

American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors



EXECUTIVE DIGEST

a leadership development resource for forensic science laboratory directors and managers

Success
Management
Tomorrow
Coaching
Innovation
Career Development
ASCLD
Labs
Towards
Collaboration
Forensic Science
Leadership
Skills
Professional
Quality
Goals
Inspire
Motivation
Integrity
Vision
Together
Succession Planning
Mentorship
Change

2020

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ASCLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brooke Arnone*President*

Arizona Dept of Public Safety

Erin Forry*President-Elect**Symposium Planning; Standards & Accreditation Initiatives Chair; US TAG to ISO TC 272 Chair*

Boston Police Department

Matthew Gamette*Past-President**Advocacy, CFSO, AAI*
Idaho State Police**Linda Jackson***Secretary**Member Resources Co-Chair*Virginia Department of
Forensic Sciences**Rita Dyas***Treasurer*

Chandler Police Department

Jennifer McNair*Sponsorship Chair*Utah Bureau of Forensic
Sciences**Tim Scanlan***Training & Education Chair*

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office

Christian Westring*International Chair*

Member at Large

Tony Tessarolo*Member Resources Co-Chair*

Centre of Forensic Sciences

Jeffrey Nye*Membership Chair*

Michigan State Police

Bruce Houlihan*Opioid Task Force Chair; Liaison to Forensic Research Committee*Orange County Crime
Laboratory**Lisa Burdett***Communications Chair*

Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Scott O'Neil*Ethics & Bylaws Chair**Nominating & Awards Chair*

New York City Police

Department

John A. Byrd*Executive Director*

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Ramona Robertson*Administrative Assistant*

office@ascld.org



The American Society of Crime Lab Directors

"Excellence Through Leadership in Forensic Science Management"

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the ASCLD Board of Directors and the 2020 Symposium Planning Committee, I would like to welcome you to Denver, Colorado, for the 47th Annual ASLCD Symposium. Under the leadership of President-elect Erin Forry, the Symposium Planning Committee has developed an incredible program for this year's symposium. The committee has been working hard to provide quality content that attendees can take back to their labs for an immediate impact, and the information will be used for years to come. President-Elect Erin Forry and I would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to all members of the ASCLD Symposium Planning Committee for their dedication and efforts this past year. Your commitment to ASCLD is greatly appreciated and without this group of volunteers we could not deliver this annual meeting.



Serving as your President has been an honor and a privilege. I was fortunate to have the complete support of my agency, especially Vince Figarelli and Stewart Raley, when I took on this opportunity, and for that, I am forever grateful. I would like to acknowledge the incredible group of people that serve on your Board of Directors, committee volunteers, and I would be remiss if I left out our past and current Executive Directors' John Byrd and Jean Stover, and last but not least, the behind the scenes work of Ramona Robertson. Your hard work and commitment allowed ASCLD to achieve great accomplishments this year. It is a lot of work, but your commitment is greatly appreciated. It has been an honor working with you.

Year in Review:

During the past year, the ASCLD Board of Directors, the ASCLD Staff, and ASCLD Committee members have been very busy as we successfully tackled our organizational strategic plan. We have continued many exceptional programs such as our ISO TAG, Leadership Academy, Forensic Research Committee, Member Resource Committee, and the Accreditation Initiative. We were able to sunset task groups, such as Emerging Drugs, as the original intent of the committee was accomplished.

Communication and dissemination of information with members is key. The Crime Lab Minute was

published and updated weekly to contain important information for our members including upcoming training opportunities, organizational announcements, media articles, and surveys. Email blasts were another great way to communicate important information and updates.

ASCLD continued its commitment to providing relevant training by facilitating the Train the Director Series with the collaboration of the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence. The ASCLD Leadership Academy Level 1 continues to “sell out” every year and this year, an ASCLD Leadership Academy Level 2 launched to rave reviews.

I encourage you to review the Board reports that are available to all members on the ASCLD website. Through the reports, you will find out all the activities and accomplishments each of the committees had this past year. Feel free to reach out to any of your Board members for an update on their committee work.

Enjoy the meeting,



Brooke Arnone

2020 ASCLD SYMPOSIUM

March 29 – April 2
Denver, Colorado

The 2020 annual symposium of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors will take place at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado. Additional information can be found at www.ascldsymposium.com.



The forensic science profession has advanced due to extraordinary laboratories, successful collaborations and partnerships among laboratories and stakeholders, and transformational, visionary and servant leaders.

Join us in the Mile-High City - Denver, Colorado - for the 2020 ASCLD Symposium!

ASCLD 2020 will showcase collaborations and partnerships, obtaining buy-in, implementing new technology, transforming an organizational culture, strengthening morale, talent acquisition, and more with information, tips, and lessons we can apply to ourselves, our organizations, and our profession.

Experience workshops and presentations from dynamic experts and leaders from the forensic science profession and beyond.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller

Experience ASCLD 2020!
Together Toward Tomorrow

CARRIE MORGAN WHITCOMB LEADERSHIP ADDRESS

Carrie Morgan Whitcomb (1945-2017) served as President of ASCLD in 1995 and was the 2011 recipient of the prestigious Briggs White Award. A Kentucky native, Carrie pioneered forensic science as one of the first female toxicologists at the Alabama Department of Forensic Science. Carrie made history in 1988 as the first female laboratory director of a federal crime laboratory – the United States Postal Inspection Service National Forensics Laboratory.

Known as the “Godmother of Digital Evidence”, Carrie was one of the first people to recognize the importance, and the potential, of digital evidence. In 1997, at a federal laboratory directors meeting, Carrie was instrumental in getting fellow directors to consider the future of digital evidence. There, the term digital evidence was coined, and the Scientific Working Group for Digital Evidence was created – a group that remains active today.

Carrie later moved on to Florida where in 1999, she took on the role of director of the National Center for Forensic Science (NCFS) – a joint venture between the National Institute of Justice and the University of Central Florida. The NCFS provides relevant and responsive forensic science research and operational support to the criminal justice community.

In 2018, then ASCLD President Matthew Gamette was inspired by Carrie’s accomplishments and leadership. In Carrie’s memory, he created the Carrie Morgan Whitcomb Leadership Address. Each year at the annual ASCLD Symposium, a keynote speaker who embodies leadership will be selected to honor Carrie’s memory and visionary leadership.

2018..... Lt. General (Ret.) John F. Regni, 17th Superintendent of the United States Air Force Academy

2019..... Paul Butler, Chief Deputy of Horry County Sheriff’s Office (Ret.)

2020..... Deborah Lee James, 23rd Secretary of the United States Air Force (Ret.)

2020 CANDIDATES FOR THE ASCLD BOARD

The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors is pleased to present the following nominees to our membership for a vote to fill 3 vacant seats on our Board of Directors.

The following is list of our nominees presented in alphabetical order. More detailed information will follow this page.



Kerri T. Heward

Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division

Timothy Kupferschmid

NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner

Jennifer D. Naugle

Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory- Division of Forensic Sciences

Laura B. Sudkamp

Kentucky State Police Division of Forensic Sciences

Candidate's Name:

Kerri T. Heward

Organization:

Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division

Address:

911 Parr Blvd
Reno, NV, 89512

Phone Number: 775-328-2803

E-mail: KHeward@washoecounty.us

Education:

- BS in Biology from the University of CA Riverside
- West Virginia University Forensic Management Academy in 2010
- University of California Davis Forensic Management Academy in 2012

**Employment experience:**

- 2015– Present: Laboratory Director of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division (FSD); Providing service to 13 of 17 counties in Nevada and one county in California.
- 2007– 2015: Supervising Criminalist, Washoe County FSD for Firearms/Toolmarks; Drug Analysis; Trace Unit; Breath Alcohol.
- 2015 – Present: Contract Lead Assessor for ANAB (previously ASCLD/LAB).
- 2005 – Present: Technical Assessor for ASCLD/LAB-ANAB.
- 1994 – 2008: San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Scientific Investigations Division.
 - o Positions held: Forensic Laboratory Technician; Criminalist 1, Criminalist 2, Lead Criminalist, Acting Supervising Criminalist; Quality Manager
 - o Disciplines: Serology; Drug Analysis; Clandestine Laboratory Investigation and Analysis; Toxicology Screening; Impression Evidence; Firearm/Toolmark Examination
 - o During my time at the San Bernardino County Lab, I was the Quality Manager for 2 ½ years and the Acting Supervisor of the Alcohol and Firearms Unit for 6 months. These opportunities allowed me to gain a breadth and depth of knowledge that have benefitted me throughout my forensic career.
- Prior to forensics:
 - o Staff Research Associate in the Entomology Department conducting biological control research. This gave me the opportunity to learn laboratory techniques related to protein and DNA analysis.

Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.)

- ASCLD Symposium Attendance: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- Committees Served: Membership; Symposium Planning; Abstract review sub-committee (Chair); Save the date sub-committee.
- o I enjoy working with Kinsley at the registration booth as it allows me to meet new forensic friends.
- Current ASCLD POC for the Western Region.
- Current member of CACLD and AFTE.
- Previously member of CAC and CLIC.

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

- Standards and Accreditation initiatives
- International
- Membership
- Member resources
- Training and Education
- Symposium planning
- Because I have a strong background in accreditation, I would like work toward the goal of achieving accreditation for all laboratories.
- I believe in embracing change and being a leader of change. Opportunities to help and encourage others to move toward constant improvement is of interest to me.

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

As a Laboratory Director and an ANAB Contract Lead Assessor, I have opportunities to communicate in many venues and capacities with different groups and people as a presenter and as a collaborator. The responsibilities of my roles as a Laboratory Director and Lead Assessor have provided opportunities to connect with others and share information. I speak and collaborate with groups of all sizes. I write policy and procedures and provide input at the State and County level. I write and manage Federal Grants.

Public speaking is never easy but embracing opportunities to be well practiced becomes easier with time. I welcome the opportunity to share and learn toward the goal of inclusion of all forensic scientists in the community, ongoing collaboration, innovation, and improvement in our profession.

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD Board? What skills will you bring to the table?

I am fully committed to serving on the ASCLD Board. My career history demonstrates my commitment to my profession, my organization, and my community. My professional strengths that would enhance the ASCLD Board are:

- A broad knowledge of forensic science as demonstrated by the number of forensic disciplines I have worked in over the years, the number of different disciplines I have supervised and managed, and the experience leading assessment teams.

- I have worked for the majority of my career in the pattern matching disciplines of Firearms and Impression evidence. This expertise is not often found among board members; therefore, will provide that needed perspective and expertise.
- My skill set as the Director of a laboratory that provides service to a large region in a state with no state forensic laboratory brings a unique perspective to the ASCLD Board.
- Working as a Lead Assessor for the largest accrediting body in the Western Hemisphere has given me an inside edge to develop and maintain an excellent management and quality system at my own lab and will be an asset to ASCLD and those whom I am able to assist in the role of an ASCLD Board Member.

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?

I strongly encourage the Leadership Team at my laboratory to join forensic groups, make connections with others in our forensic community, and always look for opportunities to improve individually, within their discipline, organization, and profession.

I believe ASCLD provides this same encouragement on a more global level. I believe strongly in the “community” of forensic science. That community of forensic scientists, all of us, we are ASCLD. We have the opportunity and the responsibility to join together to encourage and support each other, to improve ourselves as forensic scientists, to improve our organizations, profession, and make significant strides forward with new technologies and innovative ideas.

Forensic laboratories are underfunded and understaffed to provide the needed services. ASCLD continues to play a major role in advocating for the forensic resources our communities need and deserve.

ASCLD should continue to be the global leader in providing the encouragement, support, training opportunities, and advocacy so we can continue to strive toward excellence as a Forensic Science Community.

Candidate Name:

Timothy Kupferschmid

Organization:

NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner

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Education:

- Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Environmental Science
- Master of Forensic Science (MFS)
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)

**Employment Experience:**

Chief of Laboratories at the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner. Responsible for executive leadership of seven departments that employs 323 scientists and staff. These are Forensic Biology, Forensic Toxicology, Evidence, Records, Molecular Genetics, Histology, and Health and Safety.

Founder/Executive Director of Sorenson Forensics, LLC. Sorenson Forensics is a private forensic DNA laboratory.

Founder/Executive Chairman of ASCLD Consulting, LLC. ASCLD Consulting was a wholly owned subsidiary of ASCLD, INC that was in operation for three years from 2006 – 2008.

Forensic Technical Director of Myriad Genetic Laboratories, Inc. I directed the forensic DNA laboratory at Myriad Genetic Laboratories.

Laboratory Director of Maine State Police Crime Laboratory. I directed the full-service laboratory that served the entire State of Maine.

Senior DNA Analyst at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory.

Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.)

Ethics Committee Chair, 2002 - 2010

Board of Directors, 2005 - 2008

Treasurer of ASCLD, 2007 - 2008

Founder / Executive Chair of ASCLD Consulting, LLC. This was a firm wholly owned by ASCLD to act as consultants to public crime labs who were seeking accreditation.

Vendor Relations for the 35th and 36th Annual Symposium
Advocacy Committee, 2017 – present
Genetic Genealogy Working Group, 2018 – present
Rapid DNA Subcommittee, 2018 – present

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

The committees best suited for my skillset are the Advocacy, Finance, and International Committees. I have served on the Advocacy Committee for the last several years and enjoy working on this vital service for ASCLD. The Finance Committee has come a long way since I served as Treasurer. The day-to-day finances are no longer handled by the treasurer, the job I did in 2007 and 2008. I will use my finance and managerial accounting skills I learned during my MBA and while working in private industry to help this committee. I have extensive experience working on forensic science issues internationally. I gained most of this experience in private industry assisting developing countries create forensic science laboratories. I have also assisted ICITAP and attended several international scientific symposia.

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

Public speaking is an important skill and I have been speaking behind a podium at scientific conferences, high-level meetings and negotiations since 1992. However, when it comes to communication, there are more important skills than public speaking. These are listening skills, empathy, respect, confidence, and brevity. Daily, I strive to improve my communication skills. These are the most important skills utilized in our professional and personal lives.

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD Board? What skills will you bring to the table?

From the moment I became a crime laboratory director in 2000, I have been dedicated to ASCLD. I joined the organization and began attending meetings. In fact, I have attended 18 meetings in the past twenty years. I served on the Board from 2005 – 2008 and would very much like to serve on it again. In the twelve years since I left the Board, I have gained experience, knowledge and skills in executive leadership that I will transfer to the Board. I lead a large and diverse work force (approximately 323 employees) with skills ranging from clerical associates to peace officers to MD, PhD-level scientist.

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?

ASCLD is the premier professional society for our industry and as such it holds the primary responsibility to raising the quality, efficiency and effectiveness levels of our fellow forensic science leaders and the laboratories we are currently stewarding.

Candidate Name:

Jennifer D. Naugle

Organization:

Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory- Division of Forensic Sciences

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Madison, WI 53705

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Education:

- BS in Biology, The Pennsylvania State University

**Employment Experience:**

- 1992-1996 Research Scientist-Michigan Biotechnology Institute
- 1996-current Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division
- 2014-current Welch, LaPorte & Associates

Employment experience:

Almost immediately upon graduation, I started my 17-year career in forensics in the DNA sections within a private company in Lorton, VA (Bode Technologies). In 2009, I moved to Wisconsin where I took a position in the DNA Databank/CODIS Unit at the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory in Madison, WI. I transitioned to the DNA Casework section and then eventually moved into a supervisor position for Criminalistics section in 2013 at the Madison, WI Crime Laboratory. I transitioned into a supervisor position for DNA Databank when the Wisconsin State statute collection laws were updated to include collections from misdemeanor convictions as well as a subset of felonious arrestee charges. This update included many transitions including new staff (hiring and training), building, program objectives, equipment and software solutions. After another transition to DNA Casework as a supervisor, I was promoted to Deputy Director for the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory system in November 2017 (to include oversight of operations, policies and administrative procedure for the Madison, Milwaukee and Wausau site locations). In 2019, I was placed into the Deputy Administrator position for the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory system when we became our own Division for the Wisconsin Department of Justice. This was a pivotal moment for Forensic Science in the state of Wisconsin and one that I was proud to be a part of. As part of my role for the state, I have found it important to rely on external partnerships in order for our state forensic science system to continue on the path of success. Thus, I have also committed

to participate on different committees externally to include: ASCLD Advocacy Committee, OSAC FS Working Group, and (most recently) the IGG Working Group.

Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.)

Aside from being an active member for ASCLD (to include encouraging my colleagues to join!), I have served on the Opioid Task Force (2017) and the Advocacy Committee (2017-present). I have gone through the Leadership Academy (2017) and I have held a half-day workshop for the ASCLD Symposium on Visionary Leadership in 2018.

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

Currently, I would like to continue working as a member of the Advocacy Committee. I value the wonderful perspectives from this group and the insight from the leadership on the committee. Of course, I am willing to assist the ASCLD community in whatever capacity I am needed from assisting/motivating laboratories to pursuing accreditation to assisting with policy and membership.

