

I realized this week that I only have a few more weeks to write the President's message. I recommitted to spend that valuable time in a sprint to the finish. We start this week at the NIST conference on forensic science standards. ASCLD Board Members Erin Foray, Linda Jackson, and I will represent ASCLD. We are excited to visit with experts in standards, the accrediting bodies, and forensic scientists to discuss this important topic. This week we will also be visiting this many in Congress to discuss important legislation and appropriations for forensic science.

Over the last several weeks I have been with President-Elect Brooke Arnone and a group of approximately 30 forensic pathologists, pathology techs, and anthropologists helping our colleagues in Puerto Rico. There will be a press release early this week regarding the work the ASCLD/NAAG team accomplished during this trip. The group was able to accomplish over 122 autopsies and external examinations, finish 58 anthropology cases, and have meetings to move forward a number of projects. ASCLD is assisting in deploying a sexual assault kit tracking system, implementing a new LIMS system, outsourcing thousands of sexual assault kits and database samples, and assisting the quality system with assessments for the lab and medical examiner offices. I was able to meet with Governor Rossello, outgoing Secretary of Public Safety Pesquera, incoming Secretary of Public Safety Roman, FEMA officials, HHS representatives, and many other Puerto Rican government and laboratory officials. It was a very emotional and mentally exhausting week as we worked to ensure that families could be reunited with their deceased loved ones. Our thanks to our ASCLD Rapid DNA DVI task force for their assistance on this project. Mandy Sozier with SNA International volunteered her time to review eligible cases, and ANDE Corporation donated tens of thousands of dollars in instruments, reagents, and scientists to identify Jane/John Doe decedents. Thanks to the work of many volunteer pathologists, pathology techs, and forensic scientists, we were able to give many families some sense of closure. These volunteers were an inspiration to me. They were productive, cohesive, and had the hearts of servants and teachers. The Puerto Rican staff were eager to engage with our volunteers, and our volunteers were eager to fix equipment, provide new tools, and collaborate with their Puerto Rican colleagues. Our thanks to the many forensic science agencies that provided support for their employees to participate, and our deepest gratitude goes out to several volunteers that took their vacation leave to be able to participate in this mission. Many of the volunteers came because of a family connection to Puerto Rico, but everyone on the team seemed to leave with one. We heard stories during the week about reunifications of families with their lost loved ones. There were many expressions of thanks for our work on the island. I am happy to report that the laboratory is making great progress, and it is exciting to be involved in this inspiring work. Seeing the new instrument boxes in the hallways, hearing about new methods being deployed in the laboratory, and watching new laboratory leadership implement change has been inspiring. Some great news that came out of this visit was that due to the hard work being put in by the Puerto Rico NCF/ASCLD/NAAG team, NAME extended the accreditation for the medical examiner office to Fall 2020. We are extremely thankful to those of you volunteering your time to lead and work on Puerto Rico projects, writing assessments of their disciplines, technically reviewing casework, or providing training for their staff. I am proud to be part of the ASCLD family!

QIC Vacancies

ASCLD has five (5) positions on the QIC. We anticipate that at least one vacancy may occur this fall. We are requesting that any interested ASCLD Member submit a letter of interest and a CV to the Board before the 15th of May. Application materials will be considered for any open ASCLD QIC position this year. Submission materials should be directed to the ASCLD office at office@asclد.org



Drug Chemistry White Box Study

The Kentucky State Police Forensic Laboratories and NIJ's Forensic Technology Center of Excellence are conducting a white box study for drug chemistry. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the reliability and validity of common analytical schemes used for the identification of seized drugs in forensic laboratories, based on needs identified by the Organization of Scientific Area Committees Seized Drug Subcommittee ([LINK](#)) and the National Institute of Justice Technical Working Group for Controlled Substances ([LINK](#), p.4). The results of the study will assist in establishing error rates for seized drugs analysis and, further, could provide empirical data from which laboratories can make informed policy decisions about the techniques they implement in casework.

