

This week I am in Puerto Rico with President-Elect Brooke Arnone and a group of approximately 30 forensic pathologists and anthropologists helping our colleagues on the island. ASCLD has been involved with the National Association of Attorney's General (NAAG) for over a year on this project. We have taken technical experts from every discipline to the island to provide assistance. We are currently helping them implement a new LIMS system, providing a sexual assault tracking system, helping them work cases and obtain needed training, finding grant funding for outsourcing sexual assault kits and convicted offender samples, assisting in identifying needed instrumentation, and providing leadership training. We are very excited with the progress the lab is making in a number of areas. One area where Puerto Rico is really taking a leadership role is in addressing trauma and stress. The lab is bringing in specialists to provide counseling assistance for customers coming in to identify their deceased relatives and employing psychologists to help their staff members deal with stressful backlogs and working conditions. ASCLD is pleased with the success of our Trauma and Stress Working Group this year. The resources they have provided, the discussions they have started, and the research they have initiated has been impressive. They have prepared a workshop and several talks for the symposium that will be informative and helpful. In advance of the symposium, we want to highlight some of the work of this group and provide some additional resources they have developed.

TRAUMA AND STRESS WORKING GROUP

- ASCLD's Trauma & Stress Working Group (TSWG) was formed to highlight the critical lack of awareness, research, and training of forensic professionals regarding job-related stress and vicarious trauma. The TSWG is examining the factors contributing to stress and vicarious trauma, and identifying current strategies to address these issues and build resiliency, as well as related gaps in knowledge and resources.
- The TSWG wants to highlight several recently developed resources that are available to the ASCLD membership. First, we would like to highlight a recent FTCoE Just Science podcast on the topic. The link within the President's Corner will take you to an archived podcast. Second, and perhaps more important, we want to provide you with a list of resources on this important topic. Please see the link in the President's Corner for this list of resources.
- Finally, I wanted to highlight a new grant program for Trauma and Stress. [New Solicitation: The Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act \(LEMHWA\) Program](#) This solicitation is for funding proposals under the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), and not funding under NIJ. The LEMHWA program is a competitive solicitation, open to all public governmental agencies, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, community groups, and faith-based organizations. LEMHWA funds are used to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement through training and technical assistance, demonstration projects, and implementation of promising practices related to peer mentoring mental health and wellness programs that are national in scope and responsive to the solicitation topic requirements. The 2019 LEMHWA program will fund projects that develop knowledge, increase awareness of effective mental health and wellness strategies, increase the skills and abilities of law enforcement, and increase the number of law enforcement agencies and relevant stakeholders using peer mentoring programs. One recommendation for LEMHWA implementation is to encourage departments to make support available to nonsworn employees on the same terms as their sworn colleagues whenever possible. The civilian staff most often mentioned as warranting enhanced services were dispatch, forensic, and crime scene investigation staff. Up to \$2 million is available through this year's program, and all awards are subject to the availability of funds. Applications are due May 28, 2019, at 7:59 PM ET.

The Tenth Annual Prescription For Criminal Justice And Forensic Science National Institute

ASCLD is a co-sponsor of this event. We will be providing several informative panels consisting of ASCLD members. The Tenth Annual Prescription For Criminal Justice And Forensic Science National Institute promises to provide unique opportunities for lawyers and judges to gain educational insight into

the foundations of science, the scientific method, the growing role of statistical analysis in forensic science, and the latest developments affecting the legal landscape surrounding forensic science. This program is the point of intersection between science and the law.

The Tenth Annual Prescription For Criminal Justice And Forensic Science National Institute

May 29-30, 2019
Fordham University School of Law
New York, NY

Visit www.ambar.org/CJF2019 to register



Join our experts in law, science and statistics as they explain new and changing developments in forensic science and public policy that affect the rapidly changing field.

<https://www.americanbar.org/events-cle/mtg/inperson/350429299/>

FLN-TWG Meeting in Phoenix April 24-25

I was able to meet with ASCLD members and other experts from all over the country as we convened in the City of Phoenix Crime Laboratory to meet and discuss a variety of issues. Topics for this meeting included proteomic mass spectrometry, Q-TOF, FORESIGHT for digital labs, NGS/MPS, and 3D topography for firearms cases. Working groups were tasked with developing implementation plans for these technologies. A survey will be coming out soon from the ASCLD Board to help us give some feedback to NIJ about the Coverdell and CEBR solicitations. Members should also start looking for information on the July 18-19 Opioid Summit for policy makers. Our thanks goes out to all these FLN-TWG members that give so much of their time and expertise to this important initiative.