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

My skills to communicate verbally and in writing have grown exponentially in the past 17 years. My current role requires me to communicate consistently and effectively to the entire team of directors, supervisors, technical unit leaders, scientists and technical staff that I am responsible for leading for the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories – about 190 individuals. The Crime Labs in Wisconsin are the “one-stop-shop” for forensic science services and we serve 72 counties (529 law enforcement agencies). I not only need to communicate effectively with law enforcement, but also attorneys (district and defense), judges, as well as various other stakeholders. In my current role, this also includes the legislature and other community leaders in our state.

As part of my role, I do deliver a number of messages in writing whether via policy directives, updates or changes in service and technology. I have found that I have grown as an effective writer and have truly honed my skills in this area.

In addition to my continuous communication in writing, I have grown to fully appreciate delivering messages verbally. Whether it is presenting our Crime Laboratory Submission Guidelines to law enforcement and attorneys at the various conferences in our state or answering media questions, I have worked to ensure I have a clear and concise message while conveying a level of professional confidence and candor.

One of the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories strategic goals for 2019 was to hold a statewide multidisciplinary symposium specifically for law enforcement, attorneys, university partners, and so forth. This was a risk, as we had never accomplished this before and were uncertain as to whether it would be received well. The symposium was extremely well received by the attendees and we will be continuing to hold this symposium on an annual basis. Another strategic goal in 2019 was to also host a Midwest conference for crime laboratories. My boss and I both hosted – and I must say we had a lot of fun doing so. It was truly a rewarding experience and we were very pleased with the feedback from our forensic

science partners.

I am dedicated to effective communication as part of my job and feel I convey a level of confidence and poise while also employing a bit of humor (when appropriate, of course).

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD Board? What skills will you bring to the table?

I wholeheartedly believe in the mission of ASCLD and view its role in the forensic community as critical, therefore, I am very committed to serving on the Board. I believe that ASCLD is the organization looked to for guidance in the forensic leadership community and to be a part of that critical mission would be an honor.

I have a collaborative spirit, which I feel is an imperative skill in order to make our community better. It is only by working and learning in concert that we can progress as a scientific community. I enjoy hearing different perspectives and using these data points to encourage my colleagues to the right path. I have strong communication skills and I am a proven team player – these are a few reasons I have been successful in my career. I recognize that I have a full time challenging job as a leader within my own agency, but I have proven over the course of several years that I can take on those additional duties via effective time management skills and pure passion for this field.

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?

Forensic science laboratories have been in a crucial and transformational time period for a number of years. ASCLD has the greatest number of leaders and practitioners (current and former) and should therefore have the largest voice when advocating for the future of forensics within the criminal justice communities. The scientific practitioners in this field are some of the most intelligent, innovative and engaged professionals within the breadth of the scientific community. It is the role of ASCLD to support and guide these laboratories in: accreditation, engagement and adoption of the OSACs, educating the public and other scientists on what it is forensic scientists actually do, challenging the courtroom to expect better in their expert witnesses (both sides), engage Universities to strengthen their courses/programs for the future, challenge laboratories to refresh their training and competency objectives, challenge legislators within the states and federally to work with labs to increase capacity on a fiscal level. It would be an honor to be a part of shaping this strong future as a member of the board and I hope I will be considered.

Candidate Name:

Laura B. Sudkamp

Organization:

Kentucky State Police Division of Forensic Sciences

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Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: (502) 564-5230

E-mail: Laura.Sudkamp@ky.gov

Education:

- BA Chemistry, University of Kentucky

**Employment Experience:**

Kentucky State Police

- Internship to set up DNA Lab: Jan. 1989 – Sept. 1989
- Forensic Drug Chemist: Sept. 1989 – Nov. 1998
- Laboratory Supervisor: Nov. 1988 – Oct. 2000
- Laboratory Administrative Manager (Grants/Purchasing/LIMS): Oct. 2000 – Sept. 2004
- Laboratory Operations Manager: Sept. 2004 to present

Prior ASCLD experience (previous Board member, committee member, meeting volunteer, etc.)

- Board Member: 2008 – 2011, including Chair of the Nominating & Awards Committee.
- Advocacy POC
- Current Co-Chair of the Sexual Assault Kit Task Group
- Volunteer representative of ASCLD on an assessment of the ICITAP Forensic Science program in Mexico

If elected, I am interested in working on the following ASCLD issues/committees:

I am willing to help wherever you have a need to be filled. I recognize that when Board Members leave, specific holes are created, and new members are needed to fill those gaps. I have a lot of interest in the sexual assault kit related topics as well as Rapid DNA deployment in the Forensic Labs.

As a member of the Board, you may be asked to represent ASCLD at speaking engagements or develop written statements on behalf of the Board. How would you describe your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing?

I have an extensive speaking and writing background. I routinely speak to our legislators in person and at committee meetings regarding laboratory efforts, backlog status, funding needs, etc. I also do several annual trainings at the statewide Police Executive and Mid-Level Executive conferences held throughout the year. I was the primary author for the findings of the ICITAP-Mexico assessment as well as the recent ASCLD statement on the survey of labs and the number of sexual assault kits awaiting testing.

How committed are you to serving on the ASCLD Board? What skills will you bring to the table?

I have previously served one term on the Board, so I know the commitment that is required both in terms of time and effort. I am committed to be a full participant and serve the membership. I feel that I am someone who is easily approached with questions and concerns from the members. I am comfortable communicating information from the Board to the membership. I have over 30 years of experience in Forensic Science with almost 20 years in Management. I am the System Director with six laboratories across the state, each with their own personalities and different needs, just as our member labs come from a wide variety of sizes, services, and needs. I am a good negotiator and am often sought out to facilitate implementation of policies and practices in very diverse laboratories.

What role should ASCLD play in developing a strong future for forensic science laboratories?

ASCLD is not just the face of Forensic Science to the general public and/or legislature and governing bodies. ASCLD is the organization that Crime Laboratory Directors turn to for guidance, consultation, emergency responses, and peer to peer networking. I feel that the ASCLD Board needs to facilitate all of those functions and provide an infrastructure that allows for those interactions to occur. As new challenges and technologies arise within our industry, we need to put our heads together and work on solutions that would be impossible to do as individuals. ASCLD also provides training and development for our up and coming leaders through the leadership academy and the interactions at the annual symposium. The ASCLD organization is able to have discussions with national and state leaders to address the needs of the Crime Labs. ASCLD stands by our primary duty to ensure that competent, quality, unbiased testing is done and speaks out against pressures for shortcuts and denigration of our work.

2020 NEW ASCLD MEMBER CANDIDATES

Below are the new ASCLD member candidates to be voted on at the 2020 symposium.

Academic Member Candidates			
None			
Emeritus Member Candidates			
Jean	Stover	Retired Executive Director	
Regular Member Candidates			
Richard	Amberger	Chief Deputy Director	Indianapolis-Marion County City/County Government
Daniel	Baker	Chief Toxicologist	Franklin County Coroner's office
Elena	Bezdek	Supervising Criminalist	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office
Davis	Blanchard	Forensic Scientist Group Supervisor	Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Patricia	Bowen	Quality Assurance Manager	Marion County
Amber	Burns	Forensic Chemistry Manager	Maryland State Police
Emily	Campbell-Smith	Supervisor/DNA Technical Leader/QA Manager	York County Sheriff's Office
Anna	Cavanagh	Major/Laboratory Director	Richland County Sheriff's Department
Abirami	Chidambaram	Quality Assurance Manager	NM Dept of Public Safety
Jason	Chute	Director/DNA Technical Leader	Marshall University
Jason	Cooper	Forensic Services Program Manager	Pennsylvania State Police
Joseph	Corvo	Director of Lab Operations, IFS	NMS Labs
Lyndsi	De La Rosa	Trace Evidence Section Supervisor	Texas Dept of Public Safety
Penny	Dechant	Supervising Forensic Scientist	Arizona Dept of Public Safety
Bill	Demuth	Laboratory Director	Illinois State Police
Brooke	Ehlers	Laboratory Supervisor	Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab
Emily	Esquivel	Laboratory Director	Jefferson County
Susanne	Fleetwood	Laboratory Manager	Missouri State Highway Patrol
Christopher	Fontenot	Laboratory Manager	Texas Dept of Public Safety

Charles	Foster	Forensic Scientist IV	Alaska Department of Public Safety
Amy	Gerow	Supervising Forensic Scientist	Arizona Dept of Public Safety
Anthony	Gorgone	Chief of Forensic Science	Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Kellen	Hunter	Assistant Laboratory Director	Illinois State Police
Brian	Jones	Supervisory Fingerprint Specialist	United States Secret Service Forensic Laboratory
Tricia	Kacer	Section Supervisor 1/ Technical Leader	Texas Dept of Public Safety
David	Kanaris	Chief, Forensic Laboratories	Alaska Department of Public Safety
Amber	Kohl	Assistant Forensic Quality Assurance Manager	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Raymond	Kuk	Chief	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives
Lisa	Lehl	Supervisor, Forensic Biology/Drug Chemistry/Crime Scene	Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Amy	Lightfoot	Director of Operations	Utah Department of Public Safety
David	Love	Associate Deputy Assistant Administrator	Drug Enforcement Administration
Vanessa	Martinucci	Director	NC Department of Justice
Scott	Maye	Laboratory Director	Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Amy	McGuckian	Technical Leader	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Michael	Miller	Forensic Services Director	Anderson County Sheriff's Office
Heather	Mills	Forensic Scientist Manager	Utah Department of Public Safety
Carson	Neely	Captain	York County Sheriff's Office
Kati	Ong	Supervising Forensic Scientist	Arizona Dept of Public Safety
Manda	Orgeron	Crime Lab Analyst Supervisor - DNA Unit	Louisiana State Police Department of Public Safety
Dustin	Perry	Laboratory Manager	Colorado Dept. of Public Safety
Melinda	Raines	Forensic Scientist Supervisor	Scottsdale Police Department
Reyna	Shelton	Lead Fingerprint Specialist	United States Secret Service Forensic Laboratory
Nasir	Siddique	Supervisor, DNA & Serology Section	Government of Punjab, Home Department
Eliza	Smaltz	Forensic Lab Manager	Scottsdale Police Department
Celynda	Sowards	Casework Supervisor	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Kristen	Thoms	Assistant Technical Leader	Bode Technology
Nicholas	Tiscione	Toxicology Unit Manager	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Jessica	Trout	Quality & Technical Services Manager	Baltimore County Police Department
Eric	Wahoske	Supervising Criminalist	City of Los Angeles

Jerry	Walker	Laboratory Director	Drug Enforcement Administration
Crystal	Watson	Laboratory Director	Illinois State Police
Kelly	Whittle	Forensic Scientist Manager	Utah Department of Public Safety
Retired Member Candidates			
John	Byrd	ASCLD Executive Director	NC Department of Justice (Retired)
Henry	Swofford	Principal Analyst, HJS Consulting, LLC	US Army (Retired)
Lori	Wilson		Houston Forensic Science Center



The American Society of Crime Lab Directors

"Excellence Through Leadership in Forensic Science Management"

ASCLD Board of Directors & Committees 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICER REPORTS

President Elect's Report – President Elect Erin Forry

Planning ASCLD 2020 this year has been a great experience! The symposium theme for 2020, *Together Toward Tomorrow*, was inspired by the collegial atmosphere of the ASCLD symposium, the collaborations among our members in committees, and the ASCLD organization's partnerships with other organizations and initiatives.

In June, I traveled to Denver with President Brooke Arnone, Executive Directors Jean Stover and John Byrd, and Sponsorship Chair Jennifer McNair to meet with Kinsley Meetings, C-1 Trade Show Services, and MiMedia Productions and collaborate on creating a memorable event. Due to the Symposium starting in late March, we only had 9 months to pull everything together, so we started right in with planning meetings, website design, and advertising.

I continued to serve as Chair of the Standards and Accreditation Initiatives Committee this year as well as Chair of the United States Technical Advisory Group (US TAG) which represents the United States through ANSI at ISO. We hosted the Forensic Science Technical Committee (TC 272) meeting in May 2019 in St. Louis in conjunction with our Symposium. And in November 2019, I traveled to Singapore to the TC 272 meeting to continue developing forensic science standards in ISO.

I kept up with the Advocacy Committee on weekly telephone meetings whenever possible and attended monthly Board meetings including two in-person meetings in Utah and North Carolina. You can find more details in the Symposium Planning and Standards and Accreditation Initiatives Reports.

This January I presented a webinar through FTCOE and the ASCLD Train the Directors Series called *Quality: Beyond Accreditation*. The goal of the webinar was to provide some fundamental information about how accreditation developed in forensic science, describe a culture of quality in a crime laboratory and how to cultivate one, and share how the accrediting bodies, OSAC, ISO TC 272, and ASTM and ASB SDOs all relate.

President-Elect has been a great experience. I look forward to continuing to fulfill the Strategic Plan

developed by President Arnone and the ASCLD Board this past fall, working together with my colleagues on the Board, setting priorities, and leading ASCLD. I hope to connect with as many of you ASCLD members as I can at our Symposium this year both to encourage you to become engaged with our organization however you can and to learn what you as leaders in forensic science need from ASCLD.

Past President's Report – Matthew Gamette

It has been my pleasure to be on the ASCLD Board and represent the organization in many different venues and ways. I appreciate the opportunity I have had to learn and grow and hopefully make a contribution to the growth of this great organization. It has been an honor to get to work with amazing professionals on the Board and throughout the organization. I have learned a great deal about being a better manager and leader from each of you. I am so thankful for those that have mentored and helped me personally in many ways. I have been inspired by individuals that give so selflessly to this organization. I hope to be able to continue to serve the organization and my colleagues in many ways to continue to advance forensic science!

Meetings Representing ASCLD

- June 2019 ABA Forensics Conference at Fordham University
- Visited Puerto Rico to represent ASCLD and met with Governor and DPS Secretary
- Attended the FLN-TWG meeting and reported back to Board
- Attended the AAAS meeting in DC and reported back to Board
- Presented several times at AAFS meeting, NWAWS meeting, and the IAI meeting
- Census of Publicly Funded Forensic Science Labs planning group at RTI
- NIST Quality Assurance Meeting

Media, Publications, Presentations

- Texas Public Radio about laboratory independence and autonomy
- Several national newspapers about rape kit tracking
- Helped w/ press release & Synergy publication on SAKs w/ Laura Sudkamp & Ray Wickenheiser
- Testified before the United States Congress House Science Committee on forensic science needs

Board Efforts

- Led the ASCLD Accreditation Initiative with 6 labs moving toward accreditation
- Chaired the CFSO, Co-Chaired Advocacy, and worked on many advocacy issues
- Coordinated the Puerto Rico project and produced 10 reports for the lab
- Helped lead the Sexual Assault Kit Task Group

Other Work for ASCLD

- Worked on NIST OSAC QIC as an ASCLD appointed member and then affiliate member
 - Worked with the DEA/NFLIS on the survey of drug labs
 - Uploaded all the symposium video for the membership to view presentations after symposium
 - Assisted with symposium “proceedings” publication of abstracts in Synergy journal
 - Helped get two more scientific journals the “ASCLD Preferred Journal” designation
 - Worked on National Forensic Science Week legislation and commemorations.
 - Worked on the Debbie Smith Legislation (Passed Congress on 12/17/2019)
 - Worked with DOJ/NIJ on the publication of the Needs Assessment report
 - Worked with other forensic organizations to collaborate Needs Assessment press
 - Facilitated the CFSO/NIST/DOJ meeting on NIST OSAC 2.0 legislation
 - Met with FTCoE on the extension of the ASCLD Accreditation Initiative
 - Met with several universities about potential for a career bridge training program w/ labs
 - Met w/ Director of DOJ OJP about their plan to move forensic grants to BJA
 - Planning the ABA meeting at Fordham
-

Executive Directors Report – John Byrd and Jean Stover

- Executive Director Jean Stover participated with other board members in interviews at the ASCLD Symposium in St. Louis to fill her position. John Byrd was selected as the new Executive Director and this past year all operations were transitioned from former Executive Director Stover to new Executive Director Byrd
- Visited hotels in Birmingham, AL, Houston, TX and Austin, TX. The board selected and I signed a contract with the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, TX for the 2023 annual symposium and the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel in Birmingham, AL for the 2024 annual symposium.
- Closed out the 2019 symposium books.
- Working with Kinsley and the Symposium Planning Committee on the planning of the 2020 symposium in Denver, CO, including site visit, signing of contracts with vendors for the AV, Trade Show Services, Mobile App provider, and off-site events. I also worked with Kinsley on the symposium budget and reviewing email blasts for abstract submission.
- Switched out our teleconference service with West UC to PGI GlobalMeet.
- Worked with the Administrative Assistant to collect all outstanding 2019 membership dues payments. Any members who had not paid by the end of July were removed from membership. Sent out 2020 dues invoices at the end of December and have sent several follow-up email reminders.
- Removed former Executive Director and added new Executive Director to all accounts at Wells Fargo Bank and Mountain America.
- Moved all ASCLD electronic files (current and archived) to Office 365, OneDrive.

