

This week is one of my favorites of the year. As a child, we would write Valentine's Day cards to all the kids in our school class and generally make creative boxes for people to put our cards in. We would also make cards for all our neighbor friends and family, put the card and candy on their doorstep, and knock on the door and try to get away without detection. While I have lost a step or two, this is still a fun tradition in our family. I also love helping my children create Valentine's Day boxes to take to school. Even some of our lab staff get in on the fun by decorating boxes and sharing candy. I hope that no matter if you celebrate Valentine's Day or not, that you take some time to celebrate your loved ones and have a fun week enjoying some time with family and friends. I have three very important items this week. First, a reminder about the FORESIGHT users group meeting. Second, we wanted to provide some information for you about national data sharing related to controlled substances and toxicology. Finally, we wanted you to be aware of the "Train the Director" webinar series presentation this week on trace evidence. This will wrap another excellent year of these presentations. Have a great week!

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### **FORESIGHT USERS GROUP MEETING**

The ASCLD Board is pleased to announce a FORESIGHT Strategy Session hosted at the Utah Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory in Salt Lake City, Utah on March 14-15, 2019 hosted by ASCLD President Matthew Gamette and ASCLD Past-President Jay Henry. All individuals participating or considering participating at some point in FORESIGHT are welcome to attend. Dr. Paul Speaker (West Virginia University) and Max Houck (FORESIGHT Co-Founder) have confirmed they plan to attend, and we have invited professors from several other top tier business schools. Attendees will be responsible for their own travel funding and arrangements (a hotel with per diem rate has been arranged). Tuition is very reasonable: FREE! Send an email to [jhenry@utah.gov](mailto:jhenry@utah.gov) to register or obtain more information.

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### **NFLIS-Tox Data Collection and Participation**

ASCLD is very excited to announce that the DEA is expanding the NFLIS program to include (1) medical examiner and coroner office (**NFLIS-MEC**) data regarding deaths in which drugs were identified and (2) public and private toxicology laboratory (**NFLIS-Tox**) data on toxicological findings from antemortem testing. These two continuous data collection programs complement NFLIS-Drug and further support the DEA's drug regulatory and scheduling efforts. Findings from recent [NFLIS-Tox](#) and [NFLIS-MEC](#) surveys can be found on the [Reports](#) page.

IF you are interested in joining other medical examiner and coroner offices or other toxicology laboratories participating in NFLIS-MEC and NFLIS-Tox, contact NFLIS at [DEA-NFLIS-MEC@rti.org](mailto:DEA-NFLIS-MEC@rti.org) or [DEA-NFLIS-TOX@rti.org](mailto:DEA-NFLIS-TOX@rti.org).

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### **HIDTA National Emerging Trend Initiative (NETI)**

NETI is a poly-drug national trends, intelligence and best practices sharing initiative designated to coordinate HIDTA emerging threat strategies in affected HIDTA areas and the United States. The initiative focuses on systemic approaches to addressing the illegal drug supply including the diverted use of legal drugs along with the collateral issues of each. NETI is focused on intelligence sharing and best practices which address emerging drug threats and their associated issues and problems of concern. NETI provides support in the identification, coordination, and implementation of a HIDTA strategy for developing drug-related risks affecting designated HIDTA areas and in the United States. The 2018 NETI report can be found at <http://gnoddr.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-NETI-Report-Public.pdf>

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### National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Emerging Trends and Alerts

The [National Drug Early Warning System \(NDEWS\)](#) began in August, 2014. NDEWS is supported through a Cooperative Agreement award to the University of Maryland. NDEWS continues to monitor drug trends in many Sentinel Community Sites. NDEWS also reports on drug trends across the U.S. as new issues emerge. NDEWS Sentinel Community Site annual reports describing drug use trends and emerging issues are available on the [NDEWS website](#)

New drugs and drug use trends often burst on the scene rapidly. NIDA's has a blog type website with reports on emerging trends and alerts in many metropolitan areas and states. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/emerging-trends-alerts>

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### HIDTA ODMap

First Responders enter data into the system identifying whether or not the incident is fatal or non-fatal and whether or not Naloxone was administered in a simple one-click system that takes seconds. No personal identifying information is collected on the victim or location. Level II users, defined as public health or safety staff are issued a login credential to enter our secure server to view the map. There are several filtering tools for analytical purposes and Level II users can elect to receive email notification when an overdose spike, defined specifically for each county, occurs within a 24-hour period. The spike notification system is designed to help public health and safety entities mobilize a response to affected areas including treatment and prevention strategies. <http://hidta.org/ODMap>

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### Science Trends Open Network Exchange (STONE) Monthly Call

