

This week I would like to highlight some member resources that ASCLD has been working on. I would urge you to read on because this is critical information that can really help you as a manager. The first is a webinar and podcast offerings about trauma and stress highlighted by our ASCLD Trauma and Stress Working Group. The second is regarding an ASCLD Member Resource Committee initiative to develop more model policies, this month focused on employee drug testing.

Stress and Trauma Webinars and Podcasts Available This Week:

The FTCoE has several new offerings for forensic practitioners in the trauma and stress mitigation category. There are several opportunities this week and on-demand to listen to Dr. David Christiansen. Dr. Christiansen has made several presentations at various forensic conferences and is slated to participate in the ASCLD symposium in May. He is working with our ASCLD Trauma and Stress Working Group.

- 1) **Thursday, December 13, 2018 1:00 PM ET – 2:00 PM ET** the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence is continuing its webinar series on “Forensic Workforce Resiliency: Vicarious Trauma & Workplace Stress” with a webinar titled “Psychological Survival in a Violent Career” with speaker Dr. David Christiansen. Dr. Christiansen will provide a brief introduction to training he has provided to many different agencies. He will present a philosophical/psychological model to show how trauma can negatively affect those who are frequently exposed to human tragedy without a purposely developed coping strategy. As leaders among Forensic Science professionals we would like to encourage participation in this educational webinar. <https://forensiccoe.org/webinar/workforce-resiliency-psychological-survival-violent-career/>
- 2) The FTCoE’s Just Science podcast’s fourth episode in the Forensic Advancement season focuses on trauma and how it can affect those working in Forensic Science. Just Psychological Resiliency is an interview of Dr. David Christiansen, a licensed psychologist in the State of Colorado. He discusses what trauma is and how to be aware of its effect on others. Listeners will learn about psychological wellness and how self-awareness can help develop resiliency to the trauma forensic professionals may experience. <https://forensiccoe.org/js7-e4/>

ASCLD Managers Toolkit:

The Member Resource Committee (MRC) is responsible for developing resources for ASCLD members to utilize in their respective organizations/jurisdictions. The goal of this committee is to facilitate collaboration amongst laboratories by sharing information about existing practices. In 2018 – 2019, the MRC is focusing on providing compilations of example policies that laboratories can use as a starting place or as a comparison to their own policies.

The first example policy document, [Case Acceptance Policies for Trace/Touch DNA](#), includes six examples and is now available in the [ASCLD Manager’s Toolkit](#), which is housed within the Member-only access area of the website. Additional examples can be added, if you have an alternative policy to share.

The MRC is now collecting example policies relating to Employee Drug Testing. If you are willing to share your policy, please complete the [MRC Sample Policy Template](#) and email it to erin.forry@asclld.org or linda.jackson@asclld.org. The template allows you to de-identify your policy so that it will not be attributed to your laboratory in the final example document.

Discipline Caseload Expectations are an area of great interest to many laboratory directors. After Employee Drug Testing, this will be the next topic. The MRC is developing a data collection mechanism to allow for easy compilation and comparison that will be distributed in the new year.

The MRC encourages all members to submit policy examples when advertised in the Crime Lab Minute using the MRC Sample Policy Template.