

Ray Wickenheiser

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
45th Annual ASCLD Symposium

Advancing Forensic Science requires leadership, which includes taking initiative, motivating employees, and applying resources creatively to the complex problems presented by today's forensic casework and issues. Leaders lead by example and encouragement, building on success and learning from their past experiences and that of others.

Please join us in Atlanta, Georgia, May 20-24th for the 2018 ASCLD Symposium where you will learn about exciting initiatives to advance forensic science. New and experienced managers and directors will be presented with innovative tools to sharpen their leadership skills. Presentations from experts and leaders, both inside and outside the forensic science community, will cover various aspects of leadership. Our goal is to invigorate you with techniques and information to increase your leadership capacity in both life and occupation.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Abstract Submissions close on October, 31, 2017! Submit now!**

Visit ascld-symposium.com

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

- [Forensic Scientist – Forensic Biology](#), Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Richmond, VA, Expires: November 13, 2017
- [Forensic Analytical Chemist](#), Division of Forensic Science, Delaware, Expires: November 8, 2017
Biometric Records Manager, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Largo, Florida, Expires: December 25, 2017

- Forensic Latent Print Analyst, United States Postal Service, Dulles, VA, Expires: November 6, 2017
- DNA Criminalist, Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, Ankeny, Iowa, Expires: November 12, 2017
- 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 York, 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 (01599), 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
- 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
- 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
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.


For continued information on OSHA’s Laboratory Safety Program, visit: https://www.osha.gov/Publications/laboratory/OSHAfactsheet-laboratory-safety-chemical-hygiene-plan.pdf
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.

2018 National Institute of Justice Forensic Science Symposium

Forensic Science in the News

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

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

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

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

Putting crime scene DNA analysis on trial
NIST will invite all public and private forensics labs in the U.S. to participate by testing the same set of complex DNA samples, and will compare the results, which will be published online next summer.

The goal is...to see, if presented with mixtures — and people are free to use manual methods or different software systems — what the different responses are. Nobody’s ever really looked at the results from the same samples, across different platforms, to see what happens.

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

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

Controversial Study Finds Fingerprint Evidence Scientifically Lacking

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

Q+A: Experts weigh in on elusive motive in Las Vegas shooting

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

40 years, 3 sisters, 1 DNA test: The story of a cold case

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

Blue Ash sets public hearing on plan for county crime lab

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

As crime lab cases climb, Montana aims to make sex assault evidence kits more efficient

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

Beshear to transfer $10,000 to state police lab to help test additional SAFE kits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New ballistics lab helping WSPD with local crime investigations

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

Community Newsletter: Racine County's sexual assault kit initiative announced

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

Judge Orders Murder Retrial Based on 'Invalid' DNA Mixture Analysis

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

Utah Officer Fired After Nurse's Arrest Caught on Video

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

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

Scates uploaded the case to Reddit, a social media platform where users can participate in forums on a variety of topics. Her target audience was a forum where she had already watched strangers successfully work together to identify a hitchhiker killed in a car accident 20 years earlier.
White House and NRA Open to (a Little) Gun Control
The National Rifle Association joined the Trump administration and top congressional Republicans Thursday in a swift and surprising embrace of a restriction on Americans’ guns, though a narrow one: to regulate the “bump stock” devices the Las Vegas shooter apparently used to horrifically lethal effect.

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) and 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 scenarios matter too. For example, fibers on one doll’s wounds 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 Screeanrant, 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.

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 DUII 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 DUIIs.

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 three 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 and seriously hurting another in shootings spanning three 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 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.

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 trauma a victim experiences after having being raped.

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
This course is designed primarily for practitioners who routinely examine blood stained clothing and other textiles and are required to assess, interpret, and report on bloodstain patterns as part of those examinations. The course is delivered through a combination of “face to face” instruction and self-directed learning. A minimum 80 hours of structured learning activities is required, inclusive of a 40 hour “face to face” residential component. The course will review the underpinning principles of BPA, and apply these principles to the

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, CFOSO 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 CFOSO Newsletter here.

Grant Assistance for DNA
analysis and interpretation of bloodstains on clothing and other textiles.

When examining clothing, the practitioner must be mindful of influences such as the fibre type, texture, treatments, all of which may affect the final appearance of bloodstains. The primary focus of the course is to develop those skills required for the examination of bloodstain patterns found on clothing items, including the use of microscopy to discriminate between spatter and transfer bloodstains.

FORESIGHT 20.20

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.

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 website http://be.wvu.edu/forensic/foresight.htm. We are targeting a submission date of December 15, 2017.

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


CALL for ABSTRACTS and CALL for WORKSHOPS are now open

Call for ABSTRACTS closes October 13th, 2017 <x-apple-data-detectors://4>
Call for WORKSHOPS closes October 18 <x-apple-data-detectors://4>

For questions please contact forensicCOE@rti.org <mailto:forensicCOE@rti.org>

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>

Registration for attendees and presenters is FREE!

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 enhancements. 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.

Designing Methods to Identify Evolving Designer Drugs

This article describes a 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.

Standardized Process Developed for Identifying Dyes in Fibers

This article summarizes the 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)
students working towards advancing NU'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.

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.
