

My message today contains three very important updates. First, a very important ASCLD survey for CODIS entry labs. Second, the announcement of the 2022 ASCLD symposium site. Third, information about the NIST scientific foundations of forensic disciplines steering document. Before moving forward, I want to wish all of our members that have served in the military a very happy Veteran's Day. We appreciate all you have done for us, and thank all of you that continue to serve on active or reserve duty. I honor all of you and my grandfather, father, brother, and nephew that have all served in the military in various wars and conflicts to keep us safe.

OFFICIAL ASCLD SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT SURVEY

The ASCLD Board asks that every CODIS DNA lab in the country answer this ASCLD survey to find out how many sexual assault kits are currently in labs and what the current turnaround time is to complete analysis and issue a report. Our intent is to do a nation-wide survey so that there can be a clear distinction between the kits at the labs awaiting analysis and the number sitting on LE shelves awaiting submission. We know that as the law enforcement number is further understood, it will have a huge effect on labs. We need to know the current status so we can be prepared to deal with a continued deluge of kits. The need for this information originates from recent US Senate hearings asking for laboratory data. We are working with several government entities and Project FORESIGHT to ensure that the survey is a good one, that it leads to useful data, and that it can be published to help our cause. The intent of this survey is to educate policy makers, governmental entities, and the public. We also recognize that some agencies may have concern with providing their data without knowing how that data may be used. ASCLD will not release data without the permission of your agency to do so. However, we ask that you allow us to share this data as openly as possible. We will respect your wishes as indicated below. PLEASE take a few minutes and respond to this survey today. Special thanks to the ASCLD Sexual Assault Kit Task Group for their work on this survey.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ASCLD_SAK_Survey

SELECTION OF THE 2022 ASCLD SYMPOSIUM SITE



We are very pleased to announce that the site of the 2022 ASCLD symposium will be the beautiful Peppermill Hotel in **Reno Nevada**. I was able to visit the hotel a few months ago with Executive Director Jean Stover and President-Elect Brooke Arnone. We were very impressed by the revival of Reno and the amazing Peppermill offerings. If you have not been to Reno in the last few years, you will be very surprised. The staff at the Peppermill were phenomenal, and very much look forward to welcoming you! I encourage you to watch this short promotional video for the Peppermill to get a feel for why this site was selected <https://youtu.be/LybLk5xpO1Y>. This video is very well done and worth your few minutes of attention! The hotel is elegant, the space is perfect for our event, and the offerings for events on and off site are amazing. Lake Tahoe and Virginia City are within a short drive, and there are many opportunities for shopping, golf, outdoor recreation, and award winning restaurants. The hotel has a world class spa, nightclub, and many opportunities to relax and network. The thing we loved about this hotel is that the gaming areas are completely separate from the meeting space. While the gaming is easily accessible, those not wishing to participate will barely know it is there. The food offerings at and around the hotel are highly rated. Perhaps the most impressive thing about the hotel are the high resolution video walls all over the resort with mesmerizing images from all over the world that make you feel like you have been transported to many beautiful destinations. There is a free and quick airport shuttle, and free parking for those that will be driving. We negotiated for upgraded rooms for conference attendees while keeping government per diem as our biggest priority. I have also linked to a few promotional videos for Reno/Tahoe and Northern Nevada.

1. Reno Tahoe Meetings Video (4 min.) – linked here <https://youtu.be/UXIRJTERwmA>
2. Video of Northern Nevada – [30 second Reno Video](#)

NIST SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS COMMENT PERIOD CLOSSES THIS WEEK

NIST details plans for reviewing the scientific foundations of forensic methods

Comment Period Closes Nov. 19

NIST published *Draft NISTIR 8225, Scientific Foundation Reviews*, on September 24, 2018. This publication describes NIST's approach to conducting scientific foundation reviews in forensic science, which seek to document and evaluate the body of scientific data underpinning forensic methods. NIST requests that readers submit comments, which will be considered when producing a final version of the document. The ASCLD Board will be providing comments, but we encourage each of you to submit any comments you might have. This document is a pretty quick read and is very important as this will guide the process that NIST uses to do these reviews.

The comment period will close on November 19, 2018 at 11:59pm.

<https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2018/09/nist-details-plans-reviewing-scientific-foundations-forensic-methods>