

ASCLD PUERTO RICO ASSISTANCE

ASCLD has partnered with the National Association of Attorney's General to help the Puerto Rico forensic science laboratory and medical examiner office. Last week the ASCLD Board met in Puerto Rico and then provided technical assistance to the Puerto Rico laboratory as they continue to recover from some devastating circumstances like Hurricane Maria. On Friday, the Puerto Rico Governor appointed Dr. Beatrice Zayas as the new Commissioner of the laboratory and medical examiner office. Saturday and Sunday the ASCLD Board met to discuss many issues facing all ASCLD members and the organization. More information will be coming in future messages about those discussions. Also on Saturday and Sunday, instructors taught the world renowned ASCLD Leadership Academy to 30 managers and supervisors from the Puerto Rico laboratory. The feedback on this academy was overwhelmingly positive. Monday through Thursday ASCLD Board Members and other technical advisors were assigned to each technical discipline to review methods, instrumentation, case prioritization and anything possible to increase productivity and address challenges. The team put in very long hours and great effort to help colleagues in Puerto Rico. Teams were assigned to help the laboratory with their LIMS system improvement, sexual assault kit tracking software, grants management, human resources, financial accounting, building and infrastructure needs, and quality management. The ASCLD/NAAG team also took 8 anthropologists to Puerto Rico to help with approximately 60 cases that the lab does not have the ability to work. This work will likely lead to the resolution of some missing person cases and resolution of forensic cases. The week was an amazing success! It was inspiring to see the technical experts using their skills to discuss the challenges the laboratory faces. Meetings were facilitated by the ASCLD/NAAG team with prosecutors and law enforcement to talk about priorities and ensuring that the whole criminal justice system gets their needs addressed with the limited laboratory capacity right now in Puerto Rico. On Monday, I was able to represent ASCLD and meet with Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello, Idaho Attorney General Wasden, Massachusetts Attorney General Healey, Puerto Rico Attorney General Wanda Vazquez Garced, Puerto Rico Department of Public Safety Director Pesquera, Puerto Rico Forensic Science Commissioner Beatrice Zayas, and US Attorney for Puerto Rico Rosa Emilia Rodriguez to talk about forensic science and help for the lab and ME office. We held a joint press conference where we introduced the forensic initiative and talked about the importance of resources and support. The importance of this project cannot be overstated. This week we are recruiting forensic pathologists that are willing to donate a week or two of time to go to Puerto Rico and help with autopsies and medical reports. We are also looking for funding to support future teams to travel to the island and provide casework and validation assistance. If any of you are aware of funding opportunities through benevolent organizations, please reach out to me. Again, I want to thank our amazing team that went to Puerto Rico last week. It made a huge difference, and our colleagues there appreciated it immensely. I have provided all the news releases and media articles from last week so that you can learn more about the project.





<https://www.forensicmag.com/news/2019/01/ags-crime-lab-directors-assist-puerto-rico-forensic-science-lab-after-long-hurricane-damage>

https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=es&u=https://www.notiuno.com/noticias/gobierno-y-politica/importantes-asociaciones-estadounidenses-brindan-apoyo-a-ciencias-forenses/article_d8108866-182f-11e9-9f7b-8b3f10b5d40c.html&prev=search

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<https://www.metro.pr/pr/noticias/2019/01/14/reforzarán-ciencias-forenses-con-recursos-estadounidenses.html>

https://www.elvocero.com/gobierno/anuncian-acuerdo-colaborativo-en-beneficio-de-ciencias-forenses/article_f5fdeb50-1827-11e9-b8ae-cf9e9e77af2b.html



TRAIN THE DIRECTOR WEBINAR SERIES—RETURNS 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.

NIBIN Challenges and Opportunities

Thursday, January 24, 2019 2:00:00 PM ET – 3:00:00 PM ET

Speakers: Justin Bechaver, Jessica Ellefritz, Jennifer Gelston, Benjamin Swanholm

This webinar will discuss the challenges and opportunities regarding the implementation of the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) program. The NIBIN program has the potential to find links in cases involving firearms that can quickly assist in an investigation.

Crime Gun Intelligence utilizes evidence-based technology to provide law enforcement a unique tool to develop information on crime guns and shootings to identify and disrupt the shooting cycle. The program has the potential to quickly find links between shooting cases, links across jurisdictional boundaries, and has the potential of increased communication and problem solving between agencies. One of the foundations of this intelligence is the use of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' (ATF) National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). In 2018, the National Crime Gun Intelligence Governing Board established Minimum Required Operating Standards (MROS) for NIBIN. The webinar will include a brief discussion on NIBIN and the new standards, presentations from a state laboratory (Utah Bureau of Forensic Science) and local laboratory (Phoenix Police Laboratory Services Bureau) on some of the challenges of implementation as well as how they are working to meet the new standards, with time for questions.

[**Click Here to Find out More and Register!!**](#)

Digital Forensics: An Overview for the Laboratory Manager

Thursday, January 31, 2019 2:00:00 PM ET – 3:00:00 PM ET

Speakers: Timothy Scanlan & Stephen Villerie

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

Fire Debris Analysis is Not Black Magic!

Thursday, February 7, 2019 2:00:00 PM ET – 3:00:00 PM ET

Speaker: Carl Chasteen

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

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.**](#)

IN MEMORIAM—TARA TIGHE



Tara Tighe, former interim director and Quality Manager of the Vermont State Police Laboratory, passed away on January 7, 2019. Tara, a healthy athlete who loved dragon boat racing, was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2017. The following was circulated by Trisha Conti, Vermont Laboratory Director:

It is with the heaviest of hearts that I share the news of Tara's passing. After a courageous 15-month battle, she passed away this afternoon surrounded by her family. I'd be remiss if I didn't relay some of my experience from our last visit together. Knowing that she was nearing the end, she had made the boldest of decisions to stop treatment and spend her remaining days opening her heart to all those who loved her. Where others may have taken a bitter or angry outlook on their fate, she embraced it as simply the next step of her

journey. Of course there were tears, but there was also laughter, smiles and love...so much love. I sat there in awe of a woman I knew to be brave and tough as nails, but her demeanor and outlook were a marvel to behold. It was not a goodbye, but a "see you soon". Tara adored her work family and the friendships she developed with all of us over the years. Her presence and energy will live on with us for years to come - especially in cardinals, her spirit animal (only the male ones - she was adamant about that because they're "cuter").

Tara A. Tighe

Colchester - On Monday, January 7, 2019 Tara A. Tighe, 54, passed away at the McClure Respite House in Colchester, VT with family and friends at her side. Tara was born January 4th 1965 in the Bronx To Timothy and Agnes. She was raised in southern New York with sisters Tammy and Tricia, and brothers Timmy and Tommy. She graduated from Oakwood Friends School and Potsdam College with a B.A. in chemistry. She received an M.S. in chemistry from The Pennsylvania State University and worked at the State of Vermont Forensic Laboratory for 20 years. Tara was married to Jay Burnham and raised two sons, Tighe and Teagen. To Tara, love, family, friends, and paddling a dragonboat are everything in life. A funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, January 19 at 2 PM , at Faith United Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St, South Burlington, VT 05403 with a reception to follow.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/burlingtonfreepress/obituary.aspx?n=tara-a-tighe&pid=191275242&fhid=39954>