President’s Message
Announcing the 2020 ASCLD Symposium location: Denver, Colorado!

Colleagues,
Over the summer, Executive Director Jean Stover, Past-President Jody Wolf, President-Elect Ray Wickenheiser, and I kept busy working on future ASCLD symposium dates and locations.

ASCLD tries to hold symposia in locations that are interesting, entertaining, and conducive to travel logistics and budgets. Additionally, it’s financially advantageous for attendees that we stay several years ahead in order to ensure the best per diem rates for lodging. As you hopefully know, we also poll symposium attendees each year about locations in which you would like to see future symposia.

In response to member input, this year we considered several cities including San Diego, Denver, Philadelphia, and Boston. Ultimately, the executive Board settled on hosting the 2020 ASCLD Symposium at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center for the workshop dates of March 28-29 and the plenary session dates of March 30 – April 2. This hotel offered the best package of per diem rates and attendee benefits. Additionally, the hotel is firmly planted in the heart of downtown Denver, and offers a great experience.

Mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you in Denver in 2020!

Have an amazing week.

Kindest regards,
Jeremy Triplett

ASCLD Responds to the PCAST Report on Forensic Science

Last Friday, the ASCLD Board of Directors released an official response to the report by the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, titled "Forensic Science in Criminal Courts: Ensuring Scientific Validity of Feature-Comparison Methods."

The statement was distributed to PCAST staff and will be provided to all members of PCAST.
In Memory

It is with sadness that ASCLD is notifying its membership of the passing of emeritus member, Travis Owen. Mr. Owen passed away on September 16 at the age of 80. Mr. Owen was the third lab director at the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab in the early 1970s. He left there to start the Acadiana Crime Lab. He was a part of the first group of lab directors invited to Quantico, VA by the director of the FBI. This group eventually formed the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD). In 1981, he was elected to the first Board of Directors for ASCLD/LAB as the very first Executive Secretary of that organization. Forensics has lost one of the forefathers in our field.

Louisiana Flood Relief Fund

Last month Louisiana suffered the worst U.S. natural disaster since hurricane Sandy in 2012. Countless people lost everything they owned. After reaching out to crime lab directors in Louisiana, we have identified 15 crime lab personnel from several labs who suffered significant losses.

ASCLD in partnership with the Louisiana Association of Forensic Scientists has established a financial relief fund where you can donate directly to the crime lab employees who were affected. Please consider donating a few dollars to help those who suffered losses during this time.

If you would like to contribute to the relief fund, you may mail a check to the following address. (Note please indicate “Louisiana Flood Relief Fund” in the memo field.)
Louisiana Association of Forensic Scientists
Attn: Cheryl Swearingen
376 East Airport Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

You may also contribute using a credit or debit card by contacting the LAFS Treasurer at 225 925-4937 or 225 229-9961.

Hello Everyone,

Marshall University Forensic Science is offering the DNA Technical Assistance Program (DNA TAP) again this year. Attached is the DNA TAP Information flyer and the associated DNA TAP Request Form should you have validation or evaluation needs. Beginning this week, a limited number of DNA TAP students are in training at the MU Forensic Science Center from now until May for their summer 2017 DNA TAP assignments. No assignments have been made at this time so please apply early this fall to have the best chance to be assigned a DNA TAP student.

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

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

Thank you,
Pam

Pamela J. Staton, Ph.D.
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Huntington, WV 25701
Ph: 304-634-5263 Mobile: 304-691-8931
Office staton1@marshall.edu
www.marshall.edu/forensics
Research Reports

NIJ Forensic Science R&D Reports for ASCLD Crime Lab Minute Vol 6

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.


Registration Open for Looking Ahead: the National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium

Looking Ahead: The National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium, to be held September 8-9, 2016, supports efforts to solve sexual assault cases, provide justice to victims, and ultimately improve public health and public safety. This unprecedented event focuses on how the nation is moving forward and finding solutions to the complex issues that arise in testing sexual assault evidence. Register to attend soon; seating is limited.