We are currently seeking volunteer laboratories to participate in this important study. Volunteer labs will be asked to analyze 2 sets of unknown samples. In the first set, the laboratory will be asked to perform a single, particular analytical technique on each sample. In the second set, the laboratory will be asked to perform a prescribed analytical scheme on different samples. The results will be statistically analyzed to compare the efficacy of individual analytical techniques and various analytical schemes.

Results for the study will be anonymized and reported in aggregate form. Neither the participant laboratories nor their individual responses will be identified in the final report. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions document available at <https://www.asclد.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf> for additional information about the study. If your laboratory is interested in participating in this unique opportunity, if you have questions, or if you would like additional information, please contact Jeremy Triplett, Drug Chemistry Supervisor at the Kentucky State Police Central Forensic Laboratory, at jeremy.triplett@ky.gov.

The Tenth Annual Prescription For Criminal Justice And Forensic Science National Institute

ASCLD is a co-sponsor of this event. We will be providing several informative panels consisting of ASCLD members. The Tenth Annual Prescription For Criminal Justice And Forensic Science National Institute promises to provide unique opportunities for lawyers and judges to gain educational insight into

The Tenth Annual Prescription For Criminal Justice And Forensic Science National Institute

May 29-30, 2019
Fordham University School of Law
New York, NY

Visit www.ambar.org/CJF2019 to register



the foundations of science, the scientific method, the growing role of statistical analysis in forensic science, and the latest developments affecting the legal landscape surrounding forensic science. This program is the point of intersection between science and the law.

This program is a must for seasoned practitioners and the novice, and many of our attendees return year after year. Register now for the Tenth Annual Prescription For Criminal Justice And Forensic Science National Institute.

Join our experts in law, science and statistics as they explain new and changing developments in forensic science and public policy that affect the rapidly changing field.

<https://www.americanbar.org/events-cle/mtg/inperson/350429299/>

BJA Competitive Opioid Solicitation Released

BJA's FY2019 solicitation for the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based FY 2019 Competitive Grant program has been released. Applications Due by June 5, 2019. Grant program and application process webinar: April 29, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., ET

Notable Forensics information:

Category 1: Locally Driven Responses to the Opioid Epidemic

Allowable Uses of Category 1 Funds

Category 1 grant funds, regardless of the subcategory, may be used to support a combination of the allowable use activities described below, or be concentrated on one, so long as the proposed budget is appropriate and justified:

- Implement an overdose fatality review team (that includes representation from medical examiner or coroner offices) and/or support multidisciplinary intervention models such as New York City's RxStat Program (<http://www.pdmpassist.org/pdf/RxStat.pdf>) to bring together stakeholders with different perspectives and different data sets.
- Support the timely collection of data and/or data integration with other data sets (such as PDMP records) to provide an understanding of drug trends, support program evaluation, inform clinical decision making, identify at-risk individuals or populations, or support investigations. Examples of data sources may include medical examiner and coroner offices, forensic science laboratories, crime scene units (such as data related to the analysis of suspected controlled substances and toxicology analysis), or other novel sources of information such as testing used needles from syringe exchange programs to understand the current local drug supply. Grant funds may be used to upgrade, lease, or purchase equipment or case/information management systems only to the extent the applicant clearly articulates how the equipment or case/information management systems will expedite access to data or data integration that will be used as part of a comprehensive strategy. Applications must clearly articulate how the proposed collection of data or data integration efforts are part of a larger collaborative effort with multiple project partners. Applications solely for equipment or case/information management system upgrades, leases, or purchases will not be considered

Category 2: Statewide Implementation, Enhancement, and Evaluation Projects

The objective of Category 2 is to support states in their efforts to implement, enhance, or evaluate effective opioid-related efforts within the criminal justice system.

Subcategory 2a: Statewide Implementation Projects

Allowable Uses of Subcategory 2a Funds

The state may select one or more of the allowable activities detailed under the Allowable Uses of Funds section of Category 1 and support their implementation.