The US Customs and Border Protection has alerted ASCLD to a monthly phone call about drugs being seen by CBP. As CBP provides a first line of defense for the United States, these calls present early warnings of what might be coming to state and local crime labs. This teleconference is called the Scientific Trends Online Network Exchange (STONE) and is organized through the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) network. The goal of the teleconference is for the forensic community of chemists, toxicologist, medical examiners, etc., with a law enforcement nexus to call in to hear about what is being seen regionally or nationally. Federal, state, local, tribal, and international participants with a law enforcement nexus are invited to attend. Requests to join the STONE call have to be cleared through Mike Snyders of the HIDTA. Again, participants need a law enforcement nexus. Mike can be reached at [mrsnyders@nhac.org](mailto:mrsnyders@nhac.org) The presenter on the STONE call is Dr. Mike McCormick, Science Officer, Laboratories & Scientific Services Directorate US Customs and Border Protection. Mike McCormick can be reached at [Michael.M.McCormick@dhs.gov](mailto:Michael.M.McCormick@dhs.gov)

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### TRAIN THE DIRECTOR WEBINAR SERIES—CONTINUES THIS WEEK

Due to the overwhelming response to the first season, the FTCoE and ASCLD are pleased to bring you the latest collaborative installment in the *Train the Director Webinar Series*. This expansive series will highlight five different forensic disciplines: Digital Forensics, Fire Debris Analysis, Trace Analysis, Quality Assurance, and Crime Gun Intelligence. The subject matter experts that will be presenting on these topics are champions in their respective fields and will bring valuable information to the forensic community through their detailed and thorough research. **Join us this week for the last one in the series for this year!**

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#### Trace Evidence for the Crime Laboratory

**Thursday, February 14, 2019 2:00:00 PM ET – 3:00:00 PM ET**

**Speaker: Susan Gross, MSFS**

[Click here to learn more about this webinar and register.](#)

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#### IN MEMORIAM—DR. EDWIN CRESPO TORRES



*"Dijo Jesús: Yo soy la resurrección y la vida, quien cree en mí, aunque haya muerto vivirá; y todo aquél que vive y cree en mí no morirá para siempre".*  
Juan 11: 25-26



*Dr. Edwin Crespo Torres, Ph.D.  
1961-2019*

Los Empleados del Negociado de Ciencias Forenses nos unimos en oración y solidaridad a la familia de nuestro *Antropólogo Forense y Primer Comisionado* tras su partida. No le olvidaremos y sabemos que estará bien. Siempre fue un buen ser humano y reconocemos lo mucho que amó su profesión y a esta Institución. Descanse en paz.

Dr. Edwin Crespo passed away last week after a valiant battle with cancer. He worked for over 27 years as a forensic anthropologist, and finished his career as the Commissioner of the Bureau of Forensic Sciences in Puerto Rico. His areas of expertise were in the fields of forensic anthropology and bioarcheology. He was the first and only specialist with vast experience in these specialties, not only in Puerto Rico, but in most of the insular Caribbean. Regarding the field of forensic anthropology, from 1991 to 2018, he worked as an external consultant in the area of forensic anthropology for the Bureau of Forensic Sciences of Puerto Rico, working closely with the Divisions of Forensic Investigators and Forensic Pathology. During this period of time he collaborated in criminal scenes with public order agencies, both state and federal. On multiple occasions, he appeared as an expert in the Bureau of Forensic Sciences in the courts of Puerto Rico. On December 16, 2017 the Honorable Governor of Puerto Rico, Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares, extended to Dr. Crespo the appointment as Commissioner of the Bureau of Forensic Sciences. He was subsequently confirmed as the first Commissioner of the Bureau of Forensic Science, a charge that he held until August 2018

when he resigned due to illness. Dr. Crespo worked as a professor (associate professor) and researcher in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (Faculty of Social Sciences), where he was coordinator of the Forensic Anthropology and Bioarchaeology Laboratory at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. He offered courses in the Department of Biology (Faculty of Natural Sciences -UPR-RP), in the Forensic Sciences Program and in the Master of Criminal Justice of the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, and in the School of Criminal Investigation of the Puerto Rico Police Academy. He educated members of the public prosecutor's office of the Department of Justice of Puerto Rico where he offered talks and training workshops on the role of anthropology in forensic investigation. In 1997 he was invited by the Non-Governmental Organization, known as the Center for Legal Action in Human Rights (CALDH) of Guatemala, with the purpose of supervising the exhumation of several tombs associated with the acts of violence and the violation of human rights that the Central American country suffered as part of a civil war for 30 years. In 2016 he was a collaborator of the Training Program for the "International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP)" of the United States Department of Justice. As part of the ICITAP-CSI-Mexico team, he conducted workshops on the treatment of clandestine tombs and analysis of human remains. Dr. Crespo was the author of several journal articles and book chapters, as well as hundreds of scientific reports on the analysis of human remains from both anthropological and forensic and bioarchaeological contexts.