- We received Notice of Acceptance and Approval from the US Trademark Office for the renewal of the ASCLD logo. The next renewal will be in 2024.
 - Working with Deborah Leben and committees for the Accreditation Task Force, Communications, Sponsorship, and Training and Education (webinars).
 - Coordinated the arrangements for the in-person board meetings held in Salt Lake City, UT, September 13-15, 2019, and Raleigh, NC January 31-Feb 2, 2020.
 - Sent out several press releases to the membership.
 - Participated in a successful 2019 annual financial review by Langdon & Company on February 17-18, 2020 and provided information for ASCLD 2019-year end taxes.
 - Handled daily operations of the organization and provided guidance to ASCLD Board as needed.
 - Handled various calls and emails as they are received from members, students requesting forensic information, media requests, and other requests.
 - Solicited quotes from meeting planner companies and worked with the board to select a company for a new contract. The meeting planner company selected will be announced at the annual business meeting.
 - Created an Acronym Glossary with terms frequently used in forensics.
 - Researched and obtained quotes for an ASCLD Challenge coin (a smaller coin than the President's Medallion) and, after approval by the board, ordered coins to be distributed by the ASCLD board.
-

Treasurer's Report – Rita Dyas

Wells Fargo (balances 01/31/2020)

Checking Account:	\$413,639.15
Money Market Account:	<u>\$177,451.23</u>
Total Cash Accounts	\$591,090.38

Mountain America (balances 01/31/2020)

ID25 MA-1 – 5Yr Term – Maturity 12/02/20 – 2.080%	\$21,910.62
ID26 MA-2 – 5Yr Term – Maturity 11/30/21 – 2.280%	\$21,715.51
ID23 MA-4 – 4Yr Term – Maturity 11/26/22 – 3.250%	\$21,740.57
ID27 MA-6 – 5Yr Term – Maturity 11/28/22 – 2.760%	\$21,854.51
ID24 MA-5 – 5Yr Term – Maturity 11/26/24 – 2.370%	<u>\$22,177.24</u>

Total Money Market Accounts	\$109,398.45
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Total Dividends Earned Year to Date	\$235.21
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Total Dividends Earned in 2019	\$2,654.98
2019 Symposium – Net Income	\$92,959.37

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy – Committee Co-Chairs Matthew Gamette and Bruce Houlihan

Present Committee: Dennis Hilliard, Todd Hughey, Laura Sudkamp, Jay Henry, Bruce Houlihan, Alicia Rosenberg, Charlie Morden, Brian Hoey, Tim Kupferschmid, William Watson, Jennifer Naugle, Michael Ward, Elizabeth Flannery, Kerri Heward, Wanda Kuperus, Sharon Lemons, Stephanie Stoiloff, Mark Powell, John Byrd, Past-President Ray Wickenheiser, Past-President Matthew Gamette, President Brooke Arnone, President-Elect Erin Forry. New POCs Kerri Heward, Michael Ward (Bold indicates a regional POC)

The Advocacy Committee remains very active. Committee Co-Chairs Matthew Gamette and Bruce Houlihan coordinate weekly teleconferences with members of ASCLD Board of Directors and CFSO Lobbyist Beth Lavach. The Committee held monthly full-committee teleconferences to discuss activities and efforts of the committee and get information about needs of membership from the Points of Contact (POC) in the respective regions. Informational emails on a number of topics were constantly distributed through the year to the membership through the POCs.

CFSO

Matthew Gamette remains Chair of the CFSO. He holds at least monthly teleconferences with the CFSO member organizations. Many publications regarding the federal budget and other important items were constantly communicated throughout the year. CFSO Chair Gamette and representatives from other CFSO member organizations visited with legislators and federal agencies throughout the year to discuss the needs of the forensic science community. Membership dues remained stable and CFSO has been highly effective in lobbying for ASCLD this year.

Regional Points of Contact

A list of the regions and the POCs is now in the Member Site area of the ASCLD Website. Kerri Heward replaced Jay Henry in the West and Michael Ward replaced Andrea Fielding.

Congressional Testimony

We were pleased to be invited by the United States Congress House Science Committee to testify about the accomplishments of the forensic science community in the last ten years and current and future needs of the forensic science community on September 10, 2019. Advocacy Co-chair Matthew Gamette, Idaho State Police Forensic Services Director, represented the perspective of lab leadership at the hearing.

Legislative Efforts Highlights

- Worked extensively on Debbie Smith Act (HR 777) signed 12/30/2019 (PL 116-104)
- Worked on Fentanyl Rescheduling that passed as -S. 3201

- Helped obtain funding for the NIST OSAC & 30m in Coverdell funding in FY20 budget.
- Wrote National Forensic Science Week legislation for second time Congressional recognition. Congress passed legislation to recognize week in Senate and introduced in House for first time.
- Worked on VAWA reauthorization
- Worked on potential legislation to benefit labs working on unidentified remains and to reauthorize NamUS.
- Worked with NIJ on some issues with the Coverdell grants impact on state labs.
- Provided a federal budget updates to the membership.

FY20 Approved Budget Worked by Advocacy

- \$30m in Coverdell funding (\$11m above authorization)
- \$3m in funding for NIST OSAC
- \$132m in DNA funding
- \$48m SAKI
- \$3m CARA
- Fully fund Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance (ESOOS) for 50 states

Federal Budget	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021 (President)
Coverdell	\$30m	\$30m	\$10m
DNA	\$132m	\$132m	\$105m
Debbie Smith	\$102m	\$102m	\$97m
State and Local	\$19m	\$19m	\$0
Kirk Bloodsworth	\$7m	\$7m	\$4m
SAFE (Exams)	\$4m	\$4m	\$4m
SAKI	\$48m	\$48m	\$47.5m
OSAC	\$3. m	\$3.15m	\$0m
Forensic Technical Merit	\$1m	\$1m	\$1m
Research to NIJ			\$43.5m
“Other forensic science”			\$19m

Federal Forensic Science Needs Assessment Report

- Reviewed pre-distribution drafts of the needs assessment and provided comment to NIJ
- Discussed implementation of the report with NIJ and OIFS

Meeting Highlights

- President Arnone, Past Presidents Gamette and Wickenheiser attended the CFSO OSAC strategy session in Washington DC with other CFSO members
- Participated in NIST Quality Assurance conference in Washington DC
- Participated in planning survey of federally funded FSSPs meeting at RTI (Durham NC)
- AAAS Meeting on 10 years post NAS report in Washington DC
- ASCLD chaired CFSO and held monthly Board meetings.
- Multiple meetings in Washington DC which included:
 - Senate and House Judiciary Committees
 - Senate and House Appropriations Committees
 - House Energy and Commerce Committee (Senate request pending)
 - House and Senate Science Committees
 - Personal offices of numerous Congressmen and Senators
 - Leadership in House and Senate
 - NIJ, OJP, DOJ, BJA, OVW, OAG, ODAG, NHTSA, OMB, GAO, NIST, CDC
 - Multiple meetings on forensic needs assessment at DOJ
 - Meetings with NIJ regarding Pathologist shortages and FS workforce shortages
 - Advocacy members attended several FLN-TWG meetings throughout the year

Presentation Highlights

- ASCLD Meeting: Membership and BOD
- AAFS Meeting: Membership and BOD
- IAI Meeting: Membership and BOD
- NWAFS Meeting: Membership
- United States House Science Committee Hearing on NAS report-Sept 10, 2019--Gamette testified.
- ABA Meeting at Fordham Law School (NYC)—moderated panels and several FSSP presentations
- Western Lab Directors Meeting and FORESIGHT meeting
- NAME Board of Directors
- SOFT/ABFT Board of Directors

Position Papers and Letters of Support Highlights

ASCLD advocacy worked on a number of position statements and news releases during the year including providing leadership on CFSO position statements and news releases.

- Needs Assessment:
 - [Forensic Science Community Needs \\$1 Billion Dollars Annually \(Dec 20, 2019\)](#)
 - [ASCLD Comments to NIJ's 2019 Needs Assessment Report \(Dec 20, 2019\)](#)

- General:
 - [Comments to the federal register for USDA Hemp regulations open comment period](#)
 - [CFSO Press Release on DOJ Interim Policy on Genealogy](#)
 - [CFSO FY20 June 2019 Forensic Update](#)
 - [Stakeholders Letter on Byrne JAG in FY20 with signatures](#)
 - [CFSO Recognizes NAS Tenth Anniversary](#)
 - Generated newsletters, budget briefings, and emails distributed through POCs and ASCLD President on various advocacy topics to membership during the year.
-

Communications – Committee Chair Lisa Burdett

Committee members: Angelo Bommarito, Steve Butler, Brianne Gobeski, Deborah Leben, John Maciulla, Catherine Navette and Jeremy Triplett

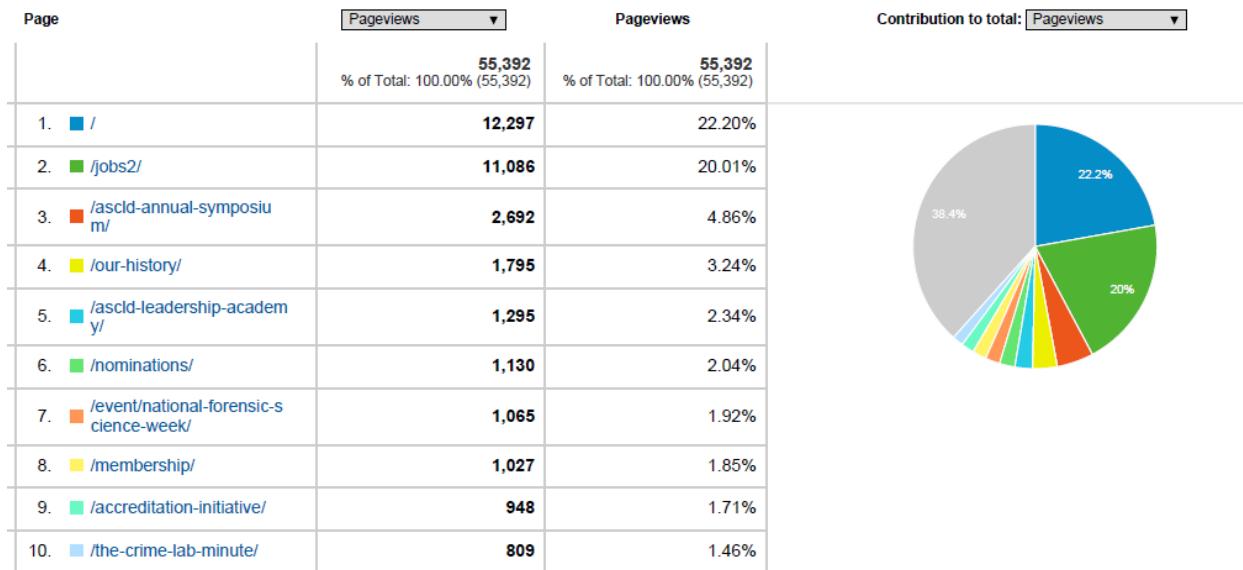
Activity from May 2019 to February 2020

Crime Lab Minute (CLM)

- Angelo Bommarito resigned on the committee, Brianne Gobeski continues and picked up two months that Angelo was to do as John Maciulla came on board as another CLM member. They will share the work of creating and editing the CLM each week. Debbie has volunteered to be a backup when needed.
- The How-To manual for the CLM is nearing completion.
- Constant Contact feedback shows an open rate of just shy of 50%.
- The sections in the CLM continue:
 - President's Corner – Weekly address to members from our president
 - Looking Ahead – Calendar of ASCLD events
 - Weekly News and Resources – Community Research, Newsletters, and Surveys
 - LEAP – Laboratories and Educators Alliance Program information and links
 - Scholarships - opportunities for Forensic science related scholarships
 - Standards Corner – AAFS Standards Board (ASB) and OSAC news updates
 - Training – Up coming training opportunities, including ASCLD's Train the Director series and up coming major meetings, such as AAFS and Forensic Science Symposium.
 - ASCLD Partnerships – CFSO, NIJ
 - CLM Sponsors
 - What's New? – as needed
 - Donate to ASCLD – link to ASCLD website and online capability to donated to ASCLD

ASCLD Website

- Jeremy Triplett continues to handle the administration and updates for the website. Other people are being brought in to help with various components found within the website.
- New website was launched this past year.
- AAI toolkit was launched early 2020.
- The following metrics have been collected regarding the website and how many hits on the web page overall as well as individual components found on the web page. The data is for the past year.



Social Media

Steve Butler continues as the manager for the social media. He has worked closely with Jeremy to make sure that the social media sites are current with what is on the web page.

Ethics & Bylaws – Committee Chair Scott O'Neill

Committee Members: Brooke Arnone, Catherine Navetta, Elizabeth Ziolkowski, Glen Spencer, Jason Schroeder, Lonnie Ginsberg, Meghan Blackburn, Nancy Crump, Robyn Quinn, Sid Popejoy, Steve Garrett

There were two (2) allegations of ethics violations formally submitted. The committee reviewed and discussed them and recommended appropriate actions to the Board of Directors.

The ASCLD Code of Ethics was revised with the Board's approval to specify that the Ethics Allegation Form must be used if an allegation is submitted and to ensure gender neutrality. The Ethics Allegation Form was revised to include a line for the name of the person who is the subject of the allegation and signature of the person who is submitting the allegation. Both updated versions are on the website.

There are no proposed changes to the Bylaws.

Eligibility requirements for nomination for Board of Directors and membership eligibility requirements were discussed. No action was taken this year.

Forensic Research – Committee Chair Henry Maynard

Committee Members and Task Group Leads: Henry Maynard, LEAP; Lisa Yoshida, Evaluation/Validation Tracking; Ashley Hall, Research Award; Debbie Leben, Outreach; Henry Swofford, Implementation; Jose Almirall, Future Forensics; Ashraf Mozayani, Jeremy Triplett, Nicole Jones, Bruce Houlihan, Tracy Dawson Cruz, Jeff Comparin, and Edward Sisco. (New Task Groups in Bold)

ASCLD Research Needs List

- Updated the ASCLD Research Needs List
- Approved by the Board
- Posted on the FRC Webpage

LEAP Program (Henry M.)

- Continue to add participants to the LEAP Map as they sign-up
- 93 participating LEAP Labs and Universities and growing!
- Outreach to professional organizations
- Updating the FRC Webpage to include highlights from labs and universities that have partnered (video of KBI and Washburn University's partnership)
- ASCLD FRC table highlighting LEAP at AAFS
- LEAP Poster at the Center for Advanced Research in Forensic Science (CARFS) Meeting and Reception

Evaluation/Validation Tracking (Lisa)

- Iterations of a data collector were reviewed and necessary data identified
- Approval was granted to make the current repository public-facing and to be rebranded.
- Marketing for this repository resource has started.
- Goal is to have 20 items in the repository by the end of the year.

Outreach Efforts (Debbie)

- FRC Newsletter – for membership and LEAP partners
- Outreach to universities and labs to participate in LEAP
- Update Communications Committee with FRC activities

Research Award (Ashley)

- Finalized the award application, virtual seal and advertisements
- Released the award solicitation in early December – widely advertised (ASCLD website, Crime Lab Minutes, AAFS, FTCoE, LEAP participants)

- Applications received, currently under review by Awards Committee
- Awardee selection in March, 2020

Implementation (Henry S.)

- Obtained ASCLD BOD approval for committee action plan.
- Coordinated with OSAC Program Office to develop a survey for ASCLD membership for purposes of understanding:
 - key challenges many laboratories face with implementation initiatives
 - baseline information and feedback about the extent documents included on the OSAC Registry have been implemented or are intended to be implemented into crime laboratory standard operating procedures
- Coordinated with ASCLD Standards and Accreditation Initiative Committee for survey review and comment.
- Obtained ASCLD President approval for survey distribution to membership.

