

Email Subject: Invitation to Participate in NIJ-FTCoE Crime Laboratory Study

Dear Colleagues,

The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE), led by RTI International and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice (NIJ), is conducting a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) study and developing an accompanying CBA calculator to support evidence-based decision making for the considerations of implementing a Direct-to-DNA approach for the processing of sexual assault kits and sexual assault evidence in accordance with recommendation #27 in the NIJ [National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits; a Multidisciplinary Approach](#) guidance document.

With input from subject matter experts, NIJ, and RTI International, we have identified questions and metrics for evaluating the costs and benefits associated with implementing a Direct-to-DNA workflow in lieu of serology. **We are asking for your help through participation in:**

1. Completing a **short initial screening questionnaire** to identify the type of SAK processing workflow your laboratory uses and determine participation eligibility based upon the number of interested participants for each workflow.
2. Completing a **workflow-specific questionnaire*** that could take approximately two hours to complete and may require coordination across various management levels.
3. Joining a **30 to 60-minute telephone interview** to review the questionnaire together to discuss the questions and responses.

The perspectives you share will give us the information we need to refine the CBA calculator to develop the most meaningful, relevant, and timely tool to serve the crime laboratory community.

*If you are interested in participating, please contact **Mikalaa Martin** (mmmartin@rti.org) at RTI International and provide your name, best telephone number, and laboratory name.* She will be in touch with you within two business days. Additionally, please feel free to reach out if you have questions or comments about the project.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important study.

Sincerely,

Laura Sudkamp, Jennifer Naugle, and John Byrd
ASCLD President, ASCLD President-Elect, ASCLD Executive Director

** The answers you provide, while critical to building the knowledge base on the Direct-to-DNA approach, are entirely confidential. We will never share your personal information, or any information you give about your laboratory with anyone. All information you provide will be analyzed by RTI staff and any results that are presented in reports or other products will only be done so in aggregate form. Your participation in this survey, or in future phases of the study is completely voluntary and can be discontinued at any time.*