Greetings Colleagues,

Last week many of us had the honor of attending an unprecedented event hosted by “The National Institute of Justice, the research and development arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, through its Forensic Technology Center of Excellence titled Looking Ahead: The National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium on September 8-9, 2016, in Washington, DC. The symposium focused on how the nation is moving forward and finding solutions to the complex issues that arise in sexual assault cases and in testing sexual assault evidence.

This national event featured an array of stakeholders including medical staff, law enforcement, crime laboratories, victims’ advocates, and prosecution, and highlighted current accomplishments and shared valuable experiences from jurisdictions throughout the country. The goal was to 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.

More than 500 attendees were present at the symposium through either onsite or online attendance as well as high profile presenters including Tina Tchen- Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady Michelle Obama, T. Christian Miller & Ken Armstrong- Pulitzer winners and Co-authors of “An Unbelievable Story of Rape”, Alicia O’Neill- TNT’s Cold Justice: Sex Crimes, Natasha Alexenko- Victims Advocate and Founder of Natasha’s Justice Project, Kym L. Worthy- Wayne County , MI Prosecutor, Brian J. Moran- Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Bill Bear- Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General to name a few.

Onsite registration was 346  
Online registration was 447  

This was an incredible event and as a community we are looking ahead to collaboratively addressing this national issue.

Regards,

Jody Wolf, Past President

Have a great week.

Kindest regards,

Jeremy Triplett

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

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

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

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

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Pamela J. Staton, Ph.D.
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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 reconstruct 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 immature insects like blow flies in determining the time 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.”

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**Employment Opportunities**

- **Forensic Scientist – Controlled Substances**, Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science, Roanoke, VA, Expires: September 30, 2016
- **Digital I Forensics Tenure Track Faculty Position**, Marshall University Forensic Science Center, Huntington, WV 25701, Expires: November 15, 2016
- **Forensic DNA Validation Specialist**, Onondaga County Forensic Laboratories, Syracuse, NY, Expires: September 30, 2016
- **Forensic Specialist IV – Latent Print Examiner OQ**, Kansas City Police Crime Laboratory
- **Assistant Technical Leader (Mid-Senior Level)**, CAMRIS International, Dover, DE, Expires: November 20, 2016
- **Senior Forensic Toxicologist (Chemist)**, CAMRIS International, Dover, Delaware, United States, 19901, Expires: November 22, 2016
- **Mitochondrial DNA Analyst**, CAMRIS International, Dover, Delaware, United States, 19902, Expires: November 20, 2016
- **Tenure Track Faculty Position: Assistant/Associate Professor in Forensic Science Department**, University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut, Expires: November 20, 2016

**Chief Forensic Laboratories**, The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner –
Council to approve funding for APD DNA lab
FOX 7 Austin

“Nobody has ever poked a major hole in DNA analysis,” says Defense Attorney Sam Bassett, adding, “so out of the forensic science stuff that is used ...

DNA Leads to arrests of two men in 1973 slaying of California girls aged 12, 13
NOLA.com

Decades-old DNA led to the arrests Tuesday of two men in connection with the shotgun slayings of two girls in California more than 40 years ago, ...

New director named for state Division of Forensic Science

Researchers in Singapore have developed a new protein that can alter DNA in living cells with much higher precision than current method

Justice Dept. Announces Code of Conduct for Forensic Labs

The Justice Department on Monday announced a new code of professional responsibility for its forensic science laboratories and also cautioned...

Testing underway on hundreds of rape kits sent to State Crime Lab

KOMO News

SEATTLE – The King County Sheriff’s Office is readying nearly 300 untested sexual assault kits – some years old – for testing by the Washington..

APD vows to end DNA evidence backlog

Austin Monitor

Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo said Monday that the police department is committed to erasing its backlog of untested DNA evidence, which includes...

New director named for state Division of Forensic Science

The Daily Progress

DOVER, Del. (AP) — A high-ranking state trooper has been named as the new director of the Delaware Division of Forensic Science. Media...

Ten years of toxicology expert’s testimony under...

KPRC Houston

The Cost of Clearing the Rape Kit Backlog: APD agrees to fund SAFE kit testing through pre ...

Austin Chronicle

APD has hinted that it will most likely wait until its crime lab reopens (current projections point to February 2017) to test those pieces of evidence.

City Council to approve funding for APD DNA lab
FOX 7 Austin

Now APD is relying on a national grant, and a private lab to clear some ... provide additional staff to the Austin Police Department's DNA..

Trial in Amber Creek homicide pushed to Nov. 28
Journal Times

He also told the court that after meeting with Wisconsin State Crime Lab staff he discovered that there were crime lab reports that his office had no..

Untested rape kits spur new law in Kentucky; Indiana may be next
The Gleaner

“There are local law enforcement and state police provisions, reporting and training provisions, hospital provisions and requirements for the crime ...

How can forensic science can stop slaughter of endangered wildlife
New Scientist

With wildlife crime escalating, maybe it’s time to revamp the international ... Another proposal calls for a directory of the top forensics labs around...