Future Forensics (Jose)

- Establish the goals for the Task Group
 - Circulated the goals with Task Group members for input
 - Gathered journal data for distribution to Task Group members
 - Expect to generate the first report prior to the next ASCLD BOD meeting
-

International – Committee Co-Chairs Christian Westring and Tony Tessarolo

Committee Members: Angelo Bommarito, Ashraf Mozayani, Benjamin S Swanholm, Brady Mills, Brooke Arnone, Catherine Doherty, Catherine Nigra, Chris Taylor, Christian Westring, Dayong Lee, Elyah Springer, Erin Forry, Erin Sweeney, Jason Bond, Jay Henry, Jeremy Triplett, Jeri Miller, John Bowen, John Byrd (ASCLD Director), Channell, Kermit, Kerri Heward, Kevin Lothridge, Loren Mercer, Lori Nix, Lori Wilson, Mark Mogle, Mauricio Chacon, Meghan Blackburn, Michael Ward, Mike Kessler, Nicole Jones, Ranee Ho, Richard Somiari, Ryan Larrison, Scott Hummel, Soraya McClung, Timothy Scanlan, Tony Tessarolo, Wanda Kuperus

- INTERNATIONAL FORENSIC STRATEGIC ALLIANCE | DUNDEE UNIVERSITY, SCOTLAND

International Forensic Strategic Alliance (IFSA): As the Chair of International Committee, I've had the great pleasure of representing ASCLD across the globe at a variety of professional meetings. This year, with a focus on the future of the International Committee, Co-Chair Tony Tessarolo represented ASCLD and the International Committee at the IFSA meeting at Dundee University (Scotland) to meet with recognized leaders from the six regional networks (*Senior Managers of Australian and New Zealand Forensic Laboratories, SMANZFL; European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, ENFSI; Academia Iberoamericana de Criminalística y Estudios Forenses, AICEF; Asian Forensic Sciences Network, AFSN; Southern Africa Regional Forensic Science Network, SARFS; and ASCLD*) which comprise the IFSA network. The International Forensic Strategic

Alliance (IFSA) is a multilateral partnership between regional networks of operational forensic laboratories across the globe. Its goal is to create opportunities for strategic collaboration across the global forensic science community. As one of the founding members of IFSA, ASCLD continues its strong support of these efforts in the international community and looks forward to building on this history into the future.

IFSA met on October 3-4, 2019 at the Leverhulme Research Centre (LRC) for Forensic Science at Dundee University in Scotland. LRC Director, Niamh Nic Daeid, and Deputy Director Michael Marra, were gracious hosts for this two-day event. The objectives for the meeting were to reestablish priorities for IFSA and to identify clear commitment for the next year and beyond.

The LRC has extensive research capability, and dedicated funding to support the conduct of research with direct applicability to forensic practitioners and operational forensic laboratories. IFSA has committed to having LRC as a Strategic Partner moving forward. The bulk of the two days was spent on developing a research priorities document, which attempts to capture key areas of global importance and interest. The document will be used initially by ENFSI in the consideration of research funding administered from the EU.

ASCLD has traditionally provided website supports for IFSA and a request for a continuance of this has been made. Updates to the site are required with respect to Minimum Requirements Document (MRD) uploads and a request has been made through the UN (Justice Tettey) for some website analytics related to the download of those documents.

Over the coming year, under the leadership of the new Chair, Linzi Wilson-Wilde, IFSA will be focused on several priorities including the development of a formal Research Statement and a Business Plan.

Our collaborative efforts to discuss strategic issues impacting forensic science on a global scale strengthens our core mission of developing minimum requirement documents (MRDs), new and emerging technologies, and forensic science service models (for more details, visit www.ifsa-forensics.org).



From Left to Right (clockwise): Angeline Yap, Paul Ludick, Niamh Nic Daeid, Tony Tessarolo, Michael Marra, Jose Fiadeiro, Linzi Wilson-Wilde, John Rowan, John Doherty, John Doherty, and Marj Davis.

- **INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR 2019-2020**

- **Puerto Rico Forensic Science Laboratory Support Initiative:** In an effort to support our friends and colleagues in Puerto Rico following the devastating impact of hurricane Irma and Maria, ASCLD has been providing technical and managerial support since 2018. For complete details, please see the summary report provided by Past-President Matthew Gamette.
- **Spanish Working Group:** In an effort to support our current efforts around Latin American countries (Mexico, Central, and South America), the International Committee has begun to develop a Spanish Working Group following our participation in the Central American Leadership Academy hosted in Costa Rica. Director Brooke Arnone, Past President Jeremy Triplet, and Director Christian G. Westring attended this meeting and provided presentations on topics included historical reviews of challenges faced in the US forensic community, the value of accreditation, and quality assurance at the crime scene. In addition, the meeting was also attended by Kevin Lothridge of the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC), and Mark Mogle of the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP).
- **Promoting Leadership Engagement:** Focus on promoting opportunities for leadership engagement, accreditation, and historical perspectives from lessons learned in the US to include the NAS Report, OSAC and other technical working groups (SWGs), PCAST, and ANAB (ASCLD/LAB)

- **Laboratory Personnel/Exchange Programs:** Promote the laboratory exchange programs, aka “host lab/visiting scholar opportunities” amongst interested participants. (upcoming leaders, development opportunities, and propagating scientific growth).
 - **Speaking Engagements:** Continued support to presentations and speaking engagements in the international community to promote leadership, quality, and accreditation.
 - **Webinar Series:** On-demand webinars for international audiences in the forensic leadership community.
-

Membership – Committee Chair Jeffrey Nye

Committee Members: Deanna Lankford, Ilene Alford, Jennifer McNair, Julie Sikorsky, Karen Martin, Kerry Heward, Nelson Santos, Robin Woolery, Roshale Gaytmenn, and Sharon Lemons.

For the 2019 Membership Drive, the Committee sent invitations via email to prospective members including non-member symposium attendees and those that expressed an interest in being an ASCLD member.

The committee approved a total of 56 applications for Board consideration at their meeting in March/April 2020. A list of applicants has been forwarded to ASCLD President Arnone for publication to the membership in the Crime Lab Minute as required by the by-laws. The breakdown of membership applicants is as follows:

Academic Member applications – 0
Emeritus Member – 1
Regular Member applications – 52
Retired Member applications – 3

With the anticipated inclusion of these applicants, membership will exceed 700 members.

The committee plans to recognize the top two members who sponsored the most new members at the Business Meeting in Denver.

Member Resource - Committee Co-chairs Linda Jackson and Tony Tessarolo

Members: Brooke Arnone, Sara Bitner, Jason Bundy, Jeffrey Comparin, Nancy Crump, Lydia De Castro, Vince Figarelli, Erin Forry, Mike Garvey, Dennis Hilliard, Nicole Jones, Roger Kahn, Catherine Knutson, Ashraf Mozayani, Leslie Parke, Jeri Ropero-Miller, Michael Trimpe, Jeremy Triplett, Ray Wickenheiser, Jody Wolf, Tate Yeatman

The Member Resource Committee has worked on the following issues this past year:
Discipline Expectations

- The *Discipline-specific Performance Expectations* document provided several examples used in laboratories to evaluate casework completion for examiners. It was uploaded to the ASCLD Manager's Toolkit and published in the November 25, 2019 Crime Lab Minute. It is available here: <https://www.ascld.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Scientific-Discipline-Expectation-Summaries.pdf>.

Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) Position Statement

- Dr. Ray Wickenheiser drafted a position statement on considerations for laboratories as they implement policies and procedures for IGG. The MRC helped edit the document before the Board adopted it in October 2019. It is available here: <https://www.ascld.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/ASCLD-IGG-10.18.19.pdf>.

Salary Survey

- Jeremy Triplett requested assistance collating and reviewing the data from the Kentucky State Police salary survey performed in 2019. A subcommittee is working to write up and disseminate the data.

Recruitment/Interview Question Bank

- Mike Trimpe has led an effort to collate de-identified interview questions into a Question Bank, which will be stored in the password-protected Manager's Toolkit. The Question Bank will be grouped into subject matter categories.
- Mike Trimpe grouped all questions into subject matter categories. The list was discussed and found to be a useful tool. As a reminder, the de-identified list of questions will be kept in the password protected ASLCD Manager's Toolkit.
- Any member that would like to share de-identified questions is invited to send them to Mike (michael.trimpe@hamilton-co.org).

Hemp Resources

- Linda Jackson volunteered to collate marijuana analytical schemes being adopted by laboratories that differentiate marijuana from hemp.
- Any member that would like to share their marijuana analytical scheme is invited to send them to Linda (linda.jackson@dfs.virginia.gov)

The Member Resource Committee includes the following:

Emerging Drugs Task Force (EDTF) – Chair Director Bruce Houlihan

- Due to the success of the EDTF completing their work, the task force was sunset. Bruce Houlihan sent an email to members thanking them for their service on the task force. He will maintain the “Resources” page on the group’s shared site and will continue to be a liaison between ASCLD and agencies relating to emerging drugs (e.g., NFLIS, CDC, HIDTA).
- The MRC thanks Bruce for his great work on this task force! The position statements on opioid safety and funding for instrumentation have been extremely helpful to the community.

Rapid DNA – Chair Brian Hoey

- Brian Hoey and Stephanie Stoiloff are beginning to redraft the Rapid DNA white paper and will then convene the task group to seek input.

Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) – Chair Ray Wickenheiser, PhD

- Dr. Ray Wickenheiser reported that the ISHI HITA Rapid DNA workshop on September 22, 2019 had approximately 60 attendees and included a mock disaster scenario among other topics.
- The Northeast Rapid DNA User Group met in Albany on October 15, 2019 with approximately 120 attendees and included information on validation studies among other topics.
- Chris Miles, Department of Homeland Security, updated the committee on software in development and Rapid DNA DVI deployments for the Camp Fire and Boat Fire (CA). The California Boat Fire response resulted in 33 IDs in 10 days and an article is planned.

Stress and Trauma Working Group – Co-chairs Alice Isenberg and Alicia Rosenberg

Members: Jonathan McGrath (NIJ), Andrew Levin (Columbia University), Selena McKay-Davis (Riverside, CA PD), Heidi Eldridge (RTI for NIJ), Amy Jeanguenat (Mindgen, LLC), Lindsay DePalma (Booz, Allen Hamilton for NIJ), Heidi Putney (NIJ, research assistant), Danielle Crimmins (NIJ, research assistant), Angela Farrington Columbus, OH Police), Erin Forry (Boston PD), Donia Slack (RTI for NIJ), Jeremy Triplett (KY State Police)

- Developed position statement entitled “Trauma and Stress in the Field of Forensic Science” published by ASCLD BOD on February 19, 2019
- Defined the problem/created awareness about vicarious trauma/stress
- Established ASCLD’s support for research/training re: vicarious trauma/stress
- Offered ASCLD members as potential subjects for research
- Held half-day workshop on stress and wellness at the ASCLD Symposium in May 2019
- Developed research plan in conjunction with NIJ and executed needs assessment on stress and vicarious trauma for forensic practitioners at a cross-section of labs
 - Researchers supplied lab staff with 2 surveys: Quality of Life survey and the Virtual Trauma Toolkit survey to measure stress and laboratory programming available to support employees
 - 533 responses were obtained (approximately 20% response rate)

- Once data analysis is complete, results will be shared at AAFS Annual meeting and ASCLD Symposium 2020
 - Marketed webinars, workshops, podcasts, etc. to ASCLD members via the Crime Lab Minute for topics related to stress and wellness. Many webinars were sponsored by the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE).
 - Initiated planning for a 2.5-day mini symposium to be held with NIJ funding to discuss stress and vicarious trauma topics. Event will pull together lab directors, lab staff, and experts in one place, as well as being webcast. Hope to hold in summer/fall 2020.
 - Initiated development of a job aid for forensic practitioners/managers to define and provide background on stress and trauma topics as well as provide resources for further learning (videos, etc.). Goal for completion is Spring 2020 and will reside on the ascld.org website.
-

Nominating & Awards – Committee Chair Scott O'Neill

Committee Members: Adam Becnel, Alicia Rosenberg, Angela Farrington, Brooke Arnone, Jason Schroeder, Jeri Ropero-Miller, Lisette Baron, Natalie Morgan

Briggs White Award

Committee reviewed all nominations and recommended a candidate to the Board of Directors

Board of Directors Candidates (alphabetical order)

- Kerri T. Heward – Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division, Reno NV
- Timothy Kupferschmid – NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York, NY
- Jennifer D. Naugle – Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory – Division of Forensic Sciences, Madison, WI
- Laura B. Sudkamp – Kentucky State Police Division of Forensic Sciences, Frankfort, KY

2020 scholarships

- Applications were reviewed
- Up to 2 awards will be given before the Symposium

Ed Rhodes scholarship for ABC examination

- 2020 Deadline for scholarship applications is February 24th, 2020

Member of the Year Award

- Committee reviewed all nominations and recommended a candidate to the Board of Directors
-

Standards and Accreditation Initiatives – Committee Chair Erin Forry

Committee Members: Carl Anderson, Brooke Arnone, Jason Bond, Rita Dyas, Matthew Gamette, Kendra Hardy, Ranee Ho, Bruce Houlihan, Jan Johnson, Catherine Knutson, Deborah Leben, Jason Linder, Kevin Lothridge, Ashraf Mozayani, Lori Nix, Jeffrey Nye, Stewart Raley, Tom Stimpson, Ray Wickenheiser, Jody Wolf, Dustin Yeatman, Pam Zilly, Erika Ziemak

The Standards and Accreditation Initiatives Committee was created in 2019 to advance ASCLD's mission to promote, encourage, and maintain the highest standards of quality in forensic science.

The committee is comprised of the following sub-committees and task groups:

- US TAG to ISO TC 272 Forensic Sciences
- OSAC: QIC and FSSB
- ASCLD Accreditation Initiative
- ABC

United States Technical Advisory Group (US TAG) to ISO TC 272 Forensic Sciences Mirror Committee

Erin Forry, (US TAG Chair) Jody Wolf (US TAG Secretariat),

ASCLD continues to serve as the administrator to the US TAG. The US TAG is comprised of nine member entities: AFQAM, ANAB, ASB, ASCLD, ASCIA, DFBA, DOJ, IAI, and NIST. The US TAG most recently welcomed the IAI as a member in Fall of 2019 and they have been a welcome addition.

In 2018, the ISO TC 272 published two of the five parts of the ISO 21043 Forensic Sciences series of standards. In December, ISO 21043-2: Recognition, recording, collecting, transport, and storage of items, was added as the 25th standard to the OSAC Registry, a repository of high quality standards.

ASCLD and the US TAG hosted our international colleagues from 12 nations at the ISO TC 272 Spring Meeting at the ASCLD Symposium in St. Louis in May 2019. Chair Erin Forry led a delegation of eight representatives of the US TAG at a TC 272 meeting in Singapore, in November 2019. Secretariat Jody Wolf and Chair Erin Forry plan to lead a delegation of representatives of the US TAG at an upcoming TC 272 meeting in Copenhagen. In preparation for this meeting, ANAB graciously hosted a meeting of US TAG members in National Harbor, Maryland in January 2020. The TC 272 will continue work on the remaining three standards in the 21043 series: analysis, interpretation, and reporting. These standards are expected to be published in late 2021.

Members of the Standards and Accreditation Initiatives Committee assisted in reviewing and providing comments on these standards which were submitted on behalf of ASCLD to the US TAG.

OSAC QIC and FSSB Representatives

QIC Members: Rita Dyas, Bruce Houlihan, Catherine Knutson, Jan Johnson, Pam Zilly

ASCLD is represented by five members on the Quality Infrastructure Committee in the OSAC. As OSAC changes structure, our members continue to assist the SACS and with the following project:

- OSAC Lexicon

The QIC is working with the SACs, FSSB, and Resource Committees to improve and add terms, including identifying preferred, published, and standard terms in the lexicon.

FSSB ASCLD Representative: Ray Wickenheiser

Ray Wickenheiser continues to represent ASCLD at the FSSB and is focusing on the Outreach Committee.

OSAC Registry Standards Implementation

- Impact Assessment Surveys

The OSAC requested ASCLD to develop and distribute Impact Assessment Surveys to ASCLD members. The purpose is to gather information on how standards may affect laboratories. These surveys are communicated to the membership on the Crime Lab Minute. Results are compiled into a report and provided to the FSSB for review.

- Implementation Survey

The Forensic Research Committee and Standards and Accreditation Initiatives Committee collaborated to distribute a survey which solicited information about how the community is implementing current and forthcoming standards which are listed on the OSAC registry. This survey was shared with ASCLD and IAI members. The survey was distributed in February. Data will be reviewed and compiled into a report after March 2020.

ASCLD Domestic Accreditation Initiative Task Force

Brooke Arnone, Rita Dyas, Matthew Gamette, Ranee Ho, Deborah Leben, Tom Stimpson

In May 2018, the ASCLD Board of Directors identified a special initiative to partner with the accrediting organizations and trained assessors within the ASCLD community to mentor laboratories that need assistance in their pursuit of accreditation. In order to fully execute this plan, ASCLD secured funding from RTI to support laboratories in obtaining accreditation.

The ASCLD Domestic Accreditation Taskforce (ADATF) is comprised of laboratory directors, quality assurance managers and technical subject matter experts that have been trained and certified as Assessors

by an accrediting organization and have served in the role as an Assessor for an accreditation program. The ADATF is designed to work in a mentoring and advisory capacity with a laboratory as the laboratory takes critical steps to achieve International accreditation within the upcoming year. The objective of this taskforce is to partner with labs that have committed resources to actively work towards accreditation.

