

Dear Colleagues,

As you may know our Forensic Research Committee has officially launched our Laboratories and Educators Alliance Program (LEAP) to facilitate collaborative research between academic and forensic science laboratories. In order to make this effort a success we are asking that you consider adding your lab to the LEAP map. It's a simple sign-up that takes less than a minute (<https://asclد.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/LEAP-Lab-Sign-up-Form.pdf>). Our university researchers and students can benefit greatly from you and your scientist's experience and direction in making research projects serve all our joint needs.

We all recognize the need for research to provide our cases the latest technology to prevent and solve crime, while protecting the rights of the innocent and suspect alike. We also must acknowledge that crime lab resources are stretched thin covering our casework demands. Leveraging the resources of interested university researchers, we can bring the strength of our scientist's experience, academic researcher's capabilities and student's need for applicable projects to better meet all our needs. Through ASCLD's partnership with the Council of Forensic Science Educators (COFSE), we are identifying forensic science needs and providing a platform for laboratories, researcher, and students to seek projects that align with their mutual research needs and capabilities.

For more LEAP information or for additional information about the ASCLD Forensic Research Committee, please visit: <http://www.asclد.org/forensic-research-committee/>

Please consider signing up your Crime Lab to participate in this valuable initiative.

Matthew Gamette