

Last week I was able to travel to Atlanta to meet with representatives from several states trying to set up a collaborative for toxicology testing. A new group has emerged that I will talk more about during the Symposium this year. This is truly a grassroots initiative to better the practice of forensic science, and I am excited about the goals this new group has for this year. Last weekend I was able to host representatives of the CDC, National Emerging Threat Initiative (NETI) of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), and Bruce Houlihan of the ASCLD Emerging Drug Task Force for a meeting in Idaho. It was a great opportunity to visit about grassroots efforts to build data sharing mechanisms that will benefit forensic science service providers including labs, medical examiner offices, and coroners offices. ASCLD is very interested in grassroots projects that will lead to identification of emerging drug threats and trends. This week in this message, we are soliciting the thought leaders in our organization and those working on grassroots initiatives to submit to the Executive Digest. More information is available in the next paragraph, but we are eager to hear about those things you are working on.

EXECUTIVE DIGEST

In anticipation of another edition of the ASCLD Executive Digest, we are soliciting articles and other contributions. The digest is a brief document that you can read on the way to the symposium. It will have all the items for the business meeting, and other important information for the symposium. Past President Jeremy Triplett has again volunteered to edit and publish the digest before the symposium. Any contributions should be submitted to Jeremy before April 30th. An example of a previous edition can be found at the following link. https://www.asclد.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/2013_Exec_Education_Digest.pdf

SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS PUBLISHED

Part of the value of the ASCLD partnership with the journal FSI-Synergy is to have the symposium abstracts published in an open access and indexed journal. We are thrilled to announce that the 2018 ASCLD symposium proceedings are online and generally available at the following link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/forensic-science-international-synergy/vol/1/suppl/S1>

SURVEYS TO BENEFIT FORENSIC SCIENCE RESEARCHERS

- Stevenson University is studying crime scene investigations. Principle Investigator Jessica Walker is studying the evolution of note taking in public forensic laboratories. The survey should only take 1 minute or so to complete. Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GTTVYRW>
- Sam Houston State University is studying crime laboratory employee's perceptions about sexual assault cases. Principle Investigator Shamika Kelley is interested in laboratories that would support their employees being part of her study. Contact Shamika at sms167@SHSU.EDU
- Louisiana State Police expresses thanks to the ASCLD members that participated in their survey on crime scene investigations. They found the data very helpful and Adam Becnel is willing to share the results if you are interested.

ONLINE TOXICOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

2nd Annual Online Symposium: Current Trends in Forensics & Forensic Toxicology

May 13th - 17th, 2019 at 9:00am - 12:00pm EDT / 6:00am - 9:00am PDT / 3:00pm - 6:00pm CEST

- [Click HERE to find out more and Register!](#)
- [Symposium Overview](#)
- [Full Symposium Program](#)

Experience best practices in forensic toxicology such as sample preparation, method development, and forensic method validation. Learn from dedicated sessions on seized drug and trace analysis. Interact with the experts in a panel discussion at the close of each day. Learn from sponsored presentations introducing new products, services, and educational opportunities and take advantage of the week-long poster session! This online symposium will provide you with ready access to some of today's leading researchers and practitioners without ever having to leave the laboratory.

Why Should You Attend?

- Insights from leading researchers and practitioners spanning 5 different countries on two continents
- Free registration and no travel costs. Learn without leaving the laboratory.
- On-demand access for content review
- Acceptable by the ABFT for continuing education credits (see [registration page](#) for details)
- Accompanying virtual poster session
- Symposium e-book with abstracts, slides, and presentation summary

Registration for this event closed early last year due to overwhelming demand, so don't delay. Register now to reserve your space!

This year's Online Symposium will feature our new platform, which we are confident will enhance to overall webinar experience for our users. You will need to create a new learner's account the first time you log in, and then you will be redirected to the registration once your account has been successfully created.

Last year's event focused on forensic toxicology and featured speakers such as Robert Kronstrand, Sarah Kerrigan, Ray Liu, and Simon Elliot, among others. The Symposium was a huge success last year reaching over 1,000 participants from all over the world. Nearly a year after the event requests are still coming in for the symposium proceedings that were published as an e-book.