Austin police pledge to find money to clear up rape kit backlog
MyStatesman.com

A technician is shown working in 2014 in the Austin

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

Assistant Director of Toxicology, Controlled Substance & Chemistry

Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection -- Division of Scientific Services, Meriden, CT, Expires: October 3, 2016

Criminalist, Level II

New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York, New York, Expires: December 30, 2016

Assistant/Associate Professor of Forensic Science

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

Forensic Conferences

WVU Forensic Management Academy

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

Oct 3-7, 2016: Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientist (MAFS) – Branson, Missouri
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!
2nd Session - OCTOBER 3, 2016 thru MARCH 3, 2017

BUDGET PLANNING REQUIRED?
3rd Session - October 2, 2017 thru March 2, 2018

RS&A now offers an intense 20 week training program designed to provide agencies with a Latent Print Examiner who is trained to competency. This academy, with 800 hours of formal training, will produce graduates that are capable of performing “supervised case work” and once time requirements are met, be ready to apply for IAI Latent Print Certification.

2nd Session is scheduled to begin October 3, 2016 Hattiesburg, MS at the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Only 25 academy applicants will be selected to attend so apply today!

The total cost for this program including academy tuition, 20 weeks room and board, and 3 meals per day is $27,500.00.

Click here for complete details, photos, and the admission applications.(Link to: Ron Smith And Associates LPACademy)
Police Department's forensic crime lab, which temporarily closed in June.

**Potsdam Lab Assistant Charged With Sex Crime**

A SUNY Potsdam chemistry lab instructor has been banned from campus, after police charged him with a sex crime. John Proetta, 29, alleged.

**Human hair identifying technique can be used in crime labs: study**

Xinhua

11 (Xinhua) -- Proteins in human hair could be as effective as DNA profiling in identifying unique individuals and it can be used in crime labs, ..

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (Xinhua) -- Proteins in human hair could be as effective as DNA profiling in identifying unique individuals and it can be used in crime labs, researchers from the U.S. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have found.

Currently, DNA profiling is commonly used for identification in forensic science and archaeology because DNA is unique to each individual.

However, environmental and chemical processes can degrade DNA, limiting its usefulness over time, the researchers reported this week in the U.S. journal PLOS ONE.

In contrast, protein is more stable than DNA and has variations that may be unique to the individual, they said.

In the new study, Brad Hart from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and colleagues found a total of 185 hair protein markers in an examination of male and female hair samples from 66 European-Americans, five African-Americans, five Kenyans and six skeletal remains from the 1750s and 1850s.

The number and pattern of each person's hair protein markers, they said, were unique. Although the number of individual protein markers that can be used to differentiate people could go as high as 1,000, they estimated the 185 protein markers would be sufficient to distinguish one person out of a population of one million.

The researchers also predicted that once their technique is optimized, it will be possible to use a smaller number of human hairs, possibly as little as one, to distinguish an individual among the world's population.

The new identification technique using protein may offer another tool to law enforcement authorities for crime scene investigations and to archaeologists.

"We are in a very similar place with protein-based identification to where DNA profiling was during the early days of its development," said study co-author Brad Hart, director of the lab's Forensic Science Center.

"This method will be a game-changer for forensics, and while we've made a lot of progress toward proving it, there are steps to go before this new technique will be able to reach its full potential."

Currently, the sample preparation, instrument run time and analysis period for the protein identification method requires about 2.5 days, study co-author Deon Anex, a chemist at the lab, said, noting the team expects the cost to be competitive with other similar technologies.

"The discovery phase has been quite complex, but once the technique is established, we believe it can be made into a routine procedure for use in crime labs," Anex said.

**Justice Dept Invests $63M to Support State & Local Crime Lab Capacity**

ExecutiveGov

Ron Smith & Associates National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy

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

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

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

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

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

**National Footwear & Tire Track Training Academy**

**CHICAGO, Feb. 2, 2017** -- Ron Smith & Associates National Forensic Quality Manager Training Academy which includes 4 weeks of footwear examination training followed by 2 weeks of tire track examination training. Applicants can elect to complete the entire 6 week footwear and tire track academy or break it up and choose only the 4 weeks of footwear training or the 2 weeks of tire track training. The academy graduates of this 6 week program will learn the skills necessary to complete supervised footwear and tire track casework and will be ready to apply for a IAII Footwear Certification once time requirements have been met.

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

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

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

The 2 week tire track only academy is $3,750.00.

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

Click here for complete details and to apply for admission today. (Link: 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
The Justice Department’s National Institute of Justice has announced a $63 million investment in efforts to boost laboratory capacity and shrink the backlog of DNA samples that await analysis at 132 states and local jurisdictions.

USDOJ’s Office of Justice Programs said Friday it will use the funds made available through the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction program to support lab work to process and analyze DNA evidence as well as other capacity-building purposes.

“This funding not only allows these labs to get the additional resources they need to keep up with increasing demand, it also allows them to implement new technologies and protocols that help increase the speed and efficiency of DNA testing, thus getting investigative leads to law enforcement faster,” said NIJ Director Nancy Rodriguez.

NIJ also earlier launched a Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence – Inventory, Tracking and Reporting program to complement the DNA Backlog Reduction program and the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Sexual Assault Kit program.

NIJ is the research and development arm of USDOJ.

Falmouth man headed to court in drug case
Cape Cod Times (subscription)
An East Falmouth man who was seen driving a car from which drugs were allegedly sold three times in a single day is facing a criminal charge in...

JonBenét Ramsey series questions key DNA evidence
New York Post
The three-part series also casts doubt on the DNA evidence used to... four markers as opposed to the standard [13] usually used in forensic analysis..

New DNA Testing Points to Different Suspect in 1981 Slaying
ABC News
New DNA testing points to a different suspect in a 1981 slaying for which a Michigan man accused of being a serial killer is serving a life...

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

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