ASCLD's commitment is to mentor and survey the candidate throughout this initiative and, in partnership with NIJ Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE) and RTI, design a dynamic toolkit outlining critical steps in pursuing accreditation with relevant standards, lessons learned, and best practices; and a strong network of stakeholders that have agreed to jumpstart this effort.

Pilot testing continued between the committee members and pilot labs to develop a Roadmap and critical steps to Accreditation. And, in April 2019, ASCLD launched the ASCLD Accreditation Initiative. Four labs were selected through an intake process to participate: City of Boise Crime Lab, Salt Lake City Police Department, City of Nampa Crime Lab, Kaua'i Police Department and Securus Technologies. These organizations continue to work toward applying for accreditation.

An Accreditation Toolkit was launched on the ASCLD website in January 2020. Also, in January, the ASCLD Board dissolved the ADATF and moved to expand the AAI to add additional laboratories to the program.

Puerto Rico Task Force – Task Group Chair Matthew Gamette

Present Committee: President Brooke Arnone, Past-President Matthew Gamette, Past-President Ray Wickenheiser, Jennifer McNair, Bruce Houlihan, Christian Westring, Tim Scanlan, Arlene Hall, Kris Deters, John Byrd, Kerry Hogan, Rick Lautenbach

ASCLD made a presentation at the AAFS meeting in the Anthropology section with many of the project contributors. Provided a summary or the work done in PR to support humanitarian project. ASCLD Board voted January 2020 not to renew the MOU and discontinue task group.

Achievements

- **Ten Technical Reports**
 - Forensic Anthropology: Feb. 14, 2019
 - Forensic Toxicology: April 17, 2019
 - Medical Examiner's Office: Aug. 1, 2019
 - Firearms Toolmarks: Sept. 30, 2019
 - DNA and SAKs: Dec. 1, 2019
 - Chemistry: Jan. 27, 2020
 - Quality Assurance: Jan. 27, 2020
 - Evidence: Jan. 27, 2020

- Trace Analysis: Pending final approval
 - Digital Evidence: Pending final approval
- **Five Direct Services Trips**
 - Apr 2018: Needs assessment
 - Oct 2018: Second needs assessment
 - Jan 2019: Signed MOU, forensic experts met with each discipline; forensic anthropologists
 - April-May 2019: HHS sponsored; forensic pathologists & anthropologists
 - Dec 2019: assessed status of recommendations, potential for ongoing assistance
- **Six Categories of Contributions**
 - Forensic Scientists
 - January 2019 trip:
 - 13 ASCLD scientists evaluated disciplines
 - ASCLD Leadership Academy
 - Forensic Anthropologists: casework examining skeletons, and assessments: total 105 cases, 11 anthropologists
 - January 2019 trip: 47 cases (8 anthropologists)
 - April-May 2019 trip: 58 cases (4 anthropologists)
 - Forensic Pathologists: autopsies & externals, and assessments
 - April-May 2019 trip: 122 cases (102 autopsies, 20 external exams) (7 pathologists & 8 assistants)
 - National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME)
 - Provided provisional accreditation
 - Outsourcing
 - Idaho State Police Crime Lab took ~20 toxicology cases
 - Donations
 - Sexual Assault Kit Tracking
 - Idaho: donated software
 - North Carolina: policy & procedures, training videos, other documents
 - Third party vendor installed software pro bono
 - Idaho GC/MS
 - Cobb County body bags: facilitated
 - Ongoing consultations by ASCLD members Matthew Gamette, Ray Wickenheiser, Brooke Arnone, Rick Lautenbach, Jennifer McNair and Bruce Houlihan
 - Donations by private sector
 - FedEx: transported GC/MS from Idaho
 - Delta: transported body bags
 - ANDE: donated staff time and Rapid DNA technology to analyze DNA from remains and putative family members
 - Target Stores: donated travel for Rick Lautenbach and are providing digital evidence casework and technical review assistance to PR
 - HMB: Provided the sexual assault kit software implementation

- Funding: All of this has been free to PR, and funded by NAAG, ASCLD, and HHS
 - HHS:
 - NAAG drafted request for funds for spring 2019 trip, with support of PR DOJ, DPS, DOH and HHS paid to fund volunteers' travel
 - PR DOJ, DPS, and DOH told HHS in their request for these funds that they were "fully committed to adopt and implement the recommendations from the HHS' [sic] Assessment Team report."

Sexual Assault Kit – Task Group Chair Matthew Gamette

Present Committee: Past-President Matthew Gamette, Past-President Ray Wickenheiser, Laura Sudkamp

November 20th, 2019 published the ASCLD Sexual Assault Kit Survey after working all year with the membership to gather and collate the data. The news release from the Board was formulated into a publication in FSI-Synergy in February 2020.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589871X19301627>

Number of "latent" SAEKs <u>now in a laboratory</u> awaiting analysis	6,133
Number of "regular/current/backlogged" SAEKs in a laboratory awaiting analysis	29,345
Estimated number of "latent" SAEKs still awaiting submission to a laboratory for analysis	62,544
Grand total of sexual assault evidence kits needing analysis (estimate included)	98,022

Sponsorship – Committee Chair Jennifer McNair

Committee Members: Brooke Arnone, Kris Deters, Lisa Burdett, Scott Ford, Debbie Leben, Beth Clark

2020 Symposium Sponsors (as of 2/14/2020)

- 56 booth registrations confirmed for the symposium:

Gold: Justice Trax, Porter Lee, Promega, Ron Smith & Associates, ANDE and ThermoFisher (6)

Silver: Advanced Imaging Systems, Agilent Technologies, ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), Axcend, Biotek Services Inc., BODE Technology, Crime Lab Design, Forensic Advantage Systems, Full Spectrum Analytics, Government Scientific Source, Metrohm USA, MWL Architects, Mystaire, NMS Labs, QIAGEN, Shimadzu, Signature Science, Spectra Analysis, and STACS DNA (19)

Bronze: 908 Devices, A2LA, Accredit-IT, Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers, Collaborative Testing Services, DME Forensics, DNA Labs International, EuroFins QTA, FORAY Technologies, Forensic Assurance, Forensic Foundations, Forensics Source, Foster + Freeman, Gentueri

Inc., Labconco, LEEDS Forensic Systems, Mettler Toledo, Mideo Systems Inc., National Forensic Laboratory Information System, National Institute of Justice, Niche Vision Forensic, LLC, Qualtrax, Randox Toxicology, RTI International, The Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science, TRIECH Forensics, Verogen, Visionations/CrimePad, and Wiley (29)

Comp: Arbinger and FORESIGHT / FSI International Synergy (2)

Additional 2020 Symposium Sponsorships:

- JusticeTrax is sponsoring the offsite event (\$12,000) at Wynkoop as well as the lanyards and badges (\$2500).
- STACSDNA is sponsoring the key cards (\$2500).
- Target gave a sponsorship to be used for speakers (\$2000).
- Thermo Fisher Scientific is sponsoring the WiFi (\$7000).
- ANDE is presenting a Keynote introduction (\$3000).
- 908 Devices is presenting a Keynote introduction (\$3000).
- Gustav and Sons is sponsoring the International Reception.
- DNA Labs International is sponsoring the Hospitality Suite.
- Various other sponsors have added the pre-symposium email blast and/or the scavenger hunt destination.

CLM and website sponsorships

Verogen, A2LA, ANAB, the Center for Forensic Research and Education, Labconco, and Shimadzu.

Symposium Planning – Committee Chair Director Erin Forry

Committee Members: Anja Einseln, Ashraf Mozayani, Ben Swanholm, Brady Mills, Brandon Conrad, Brooke Arnone, Bruce Houlihan, Carrie Davis, , Jean Stover, Jeff Nye, Jennifer McNair, Jeremy Triplett, Jody Wolf, John Byrd, Kerri Heward, Mark Mogle, Matthew Gamette, Nancy Crump, , Nancy Crump, Nicole Jones, Robin Woolery, Scott Ford, Steve Butler, Tom Blackwell, Tony Tessarolo, Ramona Robertson

The symposium theme for 2020 is *Together Toward Tomorrow* which was inspired by the collegial atmosphere of the ASCLD symposium, the collaborations among our members in committees, and the ASCLD organization's partnerships with other organizations and initiatives.

With the Symposium being scheduled for late March/early April, we began the planning nearly immediately after departing our St. Louis meeting. Kinsley Meetings continued to serve as the meeting planner this year. We continued working with C-1 Tradeshow Services and MiMedia Productions to create an experience for attendees.

A call for abstracts encouraged workshops, panels, and plenary presentations that would showcase collaborations and partnerships, obtaining buy-in, implementing new technology, transforming an organizational culture, strengthening morale, and talent acquisition. Kerri Heward did a terrific job coordinating the team that reviewed the abstracts; we had so many amazing submissions that it was a challenge to build the program this year. Jeff Nye coordinated poster submissions so we could add even more great content. And Steve Butler pulled details together on the EventMobi Mobile App so our attendees can keep up with the program. The hope is that ASCLD 2020 attendees will learn new information, reflect upon themselves and their organizations, meet a new colleague, and enjoy themselves.

We will continue with our tradition of an off-site social event at Wynkoop Brewing Company. Kris Cano and Past President Brady Mills took the lead on planning this evening. JusticeTrax is again a generous sponsor for the evening. We are looking forward to good food and drink and custom etched barware for everyone to take home!

Bring Your Own Slides Night continues this year due to its popularity. Jeremy Triplett and Linda Jackson will coordinate this event on Wednesday evening before our Awards and President's Reception. Jean Stover organized another Retiree Reception this year; we are looking forward to catching up with our retired members and see what we can look forward to in retirement. Lisa Burdett and Kerri Heward are assisting in hosting the New and International Attendees Reception which is again sponsored by Gustav and Sons.

International attendance is growing, and the plenary sessions will be translated in real-time into Spanish. All sessions will be recorded and posted to the ASCLD website for promotional material and for attendees to take the talks back to their labs to show their staff their favorites. This is made possible by our collaborations with ICITAP and RTI.

The Symposium is successful thanks to the generous sponsorships of our exhibitors. This year we have six Gold Sponsors: JusticeTrax, Promega, ANDE, PorterLee, and ThermoFisher. Jennifer McNair worked diligently to get nearly every booth space filled! Be sure to check out the Exhibitor Space and join in on the Welcome Reception on Monday evening.

This year, we decided to take risks and try some different things. We lengthened the time for presentations and looked for inspirational and thought-provoking keynote addresses from folks outside of our profession.

The Thursday Awards Luncheon is being shifted to an event on Wednesday evening which is being coordinated by Past Presidents Jeremy Triplett and Jody Wolf. We will get together to honor our colleagues with a presentation of awards including our esteemed Briggs White Award. This will transition into the President's Reception with drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres and we will have a few April Fool's Day laughs with a comedian. It will a great night of fun!

We are fortunate to have four dynamic keynote presentations. Anja Einseln has been working to orient and prepare our speakers by linking them with crime laboratories. The 23rd Secretary of the Air Force and author of *Aim High*, Deborah Lee James, will kick off our symposium with the Carrie Morgan Whitcomb Leadership Address. Later that day, Chip Huth of Arbinger will provide an afternoon presentation. Wednesday morning will kick off with Paula Davis-Laack, an attorney who specializes in helping organizations reduce burnout and build resilient teams. And this year, after our business meeting, we will close out our week learning how to build successful teams from the perspective of sports with former UCLA, Southern Methodist and Miami Dolphins football coach Evan Burk.

Carrie Davis and Lisa Yoshida and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation laboratory were helpful “boots on the ground” to help us plan this week of activities.

Many thanks to the Symposium Planning Crew for coming together to create a memorable 2020 ASCLD Experience!!

Training & Education – Committee Chair Tim Scanlan

Committee Members: Brooke Arnone, Kris Deters, Jeremy Triplett, Ashraf Mozayani, Julia Dolan, John Griffin, Kerri Heward, Susan Stanitski, Elizabeth Ziolkowski, Dennis Hilliard, Christian Westring, Chad Wissinger, Steve O'Dell, Anja Einseln, Nicole Jones, Demetra Garvin, Diana Molina, Jeri Ropero Miller, Ben Swanholm, Jody Wolf, Debbie Leben, Elizabeth Flannery, Mike Kessler, Sharon Lemons, Lauren Reed, Erica Sparacino, Erin Trujillo, Jason Bundy, Mark Mogle, Stacey Butler, Tracey Dawson Cruz, Mary Beth Karr, Henry Maynard

National Forensic Science Academy (NFSA):

- Forensic Manager Certification Program (FMCP) is fully established
 - Advisory Council: focus is on the overall direction, strategy, and operation
 - Conformance and Certification Committee (CAC): will be a panel of experts that oversee the certification exams, curricula, approved providers, as well as reviewing the validity and reliability of the entire certification process.
 - Three level program consisting of the following certifications, where each certification serves as a prerequisite for the next:
 - Certified Forensic Manager I (CFM-1):
 - Certified Forensic Manager II (CFM-2)
 - Certified Forensic Manager III (CFM-3)
- ASCLD Leadership Academies from 2018 through today are NFSA compliant
 - ASCLD Leadership Academy I is the only CFM-1 compliant program
 - ASCLD Leadership Academy II is the only CFM-2 compliant program
 - Academy graduates from the 2018 through today are eligible for NFSA Certification

- Test has been administered several time and the amount of CFMs continues to grow
- ASCLD Board of Directors extended its MOU with RTI until December 31, 2023, to continue their partnership on this successful project

Leadership Academy:

- In the seventh year of program
- Approximately 500 participants from across the country and five other nations
- Remains an CFM-1 compliant program
- New additions
 - ASCLD Leadership Academy II
 - Offered for the first time this year
 - Second level of the academy
 - CFM-2 compliant program
 - Fall ASCLD Leadership Academy I
 - Site specific academy held in the fall separate from the symposium
 - Looking for host locations for 2021 and beyond
- Instructors and Topics
 - ASCLD Leadership Academy I
 - Leadership: Ben Swanholm
 - Communication: Tim Scanlan
 - Laboratory Operations: Jody Wolf and Jeremy Triplett
 - ASCLD Leadership Academy II
 - Leadership: Henry Maynard
 - Communication: Arlene Hall
 - Laboratory Operations: Adam Becnel
- Future Goals of Program
 - Working to create ASCLD Leadership Academy III
 - Developing a bridge program for Leadership Academy graduates prior to 2018
 - Continue to look for host sites for the Fall ASCLD Leadership Academy I
 - Develop a Fall ASCLD Leadership Academy II

Train the Director Series

- Partnership project with ASCLD and RTI's Forensic Technology Center of Excellence
- Kris Deters started the program as a Board member and continues to act as the host
- Strong participation by ASCLD Members as attendees and instructors
- Plan to offer courses again next year
- Courses offered this year
 - Quality Assurance: Beyond Accreditation
 - Speaker: Erin Forry
 - Date: January 9, 2020
 - Investigative Genetic Genealogy: Background and Crime Lab Strategy
 - Speaker: Ray Wickenheiser
 - Date: January 23, 2020
 - Toxicology: Instrumentation, Methodology, and Workflows
 - Speakers: Bruce Houlihan & Dan Anderson
 - Date: February 6, 2020

- Marijuana Analysis in a New Frontier: Two State Laboratory Approaches
 - Speakers: Linda Jackson & Shawn West
 - Date: March 5, 2020
-

Train the Director Series and Other Member Topics of Interest

Quality: Beyond Accreditation, January 2020

Erin Forry kicked off the 2020 Train the Directors series with a 1.5-hour long webinar about quality management beyond the accreditation program. A goal of the webinar was to communicate that quality is more than just meeting the requirements of an accreditation program. The webinar started with a snapshot of the history of accreditation and ASCLD before it moved into a discussion about the concepts of quality and accreditation how they complement each other. Additionally, the ideas of organizational transformation, organizational culture, and the cultivation of a quality culture in the laboratory were addressed. Examples of how forensic science leaders develop quality cultures in their organizations were provided. Lastly, various quality initiatives in forensic science, including ISO TC 272, the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science, the scientific and technical working groups (SWG/TWG), and the ASCLD Accreditation Initiative were reviewed. This webinar is a good resource for those wondering how these quality initiatives fit in with one another and with accreditation programs.

Toxicology: Instrumentation, Methodology and Workflows, February 2020

Bruce Houlihan and Dan Anderson presented a 1.5 hour webinar on the current trends in toxicology methods and instrumentation in crime laboratories. The webinar covered the following topics.

Advances in chromatography and mass spectroscopy instrumentation have created opportunities to reduce extractions, increase simultaneous and parallel analyses, reduce sample handling and cost, analyze a broader range of drug classes, and quantitate more routinely. The introduction of technologies like quadrupole time-of flight (QTOF) and high-resolution mass spectroscopy can significantly improve the operations of a toxicology laboratory.

