



Criminalistics Section – 2004

B124 An Update on Activities at the National Center for Forensic Science

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The goal of this presentation is to inform the community of the programs and products of NCFS (National Center for Forensic Science) in the areas of research, education, training, and technology transfer in the area of physical evidence, biological evidence, and digital evidence.

The NCFS is a program of the National Institute of Justice hosted by the University of Central Florida. Technical areas are physical evidence, biological evidence, and digital evidence. NCFS has a strong research program in DNA, RNA, and Y-chromosomes as well as an online master's degree in forensic biology directed by Dr. Jack Ballantyne. Research, training, and technology transfer in physical evidence includes an online database of ignitable liquids managed by the Technical Working Group for Fire and Explosives (TWGFEX), Ignitable Liquid Reference Collection Committee.

Dr. Jehuda Yinon directs NCFS' research in explosives residue analysis. The Identification of Ignitable Liquids is a class that NCFS delivers around the country. In the fall of 2001, the first participants in the newly developed Graduate Certificate in Computer Forensics at UCF were welcomed. An online version of this certificate is being developed as well. The same computer forensic processes training will be offered to state and local law enforcement. Additionally, digital evidence research is being conducted. NCFS has formed an Institute for Forensic Digital Evidence (IFDE).

Technology and the needs of the community will drive the goals of the IFDE. The motto of NCFS is "Bridging the Gap from the Crime Scene to the Courtroom." Where there are needs in forensic digital evidence, the IFDE will be there to help "bridge the gap" for the community.

National Center for Forensic Science, Research, Training