Identifying Missing Persons Through Legislation

New York State Governor Cuomo recently signed Bill A10278, which will amend the executive law, section 838, in relation to the identification of unknown dead and missing persons. Specifically it creates a requirement that, upon receipt of unidentified remains, all New York county medical examiners and coroners will be required to report identifying information of those remains to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, NamUs.

Using a Portable Mass Spectrometer to Analyze Crime Scene Evidence

The work of NIJ-supported researchers from Virginia Commonwealth University, was recently featured by the Chicago Tribune. Their study focuses on the development of a smaller, more portable version of a mass spectrometer to allow faster and simpler analysis of crime scene evidence.

Ballistics Toolmark Research Database

The National Institute of Standards and Technology, with support from NIJ, created an open-access database to collect 3D models of bullets and cases. Now researchers can get the data they need to develop a variety of ballistics-matching algorithms.

Forensic Science Research Evaluation Workshop - A Discussion on the Fundamentals of Research Design and an Evaluation of Available Literature

This NIJ and National Science Foundation-supported workshop was formed to discuss the fundamentals of research design and the evaluation of the forensic science literature. The NCFS recognized that forensic scientists and the OSACs would benefit from tools to help them assess the scientific literature in order to conform to higher scientific standards in critical thinking and laboratory performance. This publication is a resource for evaluating and elevating the research efforts in the forensic sciences and that it may be useful to OSAC members, advanced practitioners, and peer reviewers of the basics of research and evaluation of forensic science literature, as well as for Directors of Master of Forensic Science educational programs.

Bath Salt-type Aminoketone Designer Drugs: Analytical and Synthetic Studies on Substituted Cathinones

ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB)

ANAB provides accreditation for ISO/IEC 17025 forensic test laboratories and ISO/IEC 17020 forensic inspection agencies and a wide variety of training, workshops, and academic programs.

ASCLD-LAB Training

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

ASCLD-LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Testing Laboratories

ASCLD-LAB-International Assessor Training Course for Breath Alcohol Calibration

ASCLD-LAB-International Internal Auditor Training Course

ASCLD-LAB-International Preparation Course for Testing Laboratories
Forensic laboratories face an ongoing problem of trying to analyze and identify “designer drugs” that, by definition, are being designed in clandestine drug laboratories to be structurally different than previous drugs. This NIJ-supported project from researchers at Auburn University focused on issues of resolution and discriminatory capabilities of forensic drug tests to increase the reliability and selectivity of such tests in identifying “new analytes of the so-called bath salt-type drugs.” The project provides the methodology and analytical data to allow investigators to “discriminate between those regioisomeric and isobaric molecules having the same molecular weight and major fragments of equivalent mass.” In summary, the research will better allow forensic experts to identify changing designer drugs.

Modern Compendium of Microcrystal Tests for Illicit Drugs and Diverted Pharmaceuticals

Intended for use by forensic scientists in the crime laboratory and researchers in the analytical chemistry laboratory, this NIJ-supported compendium contains information on 19 illicit or diverted pharmaceutical drugs for which microcrystal tests, using various reagents, have been previously developed.

Utility of Postmortem X-ray Computed Tomography (CT) in Supplanting or Supplementing Medicolegal Autopsies

This NIJ-supported study tested hypotheses regarding the use of postmortem X-ray computed tomography (CT) scans for the following types of cases: blunt force injuries, childhood traumatic fatalities, firearm injuries, and potential drug poisoning deaths. Comparison of autopsy to PMCT revealed neither modality is perfect, but both independently allow correct assessment of severity of injuries and cause of death.

Computerized Reconstruction of Fragmentary Skeletal Remains for Purposes of Extracting Osteometric Measurements and Estimating MNI

Identifying, matching and reconstructing human bone fragments from commingled mass graves, highly fragmentary individual burials, or in the wake of mass disasters, has long been a serious challenge to forensic anthropologists. In this NIJ-supported project, researchers at the University of Tennessee developed an osteological scene management tool in the form of software that enables investigators to quantify and reconstrcut fragmentary human skeletal remains from three-dimensional surface files generated by computed-tomography or laser scans. The project expands the usefulness of the existing statistical atlases into the analysis of fragmentary and commingled remains and provides anthropologists with a means to quantify and reconstruct remains that are damaged or fragmentary, thereby enhancing analyses in challenging cases.