Quantitations and broad-spectrum analyses have always been a requirement of post-mortem (PM) toxicology. However, driving-under-the-influence of drugs (DUID) analysis is now approaching the complexity and breadth of PM toxicology. Laboratories are required to go well beyond DUI/alcohol impairment information to a multitude of drug classes, including anti-anxiety medications, sedatives, volatiles, pain medications, fentanyl, cannabinoids, barbiturates, and others. Traditional drugs of abuse are also included in the requested analyses. In addition to this range of drugs, quantitative information (including multiple replicates if possible) is extremely valuable for stakeholders.

The webinar discussed the following objectives:

- Budgeting and purchasing appropriate equipment
- Available grants, state and federal partners, and funding sources
- Method transitions including extractions, batching, and results interpretation
- Data systems integration and processing of high volumes of information
- Personnel and validation
- Trends in the processing of PM and DUID toxicology casework
- Current and future OSAC recommendations with laboratory methods and decisions
- Challenges with resources, reporting requirements, and LIMS integration

Approximately 90 individuals attended the online meeting; and a recording for replay is available.

FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board

ASCLD continues to participate on the CJIS Advisory Policy Board, a valuable opportunity provided at the invitation of the FBI. Contributing on this Board allows the ASCLD representative, Bruce Houlihan, to discuss and give input on AFIS topics, biometrics, Rapid DNA, investigatory techniques, and other issues facing law enforcement and justice-related networks, databases, and information systems. This Board allows ASCLD to collaborate not just with the FBI, but also many other law enforcement groups to collectively steer the use of shared information services. Additionally, the FBI invited ASCLD to join the Information Services subcommittee beginning in 2019, which increased our ability to serve stakeholders and work with the national forensic community.

ASCLD ACCREDITATION INITIATIVE UPDATE

ASCLD recognizes the challenges that exist for laboratories when pursuing accreditation...and wants to meet you where you are and help you to the finish line!

“ASCLD believes that accreditation of all FSSPs is essential in that it provides confidence and assurance to a parent organization, the employees, the criminal justice community, and the public that the FSSP can meet comprehensive forensic quality management system requirements.”

On April 1, 2019, ASCLD announced ASCLD Accreditation Initiative (AAI) designed to provide direct support, mentorship, and resources for laboratories seeking initial accreditation.

The AAI <https://www.ascld.org/about-us/accreditation-initiative> was approved by the Board of Directors as one of the strategic objectives of the Standards and Accreditation Member Resource Committee. To facilitate this initiative, the ASCLD Accreditation Domestic Task Force (ADATF) was established to mentor laboratories through the ASCLD Roadmap to accreditation. The vision of ADATF was “labs helping labs,” where labs that succeed in this journey would “pay it forward” and assist other labs in doing the same.

As part of this effort, ASCLD collaborated with the National Institute of Justice and the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence at RTI to fund and kick off this program.

In 2019, ASCLD initiated five agreements with laboratories willing to commit and focus resources on preparing and achieving laboratory accreditation within 18 months. As part of the arrangement, ASCLD assigned a mentor from the ADATF to assist the laboratory with preparing their quality management system and application for accreditation.

THE ADATF PILOT TRANSITIONS TO THE AAI

This year, ASCLD assessed the value of the AAI and its progress. The five laboratories are now in Phases II & III of the Roadmap with two labs submitting their application for accreditation in February 2020. ASCLD recently reviewed the progress of the laboratories and support from the mentors and voted to transition the ADATF to a permanent resource within the AAI.

THE ROADMAP TO ACCREDITATION AND THE ASCLD DIGITAL TOOLKIT

The ASCLD Accreditation Toolkit, a deliverable from the agreement between ASCLD and RTI/NIJ/FTCOE, is expected to launch prior to the ASCLD Symposium in 2020. The toolkit offers resources to work through each step of the accreditation process while pursuing this goal in coordination with an accrediting body. <https://www.ascld.org/ascldaccreditationtoolkit/LABORATORY>

AGREEMENTS AND MENTORING

For information about the goals and objectives of the AAI, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAskCA-8syM&feature=youtu.be>

To apply for assistance in preparing for accreditation, complete the intake form at <https://www.ascld.org/about-us/accreditation-initiative/>

For more information on becoming a mentor, go to <https://www.ascld.org/ascldaccreditationtoolkit/#> and the Volunteers Section.



ASCLD ACCREDITATION INITIATIVE BUSINESS PLAN

OVERVIEW

ASCLDs interest in supporting universal accreditation is a long-standing priority. In support of the strategic plan and national priorities, ASCLD advocates for sound business principles by offering training and targeted initiatives to support all members. Initiatives include the Leadership Academy, Annual Symposium, and Forensic Managers Toolkit, all designed to promote the value of forensic science accreditation, continuous improvement, operational excellence, succession planning, and technical certifications.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement of ASCLD is to promote the effectiveness of crime laboratory leaders throughout the world by facilitating communication among members, sharing critical information, providing relevant training, promoting crime laboratory accreditation, and encouraging scientific and managerial global excellence in the forensic science community.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

ASCLD has an experienced and diverse leadership team on the Board of Directors:

- Executive Director – John Byrd
- President - Brooke Arnone – *Arizona Department of Public Safety*
- President Elect – Erin Forry – *Boston Police Department*
- Board of Director - Lisa Burdett – *Kansas Bureau of Investigation*
- Board of Director - Treasurer – Rita Dyas – *Chandler Police Department*
- Board of Director - Matthew Gamette – *Idaho State Police*
- Board of Director – Bruce Houlihan – *Orange County Crime Lab*
- Board of Director - Secretary – Linda Jackson – *Virginia Department of Forensic Science*
- Board of Director – Jennifer McNair – *Utah Bureau of Forensic Sciences*
- Board of Director – Jeffrey Nye – Michigan State Police
- Board of Director – Scott O'Neill – *New York Police Department*
- Board of Director – Timothy Scanlan – Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office
- Board of Director – Tony Tessarolo – *Center of Forensic Sciences (Toronto)*
- Board of Director – Christian Westring – *Member-at-Large*

ASCLD Accreditation Initiative

In 2018, the ASCLD Accreditation Initiative (AAI) was created as a pilot to assess the value of establishing a mentoring program to assist labs in becoming accredited. ASCLD initiated agreements with five laboratories willing to commit and focus resources on preparing and achieving laboratory accreditation within 18 months. As part of the Agreement, ASCLD agreed to assign a mentor from the ASCLD Domestic Accreditation Taskforce (ADATF) to help walk the laboratory through the ASCLD Roadmap to accreditation. Laboratory directors, quality managers, and technical experts that have met the mentor criteria and are approved by the Board are members of the ADATF. In 2019, the Board selected mentors to begin working with five select laboratories on their accreditation goals.

ASCLD DOMESTIC ACCREDITATION TASKFORCE TRANSITIONS TO AAI



Throughout 2019, ASCLD assessed the value of the AAI and how the ADATF supported this process. In January 2020, the Board of Directors reviewed the progress and voted to transition the ADATF to a permanent resource within the AAI

ROADMAP TO ACCREDITATION

The Roadmap to accreditation is a step by step process, beginning with an initial briefing between ASCLD and the laboratory seeking accreditation. Included in the presentation is an overview of the expectations and goals of the partnership. The Roadmap consists of 14 steps throughout five critical phases. An overview of the Roadmap and the Phased implementation can be found in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

LABORATORY STATUS - PHASE III

The five laboratories are now in Phases II & III of the Roadmap with two labs submitting their applications for accreditation in February 2020. The participating labs shared the value of the in-person mentor visit and the gap review. With feedback from the laboratories and mentors, the 2020 budget will include funding for an optional third visit to the lab.

DELIVERABLES

The ASCLD Accreditation Toolkit, designed and funded through an agreement between ASCLD and RTI/NIJ/FTCOE will launch in February 2020. The toolkit offers resources to work through each step of the accreditation process while pursuing this goal in coordination with an accrediting body.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE

ASCLD has prepared a budget to accept additional labs in FY 2020 and a small budget to maintain and update the toolkit.

BUDGET

This year's cost estimates include support for up to ten additional labs, purchasing the ISO standard for a new mentor if needed, and continued maintenance support for the toolkit.

Currently, the budget allows for two site visits by the mentor. Additional funding has been set aside for a third visit to address lessons learned during the pilot.

After a careful review of the AAI model, ASCLD removed the mentor compensation and mentor training from the 2020 budget.



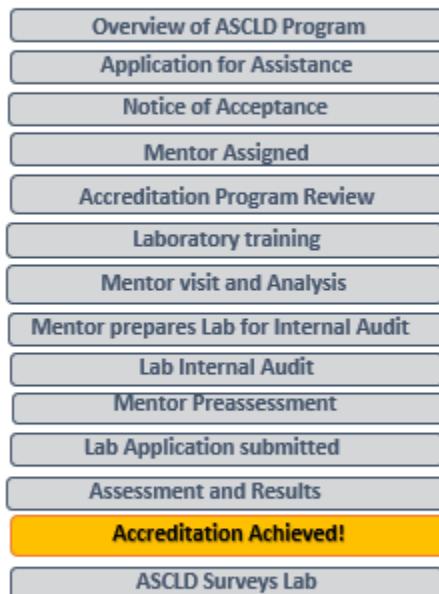
The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE), led by RTI International, is supported through a Cooperative Agreement from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice (awards 2016-MU-BX-K110 and 2011-DN-BX-K564).

SUMMARY

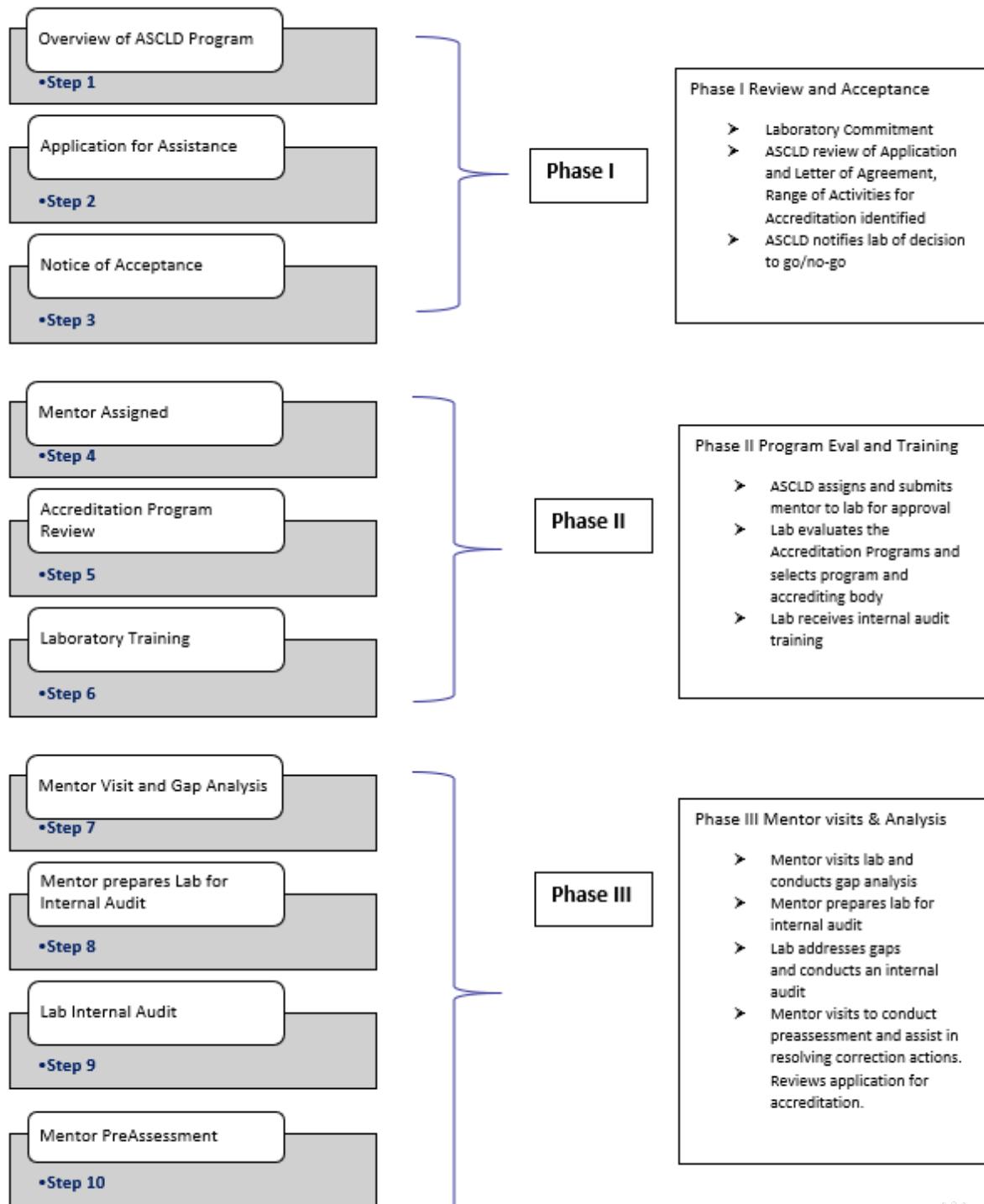
ASCLD is committed to improving the practice of forensic science and strengthening its impact through effective knowledge transfer, education, and best practices and guidelines to agencies dedicated to combating crime. The future of forensic sciences and its contribution to the public and criminal justice community is through practitioners, researchers, administrators, and government leaders to enhance information-sharing and promote collaboration among forensic, legal, and law enforcement communities. ASCLD continues to exchange ideas with organ

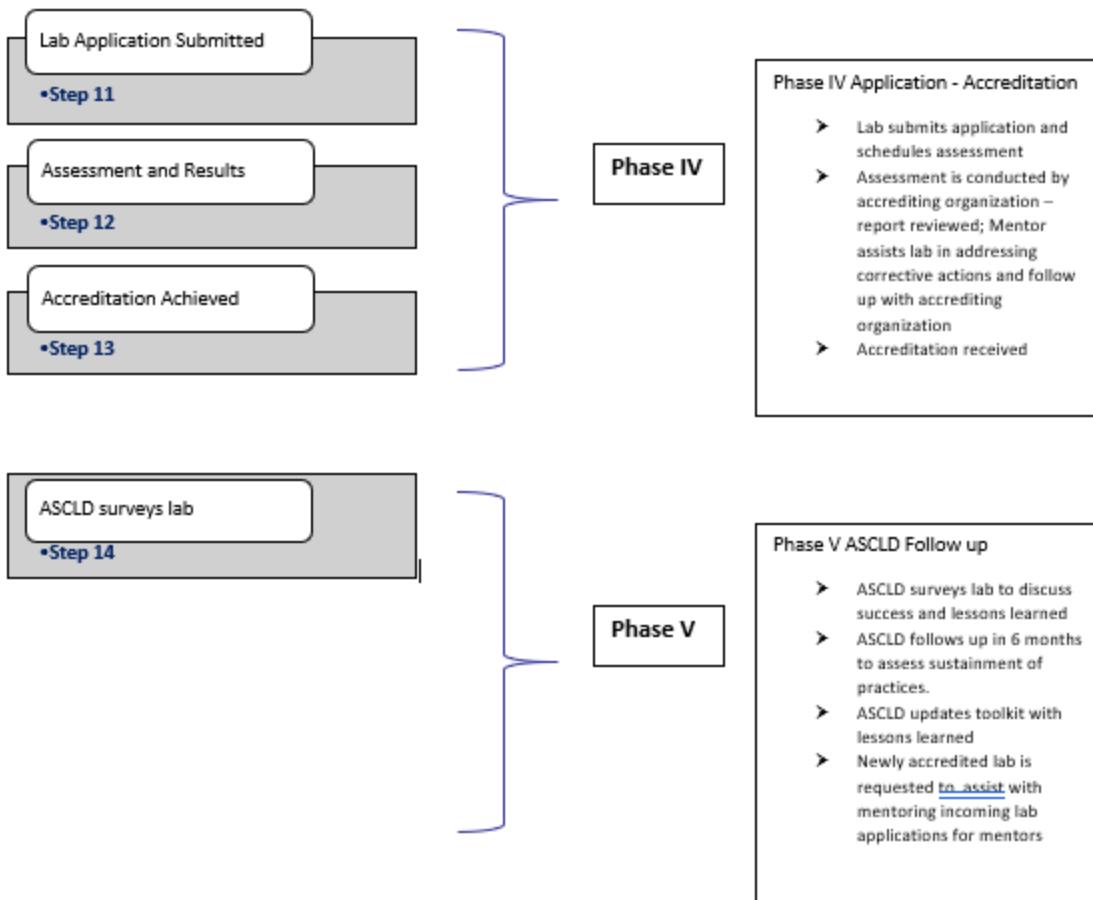


Appendix A – Roadmap to Accreditation Overview of Critical Steps



Appendix B – Phased Implementation





Appendix C – Budget Projections FY 2020

Budget FY20				
Project	ASCLD Accreditation Initiative	Project #		
Project manager	ADATF Team Lead	Sponsor	RTI	
Project artifacts		Updated	01/17/20	
Budget Status				
Requested Budget	Planned Expenditures to Date	Actual Expenditures to Date		Variance
\$49,930.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Planned Remaining Budget	Actual Remaining Budget			Variance
	\$49,930.00	\$49,930.00		\$0.00
Additional \$ needed				
Budget Details FY20				
Consulting Costs	Hourly Rate	# Hours/year	Each	Total Cost
Website April Smallwood HTTPS://siteimprove.com/en-us	\$35.00	70.00		\$2,450.00
				\$120.00
Other Expenses				
ISO Registered Licensed Standard 17020:2012 or 17025:2017			\$120.00	\$360.00
Total Internal Expenses				\$2,930.00
Operational Costs	Cost per visit	Total Cost		
Travel Costs				
10 Labs (2 / 3 visits per lab)	\$1,500	\$45,000.00		
Training				
Mentors (as needed)	\$500	\$2,000.00		
Total External Expenses				\$47,000.00
Total Budget				\$49,930.00



Appendix D – Testimonials & Advocacy



Jennifer shares "...working with ASCLD has been a huge opportunity for our lab. I have access to all of these experts from all over the United States that I normally would not have access to..." "Accreditation brings us up to a level of excellence I want for our lab...I want to give the people in our community a peace of mind that they can trust our results...."



