

Dear ASCLD Members,

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)/National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Expert Working Group on Human Factors in Forensic DNA Interpretation has developed a survey to be completed by **forensic DNA technical leaders**. A technical leader (or equivalent) is the individual who is responsible for the technical oversight of the DNA laboratory, which may include but is not limited to day-to-day quality assurance and accreditation compliance, design and implementation of methods development, verification of analytical instrumentation function, and validation of new technologies.

The DNA Technical Leaders survey has been designed to assess consistency and variability between forensic DNA laboratories with respect to laboratory management, tasks performed, DNA data interpretation, cognitive bias, internal and external training and research, testimony and reporting practices, quality assurance and quality control measures, and stakeholder engagement opportunities.

This survey will provide insight into the landscape of DNA laboratory practices and the role of technology in forensic DNA interpretation. The results of the survey will inform standards and best practice recommendations for the discipline, aid in the identification of research needs, and assist NIST in its mission to support the forensic science community.

If you are a forensic DNA technical leader (or equivalent), we kindly request your participation. The estimated time it will take to complete this survey is 45 minutes.

More information can be found here: <https://www.nist.gov/programs-projects/dna-technical-leader-survey> [nist.gov]

Click here to be taken directly to the

survey: https://rtihfdna.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6hydFO5jonForlA [rtihfdna.qualtrics.com]

Thank you in advance for your participation. Please feel free to forward this email to other forensic DNA technical leaders (or equivalents).

Warm regards,

Melissa Taylor
Program Manager, NIST
Melissa.taylor@nist.gov