Genomic Tools to Reduce Error in PMI Estimates Derived from Entomological Evidence

Forensic entomologists routinely estimate the age of death of crime victims. In this NIJ-supported project, researchers from Texas A&M University sought to improve the precision of estimates of blow fly age through the use of genetics – specifically the role and consequences of genetic variation in blow fly traits. While describing their work as “preliminary,” the researchers said it “has expanded our knowledge of the role of genetics in development time variation, showing that there is ample wild genetic variation that could potentially impact forensic predictions.”

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™ 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.

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**Employment Opportunities**

- **Forensic Scientist I-II (Latent Print Examiner)**, Johnson County Sheriff’s Office Criminalistics Laboratory, Olathe, KS (Kansas City metro area), Expires: October 21, 2016
- **Tenure Track: Assistant or Associate Professor of Biology (Forensic Biologist)**, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, Expires: December 2, 2016
- **DNA Analyst**, Department of Justice, Missoula, Expires: October 7, 2016
- **Firearms Examiner**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: December 26, 2016
- **Criminalist 2**, Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Forensic Science Division, Reno, Nevada, Expires: October 31, 2016
- **Forensic Scientist Entry/1 (DNA)**, Oregon State Police, Portland Metro Forensic Laboratory, Clackamas, OR, Expires: October 5
can't ID him
Sioux City Journal
Abel also collected one shell casing from inside the Polk Street house and a second one from the street outside. Those were sent to the state crime lab..

Firearms experts testify in N&O libel trial
News & Observer
Former FBI firearms analyst Stephen Bunch told Wake County jurors ... performed reliable lab analysis of bullet fragments for a Pitt County murder trial..

Forensic evidence in the firing line in the US
Chemistry World (subscription)
Contra Costa Sheriff's Office Crime Lab Receives State Grant
EastCountyToday (press release) (registration) (blog)
The Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory is responsible for ensuring breath alcohol analyzers are working properly and providing accurate test results.

Testing of Oregon's shelved sexual assault kits nets first 5 DNA matches
OregonLive.com
Some of the kits have sat for more than a decade -- in part because of inattention, delays at the Oregon State Police crime lab and a shortage of money..

New trial date set for man accused of killing missing Wilmington woman
WWAY NewsChannel 3
District Attorney Ben David told the judge they want to send more evidence to the crime lab. David said the evidence is related to a 404 (b) hearing..

Abdulah calls for action on DNA bank, crime: Citizens' security not being tackled
Trinidad Guardian
We have to put in place the capacity for forensic evidence. We want clear policies on the state of the forensic lab. We want to know how the criminal ...

Prosecutors who withhold or tamper with evidence now face felony charges
Los Angeles Times
Jerry Brown on Friday, a prosecutor can receive up to three years in prison for altering or intentionally withholding evidence that defendants might use..

Oklahoma Officer's Attorneys Want Handgun Kept as Evidence
ABC News
Attorneys for a white Oklahoma police officer who killed an unarmed black man are asking in court records for investigators to keep as evidence a ...

Man Arrested for Tampering with Evidence in Speights Homicide - Hudson Valley News Network

IPR Evidence and Trial Impact for Practitioners
IPWatchdog.com
Evidence of an IPR in which all asserted claims were not petitioned or some of the challenged claims were not invalidated in a final written decision ...

Gun experts continue testimony in libel case
News & Observer
"ASCLD had been accrediting the (SBI) crime lab for 15 years," Morin said. "And ASCLD didn't have any problems with our procedures until ...

