

I remember very well my first time as an analyst at the Washington State Patrol collecting data to participate in Project FORESIGHT. WSP was one of the first to participate. I admit as an analyst not understanding why we were spending so much time collecting all the data. The tool required much more data at that time than it does now. Why this data was important became very clear to me a short time later in my first management job with the Idaho State Police. The questions that I was asked in my new role were no longer science questions, but rather business questions: How “efficient” and “cost effective” is the laboratory? What is the cost to implement this legislation? What is your return on investment (ROI)? Furthermore, I needed to communicate our lab needs to my sworn management and administrative policymakers. I eagerly attended the early FORESIGHT user meetings as I tried to navigate ISP into a situation to report into FORESIGHT. I am a firm believer in this project, and I am pleased to report that my own lab has finally accomplished automated reporting from our Porter Lee LIMS system as a beta testing lab of the ASCLD Project FORESIGHT 20/20 team. We are now helping other labs to automate their Porter Lee systems like we have done.

It has been a number of years since we were able to have a true FORESIGHT strategy meeting. Past-President Jay Henry and I have been dreaming about bringing together lab directors from around the country to have some in-depth discussions about how we can use this tool even more effectively. We are pleased to announce a **FORESIGHT Strategy Session for ASCLD members hosted at the Utah Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory in Salt Lake City, Utah on March 14-15, 2019.** 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, and more information will be made available soon. Tuition is very reasonable: **free!** We invite all current FORESIGHT participating lab directors/managers and directors considering submitting data in the future. There will be discussions on how the data is currently being used and strategic sessions about how the tool can be used even more effectively. For those of you that have not attended before, these are very interactive meetings, so plan to participate actively in the discussion.

In celebration of a decade of benchmarking, the founding members of Project FORESIGHT were recognized at the 2018 ASCLD Annual Symposium. Project FORESIGHT is a business-guided self-evaluation of forensic science laboratories across the globe. The participating laboratories represent local, regional, state, and national agencies from across the globe. Laboratories participating in Project FORESIGHT have developed standardized definitions for metrics to evaluate work processes, linking financial information to work tasks, and functions. Laboratory managers can then assess resource allocations, efficiencies, and value of services—the mission of Project FORESIGHT is to measure, preserve what works, and change what does not.

The data collected through FORESIGHT also provide laboratories with the concrete evidence of their contributions to provide to their stakeholders and funding bodies. Laboratories have successfully increased funding for capital equipment and personnel by demonstrating operational efficiency within the forensic community and return on investment to their jurisdiction. The high performers with greater than 90% efficiency rating were recognized at the 2018 ASCLD Annual Symposium as FORESIGHT Maximus award winners. Wouldn't you like to be able to say to your administrative leadership that your lab earned a Maximus award?

Current FORESIGHT research projects include, among others: support for the Government Accountability Office's evaluation of the funding needs to address DNA evidence backlogs; Office of Justice Program's Forensic Laboratory Needs Assessment; and several projects with the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence. The FTCOE projects include calculation of the return on investment from by jurisdiction for the testing of SAKs, determination of the costs of the opioid crisis to laboratories, and development of a workforce calculator for laboratories that accounts for crime rates, population served, and economies of

scale. Research output from Project FORESIGHT is highlighted at the [program website](#). The annual reports can also be found on the website, but one has been posted in the CLM for ease of access.

The contributions that Project FORESIGHT can make to forensic laboratories is dependent upon participation by the laboratories themselves. The [LabRAT Classic](#) data reporting tool and a new [LabRAT Levels](#) tool with the minimum reporting requirements are available along with the annual program reports at the [program website](#). Completed LabRAT data forms may be submitted to Paul Speaker (paul.speaker@mail.wvu.edu). In return, the laboratory will receive (at no charge) an individualized report on their performance across areas of investigation.