



D60 Status of the Scientific Working Group on Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (SWGSTAIN)

Tom J. Griffin, BA, 2519 11th Avenue, Unit A, PMB133, Greeley, CO 80631; Paul E. Kish, MS, Forensic Consultant & Associates, PO Box 814, Corning, NY 14830; and David P. Baldwin, PhD, Ames Laboratory, 130 Spedding Hall, Ames, IA 50011*

After attending this presentation, attendees will have an understanding of the objectives and purposes of the Scientific Working Group on Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, as well as the potential impact the guidance documents produced by this working group have on the discipline of bloodstain pattern analysis.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by reviewing the existing SWGSTAIN guidance documents and online resources, as well as updating them on guidance documents currently being drafted by SWGSTAIN.

In 2002 the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Laboratory coordinated a meeting to explore the idea of a scientific working group related to Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (BPA). An international core group of 16 recognized BPA experts affirmed the need for a scientific working group in BPA — SWGSTAIN. Currently, the membership of SWGSTAIN includes 29 recognized bloodstain pattern analysts who represent law enforcement agencies, laboratories, and private practitioners in North America, Europe, New Zealand, and Australia. In 2009, the Midwest Forensics Resource Center assumed the leadership role of SWGSTAIN from the FBI Laboratory.

The mission of SWGSTAIN is to promote and enhance the development of quality bloodstain pattern analysis practices through the collaborative efforts of governmental forensic laboratories, law enforcement, private industry, and academia. Currently, the SWGSTAIN membership is split into six standing subcommittees: (1) Taxonomy and Terminology; (2) Training and Education; (3) Quality Assurance; (4) Legal; (5) Research; and, (6) Business and Strategic Planning. Each of these subcommittees is working on specific tasks deemed necessary by the entire working group. During the biannual meetings, each subcommittee presents status updates to the entire working group. Once a committee is nearing the completion of a guidance document, the document is then distributed among the entire group for comment. This often occurs multiple times prior to the documents being published for public comment. Documents are not released for public comment until the draft is passed through the membership and then through the SWGSTAIN Executive Board. After the deadline for public comment has passed, the issuing subcommittee considers each comment and acts on it. The document then cycles through the voting process.

The role of each subcommittee will be discussed along with its respective published guidance documents and existing online resources, which include an extensive BPA bibliography and an admissibility resource kit. The status of in-progress projects will be presented. SWGSTAIN has targeted/recommended a dozen BPA research priorities

In addition, SWGSTAIN is working to be proactive toward current issues impacting their discipline. The work of SWGSTAIN is on-going and relies upon the input of BPA practitioners. The current documents that are available for public comment as well as the completed guidance documents can all be found on www.swgstain.org.

Bloodstain, Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, SWGSTAIN