Associate Medical Examiner
Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, Georgia, Expires: December 31, 2016

Assistant Technical Leader (Mid-Senior Level)

Mitochondrial DNA Analyst
CAMRIS International, Dover, Delaware, United States, Expires: November 20, 2016

Chief Forensic Laboratories
The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner – Coroner, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: November 15, 2016

Forensic DNA Technical Leader
Mitotyping Technologies (Division of Health Network Laboratories, State College, PA, Expires: October 17, 2016

Forensic DNA Analyst
Texas, Expires: December 31, 2016

Associate Medical Examiner
Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Savannah, Georgia, Expires: December 31, 2016

Supervisory DNA Analyst
CAMRIS International, Dover, Delaware, Expires: November 22, 2016

Nuclear DNA Analyst
CAMRIS – Dover, DE, Dover, Delaware, United States, 19901, Expires: November 20, 201

Assistant Technical Leader

Tenure Track Faculty Position: Assistant/Associate Professor in Forensic Science Department
University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut, Expires: November 20, 2016

Chief Forensic Laboratories
The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner – Coroner, Los Angeles, CA, Expires: November 15, 2016

Forensic DNA Technical Leader
Mitotyping Technologies (Division of Health Network Laboratories, State College, PA, Expires: October 17, 2016

Laboratory Director, Identity Testing
Mitotyping Technologies (Division of Health Network Laboratories, State College, PA, Expires: October 17, 2016

Criminalist, Level II
New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York, New York, Exp

Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science
Department of Forensic Science, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, Expires: December 31, 2016

Forensic Conferences

WVU Forensic Management Academy
Six days on-site in Pittsburgh, PA
Click here for course description and registration.

Oct 16-21, 2016: Society of Forensic Toxicologists – Dallas, TX
Oct 2016: Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists – Galveston, TX

Training

Ron Smith & Associates Training
National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy
APPLY NOW!

Scientists making money off brain scans and DNA tests to help people find their true love
News.com.au

Researchers are making money off brain scans and DNA tests to help people find their true love...

Forensic Conferences

WVU Forensic Management Academy
Six days on-site in Pittsburgh, PA
Click here for course description and registration.

Oct 16-21, 2016: Society of Forensic Toxicologists – Dallas, TX
Oct 2016: Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists – Galveston, TX

Training

Ron Smith & Associates Training
National Latent Print Examiner Training Academy
APPLY NOW!

Husband and wife team Dr Ron Gonzalez and Dr Sara Seabrooke are the faces behind Instant Chemistry — which use DNA testing to determine if a ... 

Same-Sex Couple Thrilled for Their Triplets with DNA from Both Dads

Nature World News

The twin girls have justin's DNA while their son has Adam's DNA. “They're genetically half-siblings. They're going to look alike. I think it will be good ...

Gun experts continue testimony in libel case.

News & Observer

“ASCLD had been accrediting the (SBI) crime lab for 15 years,” Morin said. “And ASCLD didn’t have any problems with our procedures until that time.”

Testimony begins in baby Delano Wilson murder trial

Indianapolis Star

During the course of this trial, you’ll hear testimony from the crime lab and from the DNA section of the crime lab and from a forensic pathologist who ...

Harrisburg man freed from prison 28 years after wrongful conviction has died

PennLive.com

With more than a month to go before the election, Cooper's handling of the crime lab as attorney general continues to be a centerpiece of GOP attacks ...

Florida crime lab chemist jailed for drug theft, evidence tampering

Chemistry World (subscription)

A former chemist and supervisor at a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) crime lab in Pensacola has pleaded guilty to racketeering, ...

Judge halts dog's ordered death for DNA testing

Detroit Free Press

A Belgian Malinois has been given a 30-day stay on orders he be euthanized. District Judge Michael Hulewicz ruled today the owner of the dog has a ...

Judge calls timeout, allows DNA tests in dog's death - The Detroit News

Dabholkar Case: CBI Told to Get Forensic Report From Scotland Yard

Cosumnes Connection (subscription)

However, a division bench headed by Justice S C Dharmadhikari told CBI that this was the last opportunity being given to it to obtain forensic lab ...

