## E67 Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) Forensic Science Standards Activities: Helping Each Other and Stimulating the Future

*John Paul Jones II, MBA*, National Institute of Standards & Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 8102, Gaithersburg, MD 20899*

After attending this presentation, attendees will understand many of the essential requirements for developing consensus-based forensic science standards and how the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC), made up of approximately 600 subject-matter experts, addresses these requirements to support collaboration and stimulate the future.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by educating attendees on the standards development process, the current status of the OSAC, and instructions on how individuals can become involved with the OSAC and other standards-development efforts.

The development of a quality infrastructure for forensic science was a key component of some of the reforms anticipated in the 2009 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Report, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*. In response to the Report, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the United States Department of Justice signed a bilateral agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March 2013 which specified the establishment of "Guidance Groups" now termed Scientific Area Committees (SACs). NIST created the OSAC model to promulgate NIST's responsibility to administer and coordinate support for the SACs and subcommittees that represent specific forensic science disciplines.

NIST envisions uniform administration of the identification, development, promulgation, and adoption of standards through the OSAC as well as supporting communication flow between the SACs and the forensic science community. The design employs the essential requirements of developing consensus-based standards which include openness, transparency, balance of interest, due process, and an appeals process that ensures each stakeholder's viewpoints are properly considered. In addition, the OSAC infrastructure will bring a uniform standards recognition platform to the community, enhance scientific rigor, and increase communication among forensic scientists, research scientists, academicians, statisticians, attorneys, managers, and quality assurance specialists. The OSAC structure currently consists of a Forensic Science Standards Board, three resource committees, five scientific area committees, and 23 subcommittees.

**Standards, OSAC, Consensus**