



## Criminalistics Section - 2014

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### A190 Overview of NIST Activities in the Forensic Sciences

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) serves the international forensic science community.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by informing forensic science practitioners, managers, and other key criminal justice system stakeholders of the myriad of forensic science services provided by NIST and the current activities across the federal government in which NIST collaborates in providing national leadership to the forensic science community.

Among the core strengths of NIST are a long history in forensic science and being the leading institute in measurement science, research, standards development, and technology development. Since the publication of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report in 2009 entitled, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*, there has been increasing interest across the country in addressing the report's recommendations for improving the forensic sciences. The Executive and Legislative branches of the federal government together with a large number of professional forensic science organizations are among those participating in the quest for an organized and meaningful path to strengthen the forensic sciences as stressed in the NAS Report.

The Forensic Science Program in the Office of Special Programs at NIST has the responsibility of coordinating the agency's efforts in forensic science research, technology, and standards development. NIST is taking on an increasing role in providing national leadership in the forensic science community through its activities in collaboration with key stakeholders in federal, state, and local government, criminal justice, academia, industry, and the private sector. Attendees will receive a broad review of NIST's current forensic science activities, including: its role in the National Commission on Forensic Science; the organization and administration of the new forensic science Guidance Groups; the manufacture and distribution of Standard Reference Materials (SRMs); Standard Reference Databases; workshops and symposia convened at NIST and via webinars directed at specific forensic science disciplines; biometrics and human identification factors; technical working groups dedicated to human factors and cognitive bias in a variety of forensic science disciplines; Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) interoperability; biological evidence preservation; crime laboratory design, remodeling and construction; forensic science research projects, publications and presentations at forensic science conferences and symposia; and collaborative inter-laboratory studies involving many of the attendees' laboratories.

It is the goal of NIST to facilitate the objective quantification through measurement science and statistical uncertainty determination for many of the current and evolving forensic science protocols, to conduct research to facilitate understanding the physical and chemical principles underlying the measurement approaches, and to assist in the process of standards development in forensic science.

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### National Commission, Scientific Guidance Groups, Measurement Science