DNA evidence used to charge Albany man in Ilion burglary

Utica Observer Dispatch

Police say evidence recovered from the alleged crime scene was sent to the New York State Police crime lab for DNA testing. Results came back as ...

Why state police are grappling with a rape kits backlog

Statesman Journal

When Melissa's Law passed this year, nearly 5,000 untested rape kits were sitting in evidence lockers and crime labs around the state. Hundreds went ...

Ron Smith & Associates National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy

March 20, 2017 - March 31, 2017 in Pearl, MS

It is truly amazing that, until now, there has never been a national training academy specifically designed for Quality Managers. Forensic Quality Managers have been expected to learn from "on the job" training that they may receive from a variety of sources, but none of this training has been consistent in the industry. Organizations like the Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers have been huge in taking up the mantle of providing various workshops and classes, but it was never intended to take the place of a complete training program. With forensics being under such intense scrutiny these days, agencies who perform forensic analysis must ensure that their work is performed under the guiding principles and standards which are now becoming more clearly defined each day. We, in the forensic should.

Ron Smith & Associates, Inc. is known as one of the premier forensic training companies in the world. Our teams of subject matter experts and support staff have successfully designed and offered hundreds upon hundreds of highly sought after training opportunities all across the United States and abroad. RSAA is now ready to take on the challenge of building a National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy which will soon become the cornerstone of forensic training in this very critical area.

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

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

National Footwear & Tire Track Training Academy

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 11, 2016 (2 weeks Tire Track)

OCTOBER 3-14, 2016 (2 weeks Footwear)

OFF (October 17-28, 2016)

Academy which includes 4 weeks of footwear examination training followed by 2 weeks of tire track examination training. Applicants can elect to complete the entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy or break it up and choose only the 4 weeks of footwear training or the 2 weeks of tire track training. The academy graduates of this 6 week program will learn the skills necessary to complete supervised footwear and tire track casework and will be ready to apply for a IAI Footwear Certification once time requirements have been met.

It is scheduled to begin September 5, 2016 in Hattiesburg, MS at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Only 20 academy applicants will be selected to attend.

The entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy the cost is set at $11,250.00.

The 4 week footwear only academy is set at $7,500.00.

Cost includes academy instruction, room and board, and 3 meals per day according to training selection.

Click here for complete details and to apply for admission today. (Link to: http://www.RonSmithandAssociates.com/Footwear)

Looking Ahead: The National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium

NJ, through its Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, is hosting Looking Ahead: The National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium on September 8-9, 2016. The symposium focuses on how the nation is moving forward and finding solutions to the complex issues that arise in sexual assault cases and in testing

sexual assault evidence.

NIJ expects more than 350 high-level government officials from national, state, and local levels, along with decision-makers from law enforcement agencies, the legal community, and criminal justice coalitions from all 56 states and territories. This unprecedented event will support our nation's policymakers and practitioners as they drive future efforts to solve sexual assault cases, provide justice to victims, and ultimately improve public health and public safety.

Speakers include Pulitzer Prize winners T. Christian Miller and Ken Armstrong, co-authors of “An Unbelievable Story of Rape,” Alicia O’Neill from TNT’s Cold Justice: Sex Crimes, and victims advocate Natasha Alexenko, founder of Natasha’s Justice Project.

Learn more and read the agenda.

Register now.

Seating is limited and hotel courtesy blocks expire soon.

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

- ASCLD Train the Directors Latent Prints Webinar - Archival
- ASCLD Train the Directors DNA Discipline Webinar - Archival
- ASCLD Train the Directors Controlled Substance Webinar – Archival
- ASCLD Train the Directors Digital Multimedia Evidence Webinar – Archival
- ASCLD Train the Directors Toxicology Webinar – Archival
- ASCLD Train the Directors Firearms Webinar – Archival
- False-Positive/Negative Error Rates in Cartridge Case Comparisons
- ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 1 – Archival Version
- ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 2 – Archival Version
- ASCLD Rapid DNA Webinar 3 – Archival Version
- ASCLD Webinar Series: