Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone had a restful long Labor Day weekend relaxing with family and friends. As you may be aware, ASCLD is the Administrator for the U.S. ISO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Technical Committee TC-272, Forensic Science. Some time ago, ASCLD recognized the need to be proactive and provide leadership in the development of ISO forensics standards. There are a number of standards that are in process which require review, comments and improvement to ensure they are relevant and fit for purpose.

Further to that review, we are looking for interested individuals with a quality management background to join our ISO TC 272 Standards Task Force, which is being chaired by Board member Erin Forry, Quality Manager for Boston Police Department. She is being assisted in this task by ASCLD Board members Brooke Arnone, Quality Manager for the Arizona DPS and Linda Jackson, Director of the Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science. This is a particularly exciting opportunity for Quality Managers to join our group. What better way to stay abreast of quality developments that will impact you and your workplace directly that in the development of these standards at the earliest stages?

The ISO TC 272 has done great work by creating an international standard for manufacturing DNA consumables and will continue its work in considering standards to reduce contamination when manufacturing other consumables used in forensic science as well as a series of standards concerning forensic science evidence collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting.

Please contact Erin directly at erin.forry@pd.boston.gov to join the ISO TC 272 Standards Task Force. We need your expertise to ensure that forensic science continues to be done right, meeting required standards today and into the future.

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

Looking for a new opportunity?

- Forensic Scientist Trainee – Controlled Substances, LVMPD, Las Vegas, NV, Expires: September 27, 2017
- Forensic Scientist I, LVMPD, Las Vegas, NV, Expires: September 27, 2017
- Forensic Scientist II – Controlled Substances, LVMPD, Las Vegas, NV, Expires: September 27, 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, MISS, Oak Ridge, Expires: December 31, 2017
- **Forensic Examiner – Firearms & Toolmarks (#01378)**, ORAU, Ft. Gillem, GA (& OCONUS), Expires: December 31, 2017
- **NIBIN Technician**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 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 Laboratory Manager**, Division of Police, Columbus, OH, Columbus, OH, Expires: September 28, 2017
- **Quality Assurance Manager**, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Topeka, KS, Expires: September 10, 2017
- **Forensic Scientist – Latent Print Examiner**, DuPage County Forensic Science Center, Wheaton, IL, Expires: September 22, 2017
- **Crime Lab Director**, Office Of Attorney General, Bismarck, ND, Expires: November 30, 2017
- **NIBIN Technician**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2017
- **Forensic Scientist I-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist II-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist III-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist IV-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist I-Trace Evidence**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist II-Trace Evidence**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
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- **Forensic Scientist IV-Trace Evidence**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist Trainee-Chemistry/Controlled Substances**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist Trainee-Firearms/Toolmarks/Ballistics**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist Trainee-Latent Prints**, Nassau County Medical Examiner Division of Forensic Services, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Forensic Scientist Trainee-Trace Evidence**, Nassau County Medical Examiner, East Meadow, NY, Expires: February 2, 2018
- **Biologist**, Bode Cellmark Forensics, Quantico, VA, Expires: September 15, 2017
- **Physical Scientist-Trace**, Bode Cellmark Forensics, Quantico, VA, Expires: September 15, 2017
- **Forensic Analyst – Toxicology**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: October 13, 2017
- **Forensic Serologist**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: September 29, 2017
- **Forensic DNA Technician**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: September 29, 2017
- **Forensic DNA Analyst I / II**, Sorenson Forensics, Salt Lake City, Expires: September 29, 2017
- **Quality Specialist**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2017
- **Forensic Analyst – Biology/DNA**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2017
- **Crime Scene Supervisor**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2017
- **Latent Print Examiner**, Houston Forensic Science Center, Houston, TX, Expires: September 30, 2017
- **Property & Evidence Manager**, NMS Labs, Grand Prairie, TX, Expires: October 18, 2017
- **Forensic Biologist III or IV Trainer**, NMS Labs, Willow Grove, PA, Expires: October 18, 2017
- **Forensic Chemist III or IV**, NMS Labs, Willow Grove/Warminster PA, Expires: October 18, 2017
- **Non-Tenure Track Forensic Science Faculty Position**, Pennsylvania State University, University Park,
You have lived the science that is driving the Opioid Epidemic that is plaguing our Country. In 2015 opioid addiction was the driving force behind an estimated 91 U.S. deaths daily. These rates are not slowing, rather they are doubling, quadrupling or undergoing even more alarming increases in some areas.

Sam Quinones is a Los Angeles-based freelance journalist and author of three books of narrative nonfiction. His latest book is Dreamland: The True Tale of America’s Opiate Epidemic (Bloomsbury, 2015), for which he traveled across the United States.

Dreamland recounts twin stories of drug marketing in the 21st Century: the first being a pharmaceutical corporation that flogs its legal new opiate prescription painkiller as nonaddictive. Meanwhile, immigrants from a small town in Nayarit, Mexico devise a method for retailing black-tar heroin like pizza in the United States, and take that system nationwide - riding a wave of addiction to prescription pills from coast to coast. The collision of those two forces has led to America's deadliest drug scourge in modern times. Dreamland won a National Book Critics Circle award for the Best Nonfiction Book of 2015.

Click HERE to find out more and Register!!

Not able to attend our Live Webinars? No worries, we archive every webinar that we host! These archival webinars are typically available for viewing 7-10 days after the date of the Live Webinar.

A certificate of completion is available for all who register and attend our webinars.

Funding for this newsletter has been brought to you by the National Institute of Justice's Forensic Technology Center of Excellence.
**ASCLD Crime Lab Minute September 5, 2017**

**Chemical Hygiene Updates**

Stay tuned for our new spotlight on issues that may affect how you do business as it relates to chemical hygiene.

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**The opioid epidemic**

The opioid epidemic has garnered wide-spread media coverage in the last few years. The Washington Post reported on August 15, 2017, that in the areas in and around big cities like Chicago and Philadelphia, the number of deaths from the synthetic opioid fentanyl has increased in recent years. Chicago’s Cook County administrators chronicled a 2,700 percent increase in fentanyl-related overdose deaths between 2014 and 2016. Philadelphia, with nine fentanyl overdoses in 2012 saw fentanyl death rise to four hundred in 2016.

According to the 2016 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) report on the opioid epidemic, found that the overdose death-rate for illicitly-obtained opioids, like fentanyl, increased 73% from 2014 to 2015. During the same time frame, other legal prescription opioids rose only 4% over the same period.

Additionally, the CDC estimates that the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse in the United States is $78.5 billion a year. This includes the cost of health care, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement. In 2015, over 33,000 Americans died as a result of an opioid overdose. It is estimated that 2 million people in the United States suffered from substance use disorders related to prescription opioid pain medicines, including fentanyl.

Not only is this a national tragedy, but it has also become a known health risk to first responders. June 2017, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein in conjunction with the DEA announced that “the Department of Justice is approaching this crisis with all-hands-on deck. We need to use all the tools available to us: prevention, treatment, and prosecution.” During his remarks, he stated that “in 2015, more than 52,000 Americans lost their lives to drug overdoses – 1,000 dead every week. More than 33,000 people died from heroin, fentanyl, and other opioid drugs.” He also stated that 2016 numbers look to have increased by 60,000 deaths and for Americans under the age of 50, drug overdose is the leading cause of death. The full speech is available here: [https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/deputy-attorney-general-rod-j-rosenstein-delivers-remarks-dea-fentanyl-guidance](https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/deputy-attorney-general-rod-j-rosenstein-delivers-remarks-dea-fentanyl-guidance).

The crisis is in every corner of the nation. Illicitly-obtained opioid deaths are increasing in 2017. How does this affect those of us working on the front lines? The DEA issued guidelines to first responders handling fentanyl entitled Fentanyl: A Briefing Guide for First Responders. This guide gives recommendations to first responders, including proper personal protective equipment when exposed to the drug. Precautions must be taken for police dogs who also are at risk to exposure.

Additionally, when non-drug related evidence is collected that has the potential for fentanyl residue, universal safety precautions are necessary to avoid exposure. If there is any suspicion that non-drug evidence may be contaminated, the evidence must be collected and labeled with all precautions taken to eliminate an accidental exposure. Crime laboratory universal safety precautions require a lab coat, goggles, or eyewear, a mask, as well as gloves. Narcan should also be available.

But the risk isn’t just with first responders and chemists. What about the latent prints on the baggy that was used to store the fentanyl? What about the clothing someone wore who handled the drug that’s sent out for trace analysis? Or how about the firearm that was stored with the illicit drugs? Many analysts will be exposed to this drug while taking all the proper precautions, but are they the right precautions? Glove use is a standard in all labs, but many police departments and laboratories still use latex. Nitrile should be the new norm. Face masks usage should also be the new standard. Face masks should become standard equipment, along with disposable lab coats and eye wear for all evidence received. And let’s not forget that Narcan should be available in crime laboratories.

Since this summer, New York found cocaine laced with fentanyl and Georgia has analyzed counterfeit pills with synthetic opioids. This menace to society, first responders, and crime laboratories is gaining momentum, and if available precautions are not taken at every point, we will see greater increases in inadvertent exposure to the very people working on the front lines to combat it.

Those in the industry who are interested in this topic and would like additional support and information can contact New Jersey Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) to participate in their monthly conference call. The Office of the Regional Operations & Intelligence Center and their partners present briefs on drug intelligence products and current drug trends. Interested lab personnel wishing to be involved can email [DMI DrugMonitoring@nj.gov](mailto:DMI DrugMonitoring@nj.gov) to be placed on their email list.

For additional information on the opioid epidemic, go to the CDC webpage: [https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/opioids/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/opioids/index.html).
New this week:
See the above Ad for Opioid Crisis - A Public Health Enemy Webinar Series: Dreamland: Sam Quinones Explores America's Opiate Epidemic - Today - September 5th at 1 PM

Upcoming Training:

Sirchie
Narcotics Investigation Safety - Handling Suspected Fentanyl
Wed, Sep 6, 2017 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT

At Sirchie our goal is to keep officers safe. The opioid crisis and powerful nature of fentanyl and other opioids will be discussed with patrol officer and first responder safety considerations. In this webinar, you will learn: - Recent history of fentanyl and the opioid crisis in America - Recommended safety measures for handling, packaging, and transporting suspected fentanyl.
https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3013535256660289794

DNA - Bode

16th Annual DNA & Investigators Conference – Bode East. September 11-14 in Philadelphia, PA

Introduction to ISO/IEC 17025

We cordially invite you to have your gracious presence at 2nd international conference on Forensic Science and Psychology which is going to be held on October 12th and 13th, 2017 at London, UK. It is with great joy this warm welcome on behalf of our company’s management and staff. For further details, glance at our website: https://tr.im/forensic

With Thanks,
Kellie Tylor
Program Manager | Forensic Congress 2017
Conference Series LLC
Europe: Heathrow Stockley Park Lakeside House, 1 Furze ground way, Heathrow, UK
T: 702 508 5200 Ext- 8057
E: forensiccongress@annualconferences.org

ANAB

Introduction to ISO/IEC 17025
September 14-15, 2017, Denver, CO
October 1-2, 2017, Riyadh, KSA

Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17025
October 3-5, 2017, Riyadh, KSA

ISO/IEC 17025 Lead Assessor Training
October 2-6, 2017, San Antonio, TX
October 8-12, 2017, Riyadh, KSA

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

Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17020
October 17-19, 2017, Alexandria, VA

ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 Training
October 9-10, 2017, Houston, TX

ISO/IEC 17020 and Audit Preparation for Forensic Agencies
November 2-3, 2017, Alexandria, VA

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Internal Auditor
October 23-26, 2017, Fort Worth, TX

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Assessors Training (Testing)
September 25-29, 2017, Honolulu, HI (course full)
October 16-20, 2017, Hillsboro, OR
November 13-17, 2017, Emeryville, CA

Forensic ISO/IEC 17025 Preparation (Testing)
September 25-27, 2017, Honolulu, HI
October 16-18, 2017, Hillsboro, OR
November 13-15, 2017, Emeryville, CA

Forensic Measurement Confidence (Web-based)
October 4-6, 2017

Root Cause Analysis for Forensic Service Providers (Web-based)
October 3-5, 2017

**Recorded Training:**

**Episode 9 Podcast!!**

Just Blood Spatter

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

Subscribe to the channel at:

- Google Play
- ITunes
- Stitcher
- Soundcloud

**ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series**

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Backlog Series can be found at the following links:

- The Paradox of Backlog Reduction – How Doing Less Can Be Doing More
- Taking the First Steps Toward Backlog Reduction
- Managing Customer Expectations and Education
- How to Increase your Staff without Increasing Budget
- Efficiency Improvements
- Developing a Statewide Approach to Backlog Management
- Case Acceptance Policies and Guidelines

**ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series**

Archival versions of the ASCLD/RTI Rapid DNA Series can be found at the following links:

- Rapid DNA: The QAS and NDIS
- Rapid DNA: Arizona DPS and Richland County, SC
- Rapid DNA: Booking Stations and CODIS

**ASCLD /RTI DNA Standards and Guidelines Webinar Series**

SWGDAM Interpretational Guidelines


Proposed Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) changes


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


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**Forensic Science in the News**

**Cape Town underworld breakthrough as suspected club gunman arrested**

Politicsweb

Ramovha said that on Wednesday, August 30, 50 firearms had been seized from the Bellville offices of a security company, Thorburn Security ...

