

This week the focus of my President's message is on our international efforts. Thank you to ASCLD Board members Erin Forry and Christian Westring and many ASCLD members for their efforts on these initiatives!

The Standards and Accreditation Initiatives Committee



The Standards and Accreditation Initiatives Committee has been very active. The United States Technical Advisory Group (US TAG) to ISO TC 272 met at the Phoenix Police Department on September 20-21. The group reviewed comments from the US TAG membership organizations in relation to standards on analysis, interpretation, reporting. The group also reviewed a standards related to minimizing contamination in consumables that are not used in DNA analysis. The US TAG extends an invitation to vendors to participate in the development of this standard. Vendors should contact US TAG Chair Erin Forry if they have interest.

To date, TC 272 has published three standards:

- ISO 18385: 2016 Minimizing the risk of human DNA contamination in products used to collect, store and analyze biological material for forensic purposes -- Requirements
- ISO 21043-1:2018 Forensic Sciences --Part 1: Terms and definitions
- ISO 21043-2:2018 Forensic Sciences --Part 2: Recognition, recording, collecting, transport and storage of items

Representatives of the US TAG will be attending the ISO TC 272 Forensic Science meeting in Mexico City from November 19th-23rd and will participate in the working groups to continue development of these standards. The United States and ASCLD look forward to hosting our colleagues from ISO TC 272 for its Spring meeting at the ASCLD Symposium in St. Louis, Missouri in 2019.

The International Committee

On August 27th and 28th, ASCLD participated in the Interpol and also the IFSA (International Forensic Strategic Alliance) meetings in conjunction with the European Academy of Forensic Sciences in Lyon, France. Many of our fellow US and European colleagues attended the EAFS meeting. ASCLD participated in the Interpol International Forensic Science Symposium planning subcommittee in preparation for next years meeting. ASCLD Board Member Christian Westring, as the Chair of International Committee, traveled to historic Lyon to meet with recognized leaders from the six regional networks (SMANZFL, ENFSI, AICEF, ASFN, SARFS, and ASCLD) which comprise the IFSA network. As one of the founding members of IFSA, ASCLD continues its strong support of these efforts in the international space, and looks forward to building on this history into the future. Our collaborative efforts to discuss strategic issues impacting forensic science on a global scale strengthens our core mission of developing minimum requirement documents (MRDs), new and emerging technologies, and forensic science service models (for more details, visit www.ifsa-forensics.org). Over the past few years, one of the key initiatives for the IFSA team was to complete a series of MRDs for a variety of forensic disciplines. These include Seized Drug Analysis, Forensic DNA Analysis, and Crime Scene Investigation. These documents, which reflect an impressive collection of knowledge and effort on behalf of countless volunteers. Ultimately, in addition to the original English drafts, they were also translated to Spanish, French, and Russian, with Chinese and Arabic translations pending. Based on the success of these documents, the IFSA team expanded the MRDs to Digital & Multimedia Evidence, Questions Documents, and Latent Prints. The drafts of these documents are currently in development. (For all the IFSA MRD documents, please visit <http://www.ifsa-forensics.org/minimum-requirements-documents/>). The team agreed that the task of translating technical documents, albeit useful, was a challenge long term. In addition to MRDs, the group had the opportunity to enjoy an interactive PowerPoint presentation which ASCLD Forensic Research Committee Chair Henry Maynard had kindly prepared for the group regarding the LEAP program. IFSA participants recognized the value of the LEAP program in support of our core mission to building strong professional relationships between researchers and practitioners engaged in the same field of study. IFSA participants who are not already signed up with the LEAPs programs through our website were strongly encouraged to do so.

Christian did a great job representing ASCLD at both the Interpol and IFSA meetings in Lyon. A common thread exists within the forensic science community to work collaboratively to solve common problems and interests. ASCLD was particularly pleased to participate in discussion with both groups on the value of publications directed towards leadership and management. As leaders within this field, we believe that publication (whether technical, quality, or management related) is of critical importance to our field. ASCLD continues to explore ways for our membership to participate in and benefit more from forensic science leadership and management publications.



IFSA Meeting, EAFS 2018, Lyon France

From Left to Right: Susan Hitchin, Kermit Channell, John Doherty, Michael Bovens, Erkki Sippola, Paul Ludick, Justice Tettey, Angeline Yap, and Christian Westring.

In Memoriam:

Our greatest sympathy goes out to the family of forensic science pioneer Dr. Ranajit Chakraborty. Dr. Chakraborty passed away last week at the age of 72. More information about Dr. Chakraborty is available at <https://sph.uth.edu/news/story/in-memoriam-ranajit-chakraborty-phd>

Matthew Gamette
ASCLD President