How has ASCLD helped your Lab?

"...when testifying in court, the jury and the community should rest easy knowing that we meet this set of comprehensive standards and not only do we say it, but an outside entity comes in and looks at all of our procedures, how we handle business and all of our work...and they are saying not only are YOU saying it, but you have proven that you are doing it"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y62w-kEsJ-U>

Boise, Idaho Police Department

Jennifer Delaney – Crime Lab Supervisor



Working with ASCLD and our mentor has been a tremendous help through the accreditation process. I began the journey of accreditation not really knowing what it all entailed. ASCLD has showed the whole picture and helped me piece the puzzle of



<https://guardedexchange.com/>

accreditation together. The best part was assigning us a mentor. She is patient and very knowledgeable with the process. She takes time to review my forms and manuals and provides us with amazing feedback. We could not have done this without ASCLD's help. Thanks so much for everything.

Guarded Exchange

Supporting Georgia Department of Corrections

Teresa Austin – Intelligence Liaison



We are honored to have been elected as one of the first labs to participate in the ASCLD Accreditation Initiative. This program is a valuable resource that every lab seeking accreditation should take advantage of. The mentors assigned to our lab have been extremely helpful. Whether they are providing guidance based on their years of experience as



<http://www.slcpd.com/>

professionals in accredited laboratories, helping find resources for procedure manuals, or helping us interpret the regulatory requirements, the knowledge shared is invaluable. They are available to talk via regularly scheduled conference calls or respond in a timely manner to an urgent email. The fact that they are willing to review all of our manuals and provide a gap analysis is very comforting and makes the road to accreditation less daunting.

Salt Lake City, UT Police Department

BethAnne Layton – Quality Assurance Manager



The Nampa Police Department feels very fortunate for the opportunity to participate in the ASCLD Accreditation Initiative. The current climate surrounding the forensic sciences has shown the importance of being able to prove to our community and criminal justice system that we are committed to providing reliable and



[Nampa Police Website](#)

NAMPA^{PROUD}

accurate services. The task of accreditation is a daunting one for small labs like ours. The resources provided by ASCLD, through the initiative, have enabled us to navigate through the accreditation process. The ability to network with other agencies, work with a mentor and see examples of good policy and procedures, has smoothed the pathway for our lab and other labs in the future.

Nampa, Idaho Police Department

Christine Cannon-Bakeman - Criminalist



Raising the Bar: Progress and Future Needs in Forensic Science

Last year the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors launched an aggressive mentor-based program to offer help to laboratories seeking accreditation. They partnered with NIJ Forensic



ASCLD and NIJ/RTI/FTCOE are working together to get labs accredited!

Technology Center of Excellence to initially help six laboratories obtain accreditation in a two-year period. Making tool kits, providing mentors, and supplying initial accreditation funding is essential to seeing even more labs become accredited.

<https://science.house.gov/download/gamette-testimony>

Advocacy

Matthew Gamette - Testimony for the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology



"...I encourage you to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act to continue to provide this essential DNA resource assistance to state and local crime labs.""

".... Resources are needed in a number of vital areas. The victims, suspects, investigators, and courts in all jurisdictions of the United States deserve



ASCLD, along with the CFSO continues to advocate for funding to support lab operations across the country.

comprehensive, quality, and timely forensic science services."

"...The forensic science service providers in the United States deserve to have the resources to provide comprehensive, quality, and timely forensic science services."

<https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/meetings/promoting-justice-for-victims-of-crime-examining-the-federal-investment-in-dna-analysis>

Advocacy

Matthew Gamette - Testimony for the Committee of the Judiciary

Glossary

Accreditation - Accreditation is synonymous with both quality and competence of an organization, using international standard(s).

ANAB - www.anab.org The ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board is a non-governmental organization that provides accreditation services to public- and private-sector organizations and is jointly owned by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the American Society for Quality (ASQ).

ASCIA - *Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies*

ASCLD - American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors

A2LA - www.A2la.org An independent, 501(c)3, non-profit, internationally-recognized accreditation body in the United States that offers a full range of comprehensive laboratory and laboratory-related accreditation services and training.

IACP – International Association for Chiefs of Police

IEC – International Electrotechnical Commission

ISO - International Organization for Standardization

Mentor – A certified Assessor who may be a current or retired laboratory director, quality assurance manager or technical subject matter expert that has completed the most recent Assessor training required by an accrediting organization, certified by the accrediting organization and has served on a team to review laboratory compliance with the accreditation program requirements.



GUEST ARTICLE

ASCLD Leadership Academy's Continued Success and Growth

By Timothy Scanlan, Benjamin Swanholm, Jeremy Triplett, and Jody Wolf

This past year was another successful year for the ASCLD Leadership Academy. ASCLD and RTI's Forensic Manager Certification Program (FMCP) solidified its relationship by extending their MOU through 2023. Also, the Leadership Academy expanded its ability to train the future leaders in forensic science by adding a Level II program and offering fall session for Level I. With these accomplishments, as well as the future development of a Certified Forensic Manger-I bridge program and the development of a Level III program, the ASCLD Leadership Academy promises to have a strong presence for years to come.

The ASCLD Board of Directors signed an MOU with RTI that extends the already strong relationship between ASCLD and RTI's Forensic Manager Certification Program (FMCP) through 2023. The Forensic Manager Certification Program is a collaboration with ASCLD, whose mission is to develop the next generation of leaders that will reflect the highest standards for practice, management, and science within crime laboratories. The FMCP will establish a national standard for professional development of crime laboratory leaders and create positive change within the criminal justice system by instilling a culture of excellence and collaboration in the production of accurate, scientific, forensic results. The FMCP is a program of RTI's National Forensic Science Academy (NFS) and is the nation's first and only body to certify crime laboratory leaders in laboratory management. The FMCP program will provide criteria to training and education providers that cover a comprehensive, consensus-based curriculum to prepare forensic scientists to become leaders. Currently, the ASCLD Leadership Academy is the only compliant provider for this program. The collaboration ensures that the valuable material taught through the Leadership Academy will remain a staple in forensic science leadership.

The Leadership Academy continues to expand and improve, by adding Level II. The goal of the Level II program is to provide additional tools and principles that forensic scientists need, as they continue to develop as leaders within their organization. The Level CFM-II is an individual who can manage a forensic science organization with multiple teams, develop and implement new business and technical processes, and lead and manage personnel to meet organizational missions and objectives. Henry Maynard, Arlene Hall, and Adam Becnel have joined the program as the Level II instructors along with Jody Wolf who is also an instructor in Level I. The other Level I instructors, Ben Swanholm, Tim Scanlan, and Jeremy Triplett along with Jody are excited to have them join the team.

Fall 2019 saw the first time a Leadership Academy course was offered outside of the ASCLD Symposium. This session was graciously hosted by the Texas Department of Public Safety in Austin, TX and allowed the Level I team to set a model that allows for a more agency or regionally based leadership training. Having a course outside of the symposium allows for teaching leadership and management principles to a large group of people that tend to work in the same criminal justice system. These individuals often have common goals and challenges and can work on those together as a team during the academy.

Ultimately, the Forensic Manager Certification Program will have three levels of certification and the

ASCLD Leadership Academy will mirror those levels. Any student who has completed the Level 1 Academy from 2018 forward is eligible to take the CFM-I certification exam. At the end of 2019 seventy-five Academy graduates earned their CFM-I certification. The first CFM-II certification examination will be given at the 2020 symposium and many of the Level II graduates are expected to reach CFM-II certification. The Level III Academy and the CFM-III curriculum are in the developmental stage. Both are expected to be released in the near future.

Additionally, the Academy team is working on a bridge program that will allow any of the over 500 Academy graduates, who have participated in the program from 2014 to 2017, be eligible to take the CFM-I certification exam. In 2018 Level 1 worked closely with the NFSA to refine its curriculum to ensure it was CFM-I compliant. This entailed changes to each section and adding some additional operations-based lectures. These improvements to the curriculum not only strengthen Level I but give valuable insight to students. In an effort to share this knowledge with past graduates, a bridge program will be created to allow all Leadership Academy graduates to benefit from this content and ensure they have the necessary information to successfully take the CFM-1 certification. The Leadership Academy team is excited to announce that details for this program will be announced within the next year.

As a result of the efforts of the ASCLD Leadership Academy team, the partnership with RTI, and the numerous ASCLD Boards of Directors who have supported this endeavor, the Leadership Academy is set to build upon its first seven years of success and expand its reach to the current and future leaders of the forensic science community. The ASCLD Leadership Academy stands as a cornerstone, serving the ASCLD mission "to promote the effectiveness of crime laboratory leaders throughout the world..."

GUEST ARTICLE

OSAC's Role in the Development of Documentary Standards for Forensic Science

By John Paul Jones II, Special Programs Office, NIST and Karen K. Reczek, Standards Coordination Office, NIST

Introduction

A “documentary standard” is a classification, guide, practice, specification, terminology standard or test method developed and established by knowledgeable people according to agreed-upon principles of consensus, such as those developed by a standards developing organization (SDO.) This document describes how documentary standards for forensic science are developed and the role that the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science plays in that process.

U.S. Standardization System

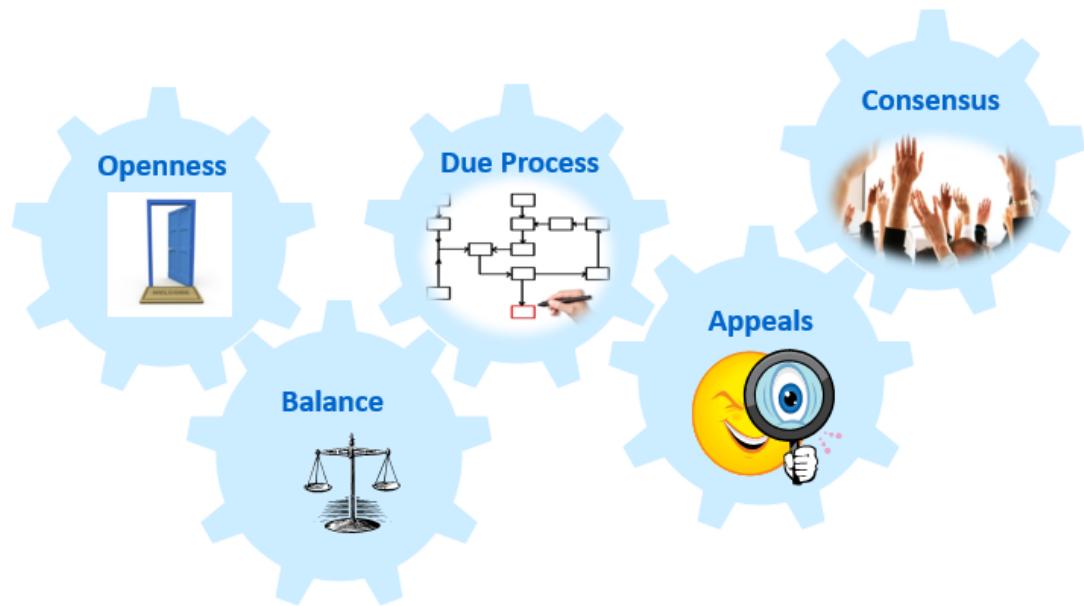
Many countries take a top-down approach to standardization. This approach, often facilitated directly or indirectly by governments, produce standards that are rooted in regulation. The U.S. system, in contrast, relies on a private sector-driven, voluntary consensus process that involves all stakeholders. This process entails hundreds of individual standards developing organizations, or SDOs, working in different technical areas and industry sectors. One of the great strengths of the U.S. system is the “public-private partnership.” This involves government and private-sector entities working together. Our system relies on cooperation and communication among many participants: industry, end-users, academia, government, private sector standards organizations.

Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs) and the SDO Process

The process of developing a standard is typically facilitated by a standards developing organization (SDO) which adheres to a fair and equitable processes to ensure high-quality, market-relevant outputs. In the U.S., SDOs come in many forms:

- Professional Societies, whose members seek to advance their professions and also develop standards. Examples include SAE International (formerly the Society of Aeronautical Engineers) and IEEE (formerly the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.)
- Trade Associations, which promote their industry's products and also develop standards. Examples include NEMA (formerly National Electrical Manufacturers Association.)
- Testing and certification organizations, some of which produce their own standards while others adopt standards of other organizations. Examples include UL (formerly Underwriters Laboratories) and FM (formerly Factory Mutual.)
- Organizations whose primary function is to develop standards, such as ASTM International and the AAFS Academy Standards Board (ASB.)

While their goals are essentially the same, each SDO applies its own rules, processes, and terminology to the standards development process. These core principles are the foundation of standards development in the U.S. and worldwide.



From: OMB A-119 (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Circular-119-1.pdf>)

Openness – Open to anyone who is directly or materially affected by the activity in question.

Due Process – A highly visible procedure for creating standards and following them.

Balance – Participants from diverse interests should be involved, with no interest or group of interests dominating.

Consensus – Does not require unanimity. Most SDOs clearly define what percentage of the ballot is required to approve a standard.

Appeals – Anyone engaged in the process has the right to appeal a standards development decision.

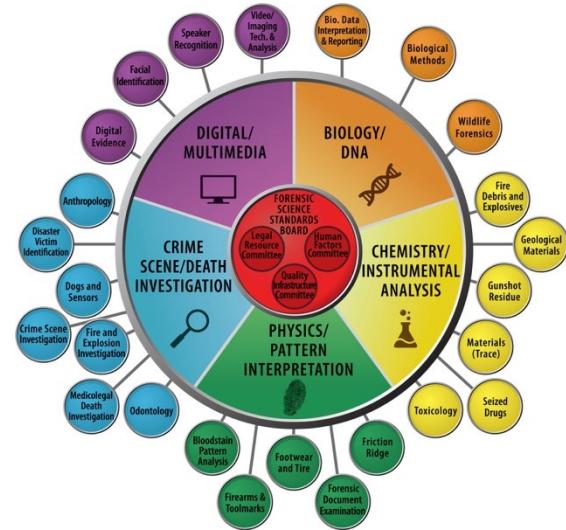
Standards development is a structured process that is lengthy and laborious. This is mostly due to the fact that it takes time to consider all views, achieve consensus, and maintain procedural safeguards. Most SDOs have a formalized structure with a Board and committees or consensus bodies. Members include industry, subject matter experts, end users, and other stakeholders. All members provide knowledge, expertise, end user experience, or other technical input.

What is OSAC

The Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science is a collaborative body of more than 550+ forensic science practitioners and other experts representing all levels of government, academia, and industry. Together, these members have expertise in a broad array of forensic science

disciplines as well as scientific research, measurement science, statistics, law, and policy. OSAC is administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and is funded by directed congressional appropriations. OSAC launched in February 2014 and in January 2015 held its first set of meetings of all 34 operating units. OSAC's goal is to strengthen the practice of forensic science through improved documentary standards. OSAC advances this goal by:

- Facilitating the development of technically sound, science-based standards through a formal standard developing organization (SDO) process.
- Evaluating existing standards published by SDOs for placement on the [OSAC Registry](#).
- Promoting the use of standards on the OSAC Registry by the forensic science and criminal justice communities.



OSAC Registry and Registry Implementation



The OSAC Registry serves as a trusted repository of high-quality, technically sound standards and guidelines for the practice of forensic science. OSAC encourages stakeholders in the forensic science and criminal justice communities to [implement](#) the standards listed on the OSAC Registry into their everyday practice. These standards improve consistency within and across forensic science disciplines; enhance the admissibility and impact of expert testimony; and increase confidence in the accuracy, reliability, and reproducibility of laboratory results.

Under OSAC's current processes, a standard or guideline is eligible for placement on the OSAC Registry if it was developed through a [standards developing organization \(SDO\)](#) using a consensus-based process. After being published by an SDO, a standard must be further evaluated by forensic science practitioners, academic researchers, statisticians, and measurement scientists before being placed on the OSAC Registry. Those standards determined to be technically sound are then approved for listing on the OSAC Registry.

To date, 25 standards have been approved for listing on the OSAC Registry. OSAC is working actively with the crime laboratories and other forensic science service providers to encourage adoption of these standards. OSAC has over 200 standards in development both inside of OSAC and currently with SDOs, so the OSAC Registry is expected to grow considerably in the coming years.

OSAC Other Work Products & Initiatives

OSAC has produced additional products that are helpful for the forensic science community. These additional resources, which are meant to complement OSAC standards activities and enhance the technical understanding of the practice of forensic science disciplines, include:

- OSAC has published over 120 research needs identified by the discipline specific subcommittees and the [National Institute of Justice](#) has incorporated these documents into their annual research and development solicitations.
- The [OSAC Lexicon](#) is a collection of over 4,000 terms organized by forensic science discipline to describe how specific disciplines use terms and attempt to harmonize given terms across disciplines.
- OSAC has developed several discipline specific process maps representing the current practice of a discipline which helps practitioners understand the different decision points that occur in a process and where the variation exists.
- OSAC subcommittees highlight baseline documents on their webpages which consist of useful documents previously developed by Scientific Working Groups and other articles/textbooks of high importance.
- OSAC publishes Technical Series Publications that address overarching or framework issues in specific forensic science disciplines to enhance the knowledge base of the field.
- OSAC publishes a monthly standards bulletin that describes the latest standards activities in the industry and provides the opportunity to comment on standards going through the OSAC Registry approval process.

The Importance of ASCLD's Participation

OSAC relies on the work of volunteers and the support of their employers. OSAC is pleased to reserve a seat on our Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) for an ASCLD representative. This representative is a voting member of the FSSB and is appointed by ASCLD's Board of Directors. In addition to being active participants, we rely on our Association representatives to provide two-way communication. ASCLD has been a strong supporter of OSAC. For instance, ASCLD has disseminated the *OSAC Impact Survey* to ASCLD members. This survey provides us with information on how the implementation of OSAC Registry standards affects laboratory operations. ASCLD has agreed to take full-ownership and to continue to administer this survey for OSAC in the coming year. In addition, ASCLD recently launched an implementation survey to determine how many laboratories have adopted these standards or plan to in the future. Finally, many OSAC members are also ASCLD members, and OSAC benefits greatly from the leadership and input of these individuals. Thank you ASCLD! OSAC sincerely values your support.

GUEST ARTICLE

Using Rapid DNA to Respond to Mass Fatality Incidents

By Amanda Sozer, Chief Science Officer, SNA International

The use of DNA is becoming increasingly common in mass fatality responses, especially in cases where fragmentation or decomposition is present. Governments and the public are expecting DNA testing to be conducted quickly and accurately. Since forensic laboratories are often the DNA experts for a state or local government, it is important that forensic laboratories are prepared for a mass fatality DNA response. However, preparing for a mass fatality response can be overwhelming; therefore, many forensic laboratory managers tend to avoid preparing in hopes that a mass fatality incident will never happen while they are in charge of the laboratory.

Historically, DNA technology has been used as a last resort in the identification of disaster victims; traditional DNA testing was costly and time-consuming as samples were often sent to third-party laboratories for testing. That began to change with the advent of Rapid DNA. In 2015, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) began exploring the use of Rapid DNA technology in mass fatality responses. The technology was robust, effective, easy-to-use, and integrated well into the overall response. Just-in-time training was productive, and the instruments produced real-time results in about the same time it takes a family to complete a victim-identification antemortem interview.

Over the last several years, DHS S&T has supported the use of Rapid DNA in mass fatality response efforts. In 2016 and 2017 DHS S&T used their Rapid DNA instruments and participated in mass fatality response full-scale exercises across the US. Perhaps the most important outcome of this participation was the information DHS collected from the actors participating as family members in the exercises. During these exercises, DHS polled exercise participants on how supportive they were of the government's use of Rapid DNA for identification of missing persons in disasters. One hundred percent of participants were supportive.

Since that time, Rapid DNA has proven to be a game changer in the identification of human remains. For example, it was used to identify victims in the following mass fatalities:

Camp Fire: In November 2018, the Camp Fire in Butte County, California took the lives of 85 people. Due to the heat and intensity of the fire, traditional methods of identification were not feasible. The Butte County Sheriff's office, with the help of the Sacramento Coroner's Office, turned to Rapid DNA in order to identify the victims. ANDE provided instrumentation and staff for the DNA response efforts. See: <https://www.kqed.org/science/1934691/rapid-dna-analysis-used-to-help-id-camp-fire-victims>

Conception Boat Fire: On September 2, 2019, a boat fire claimed the lives of 34 passengers on a scuba diving trip off the coast of Santa Cruz Island, California. Five crew members escaped with injuries, but the intense fire aboard the Conception dive boat left the other victims unrecognizable. The Sacramento County Coroner, Kimberly Gin, and one of her deputies brought their ANDE instrument to help the Santa Barbara Sheriff-Coroner identify all 34 victims. See:

<https://nypost.com/2019/09/05/officials-used-rapid-dna-tech-to-identify-california-boat-fire-victims/>

Hawaiian Helicopter Tour Crash: The day after Christmas in 2019, an Airbus AS350 B2 tour helicopter crashed into the tropical mountainous terrain on the island of Kaua'i, killing all seven people aboard. The Kaua'i Police Department's Crime Scene and Laboratory Unit responded using the Thermo Fisher RapidHIT ID and positively identified the pilot and six passengers. See: <https://www.kitv.com/story/41568652/kauai-police-positively-id-all-7-helicopter-crash-victims>

The quick and accurate identification of these victims demonstrates that Rapid DNA is a viable option for fatality responses that can not only save time and money, but also bring information to the families of those victims much faster than traditional DNA testing methods. Rapid DNA technology is a game changer for a mass fatality DNA response operation.

While the examples above demonstrate the effectiveness of Rapid DNA, there is currently a national response gap when it comes to routinely using DNA in mass fatality responses. This is because, unlike other mortuary response efforts, DNA testing is not supported by DMORT or any other national response organizations. (Note: An exception to this is in instances of legislative transportation disasters—such as those in commercial airlines and high-speed rail. The National Transportation Safety Board has a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Defense Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory for providing DNA identification testing following legislative transportation disasters).

In April of 2017, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) realized that Rapid DNA would play a significant role in forensic testing and created a Rapid DNA Task Force to address the responsible implementation of Rapid DNA. ASCLD also created a Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Subcommittee which is charged with exploring how Rapid DNA capabilities can fill our nation's mass fatality response gap in DNA operations and how forensic laboratories can support each other following a mass fatality. The DVI Subcommittee members recognized that national, state, and local crime laboratories have expertise in DNA identification and are well situated to be willing partners in a national DVI response (ASCLDS's Rapid DNA Cooperative). Leveraging the expertise, location, and responsibility of crime labs represents a tremendous opportunity to build a national network.

In the last year, the ASCLD Rapid DNA DVI Subcommittee has held two Rapid DNA DVI workshops. The first was at last year's ASCLD annual meeting in St. Louis. The workshop was co-sponsored by ASCLD's Rapid DNA DVI Subcommittee, DHS S&T, the National Institute of Justice Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, and SNA International. At the day-long workshop, participants engaged in Rapid DNA hands-on, realistic activities that would typically take place during a DVI response. This provided participants a genuine representation of what a response entails, and also identified next steps in formalizing ASCLD's Rapid DNA Task Force DVI deliverables and the Rapid DNA Cooperative concept.

The second workshop took place at the International Symposium on Human Identification meeting in Palm Springs California in September 2019. The participants were given a mass fatality scenario and worked collaboratively in small groups through a tabletop exercise to evaluate the mass fatality incident and organize an appropriate Rapid DNA response for victim identification using the ASCLD Rapid DNA Task Force DVI response tools and best practices.

Both ASCLD workshops were very successful and further identified how forensic laboratories can use

Rapid DNA to support each other following a mass fatality and fill our nation's mass fatality response gap. Forensic laboratories that have daily operational uses of Rapid DNA will be the most effective in responding to mass fatalities.

As a forensic community it is important that we continue to explore ways that Rapid DNA can further support disaster response operations. Please reach out to me (asozer@sna-intl.com) or a member of the ASCLD Board (<https://www.ascld.org/about-us/board-of-directors-and-staff/>) if you are interested in participating in the Rapid DNA DVI Subcommittee or being part of the ASCLD Rapid DNA Cooperative in responding to a mass fatality response operation.

Press Release 7-26-2019: ASCLD Recognizes Laboratories for Superior Operations



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS, INC.

65 Glen Road, Suite 123, Garner, NC 27529

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 7/26/2019

ASCLD Recognizes Laboratories for Superior Operations

GARNER, NC: During its 46th Annual Symposium, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) presented fourteen forensic laboratories with the Foresight Maximus Award, a distinction recognizing the top performing forensic laboratories in the world based on Foresight business metrics.

Started in 2007 by a cooperative agreement between the West Virginia University College of Business and Economics and the National Institute of Justice, the Foresight program is a business-guided, self-evaluation of forensic science laboratories, which began with local, regional, state, and national agencies in North America. Over the years, the program has expanded to include several laboratories in Europe. Economics, accounting, finance, and forensic faculty from WVU provide assistance, guidance, and analysis. The process involves standardizing definitions for metrics to evaluate work processes, linking financial information to work tasks, and functions.¹ The program has grown over time and its success had led to numerous journal publications, countless laboratory efficiency improvements across the U.S. and a supplementary program with funding by the Laura and John Arnold foundation to examine the interface between Foresight metrics and Laboratory Information Management Systems. Based on the success of the program and the gains seen by forensic laboratories, ASCLD has sought to begin recognizing peak performing laboratories at its Annual Symposium.

The 2019 Foresight Maximus award was presented to participant laboratories operating at 90% or better of peak efficiency.

"ASCLD is proud to partner with project FORESIGHT creators to recognize top performing forensic laboratories," commented ASCLD President Brooke Arnone. "These high performing laboratories have improved efficiency and productivity while creating transparency and accountability for their

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Press Release 10-9-2019: CFSO Supports DOJ Interim Policy on Forensic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching



American Academy of Forensic Sciences
American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
International Association for Identification
National Association of Medical Examiners
Society of Forensic Toxicologists/American Board of Forensic Toxicology

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CFSO SUPPORTS DOJ INTERIM POLICY ON FORENSIC GENEALOGICAL DNA ANALYSIS AND SEARCHING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2019

The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations supports the U.S. Department of Justice interim policy on forensic genealogical DNA analysis and searching. On September 24, 2019 the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) released an interim policy on forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and searching. The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations commends the DOJ on this action. The CFSO supports the goal of this policy in promoting the reasoned exercise of investigative, scientific, and prosecutorial discretion in cases that involve forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and searching.

The use of forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis by law enforcement continues to increase. Identification of otherwise unknown suspects has helped solve cold cases all over the United States using the application of DNA science. As pointed out by the DOJ in this document, collaboration between investigators, laboratory personnel, and prosecutors is critical to ensure the protection of privacy, proper scientific policy and procedure implementation, and the application of appropriate quality assurance measures are in place.

"CFSO applauds the DOJ for working with federal agencies to develop an interim policy and then engaging with state, county, and local agencies to further improve the policy. This approach ensures thorough vetting of the policy by stakeholders for the best implementation possible. CFSO members look forward to working collaboratively with DOJ to make the best, most responsible use of this promising tool. We look forward to commenting individually and through established mechanisms like Forensic Laboratory Needs-Technology Working Group (FLN-TWG) to make the eventual permanent policy effective for all forensic science service providers," said Matthew Gamette, Chair of the CFSO.

One area for additional discussion is the provision for informed consent of third parties (potential relatives to the person of interest) prior to collection of reference samples (see page 6, 3rd paragraph under VII. Investigative Caution). While providing informed consent is a worthwhile consideration, a component of that informed consent will be advising an individual that they are potentially related to a serious offender. This revelation may be of more concern to the third party than conducting analysis on a covertly collected reference sample, which offers the opportunity to protect them from such knowledge. Alternatively, if collecting a covert reference sample from a third party without providing informed consent, the investigating agency officials may be seen to be less than forthright. Therefore, DOJ should consider this dilemma of providing third parties informed consent versus shielding them from potentially damaging knowledge in subsequent versions of policy.

While this interim policy is a great step forward for the appropriate implementation of this technique, CFSO feels it is important to remind policy makers of the need for resources for state, county, and local laboratories to implement single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) technology and forensic genetic genealogical searching to assist in these investigations. The success of this technology is indisputable. The appropriate application will lead to the resolution of otherwise unsolved cases, resulting in additional victims along with their families finally obtaining justice. We applaud DOJ for developing this interim policy and inviting comment for the development of a comprehensive final policy. We look forward to participating in the process.

For more information contact Matthew Gamette 208-884-7217 or matthew.gamette@gmail.com

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Press Release 11-20-2019: ASCLD Statement on Volume of Untested Sexual Assault Evidence Kits



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTORS, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 20, 2019

ASCLD Statement on Volume of Untested Sexual Assault Evidence Kits

In response to the July 18, 2018 Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing on Promoting Justice for Victims of Crime: Examining the Federal Investment in DNA Analysis, the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) launched a nation-wide sexual assault kit survey of all DNA laboratories in the United States submitting data into the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The intent of the survey was to identify all the unprocessed sexual assault evidence kits (SAEKs) in the nation's DNA laboratories' possession and the resources needed to process them. Further, whether by official audit or conversation with their law enforcement agencies, ASCLD's goal was to determine what the laboratories knew about their jurisdiction's unsubmitted sexual assault evidence kits. SAEKs in many jurisdictions are still in the possession of law enforcement or other entities and have never been submitted to a forensic science lab for processing, nor are the numbers of these unsubmitted kits readily obtained or estimated. For the purpose of this discussion, these kits with delayed submissions will be termed "latent" kits to differentiate them from SAEKs submitted to the lab in a timelier manner but considered "backlogged" as they await analysis.

The ASCLD Sexual Assault Kit Task Group and ASCLD Advocacy Committee distributed the survey and collaborated with ASCLD member laboratories to increase the response rate. Overall, 79% of DNA CODIS Laboratories from the United States and Puerto Rico responded to the survey. While the data is reported in aggregate, not all laboratories chose to report data to ASCLD. Data from some states are not complete, but responses do include laboratories from every state in the country with one exception. Traditionally, estimates of latent kits by law enforcement agencies are historically very low, with much higher numbers of SAEKs reported once legislation mandates hand counts. The data below was reported to ASCLD as of July 2019:

• Number of "latent" SAEKs <u>now in a laboratory</u> awaiting analysis	6,133
• Number of "regular/current/backlogged" SAEKs in a laboratory awaiting analysis	29,345
• Estimated ¹ number of "latent" SAEKs still awaiting submission to a laboratory for analysis	62,544
Grand total of sexual assault evidence kits needing analysis (estimate included)	
98,022	

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Press Release 12-20-2019: ASCLD Comments to NIJ's 2019 Needs Assessment Report



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December 20, 2019

Re: ASCLD Comments to NIJ's 2019 Needs Assessment Report

The American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD) is a nonprofit professional society of over 600 crime laboratory directors and forensic science managers across the United States and worldwide, dedicated to providing excellence in forensic science through leadership and innovation. The purpose of the organization is to foster professional interests, assist the development of laboratory management principles and techniques; acquire, preserve and disseminate forensic based information; maintain and improve communications among crime laboratory directors; and to promote, encourage and maintain the highest standards of practice in the field.

ASCLD welcomes the publication of the *Needs Assessment of Forensic Laboratories and Medical Examiner/Coroner Offices* by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). This comprehensive report summarizes the continued resource needs of Forensic Science Service Providers as caseloads are increasing, at the same time that there has been a significant increase in the complexity and scope of forensic services requested and required.

ASCLD thanks the NIJ for thoroughly researching the needs of the forensic science community and for seeking input from such a broad stakeholder base, which included members from many professional science organizations representing federal, state, and local laboratories, academic forensic science degree programs, attorneys and judges, and subject matter experts from the federal government. We thank our many members who contributed to the success of this report.

ASCLD encourages its members to use this report to assist in evaluating the needs of providing quality and timely forensic science services in their respective jurisdictions. This report provides detailed information on the needs, challenges, and promising practices that impact the forensic science community nationally.

ASCLD looks forward to continued work with policymakers on improving resource allocation for forensic science laboratories to meet the needs of the criminal justice system.

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