**Swaim murder trial ends week one**

Cashmere Valley Record

WSP field technician Kristin Storment and crime lab tech Brittany Noll explained how they gathered the evidence and then the results of DNA testing.

**YT: Fentanyl No. 1 Cause of Drug Deaths in US**

Newsmax

Deaths from the potent and highly addictive drug Fentanyl more than doubled from 2015 to 2016, overtaking heroin...
as the leading cause of drug ...

**NYT: Fentanyl No. 1 Cause of Drug Deaths in US**

Deaths from the potent and highly addictive drug Fentanyl more than doubled from 2015 to 2016, overtaking heroin as the leading cause of drug ...

**Take a rare look inside the crime lab that may have just cracked a serial murder case**

KMBC Kansas City

Take a rare look inside the crime lab that may have just cracked a serial ... Inside the Kansas City Crime Lab – DNA is making the biggest strides.

**WCU forensic unit assisting with cold case**

WLOS

by Kristy Steward. Tuesday, August 29th 2017. A forensic unit from Western Carolina University has been assigned to a cold case out of Mooresville.

**More perpetrators involved in businessman Everink’s murder: forensic report**

NL Times

More perpetrators involved in businessman Everink’s murder: forensic report ... killed by more than one person, forensic laboratory IFS concludes in a report. ... The defense requested further investigation into DNA traces found at the ...

**Crossmatch, FlexEnable and ISORG team selected as a finalist in IARPA fingerprint challenge**

Biometric Update

With this current capture method, there is a risk that the fingerprinting operator ... print quality affecting the ability to identify live or latent fingerprints.

**Philadelphia Officers, Agent Sent to Hospital After Responding to ‘Major Drug Operation’**

NBC 10 Philadelphia

10,000 bags of heroin or possible Fentanyl was seized during a major drug ring bust in Summerdale on Friday. NBC10s Drew Smith reports on the ...

**Police Find Similar Patterns between Ringgo and Saracen Cases**

Netralnews

... the data obtained as evidence by cooperating with the Police Criminal Investigation Agency (Bareskrim) and Center of Forensic Lab (Puslabfor).

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**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**

[Link to purchase](http://www.sirchie.com/nark-ppe-kit-available-in-med-large-x-large-2xl.html#.WaNzc-mQxPb)
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.
ASCLD Crime Lab Minute September 5, 2017

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) has received funding from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation to develop software that will transfer data from forensic Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) to FORESIGHT, a business quantitative process tailored to forensic laboratories.

The goal of the project, called FORESIGHT 20/20, will be to allow laboratories to easily upload business-relevant information from their individual LIMS to the FORESIGHT project, hosted at West Virginia University.

Software development and installations for JusticeTrax Alpha labs is progressing. The software provides a dashboard of the labs' own stats and FORESIGHT stats, among other information. The information, formatting, and interface may vary somewhat by vendor.

An opportunity to work at JusticeTrax doesn't come around very often. We have a Software Tester position open! This one is going to go fast! Please read about the opening at https://justicetrax.com/employment/

The Software Tester basic function is to validate the quality of JusticeTrax products. The Software Tester finds weaknesses in the products in an efficient and timely manner so Software Developers can resolve them before customers experience a problem.

Grant Assistance for DNA

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At Sirchie our goal is to keep officers safe. The opioid crisis and powerful nature of fentanyl and other opioids will be discussed with patrol officer and first responder safety considerations. In this webinar, you will learn:

- Recent history of fentanyl and the opioid crisis in America
- Recommended safety measures for handling, packaging, and transporting suspected fentanyl

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/301353525660289794

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

The 2015 Heroin Signature Program Report
DEA Intelligence Brief; 13 pages; August; 2017
Download the report here

Jeff Teitelbaum, MLIS | Forensic Science Library Services
Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau
Washington State Patrol
2203 Airport Way S * Seattle WA  98134 *
206.262.6027

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 topographies as a substitute for physical casings.