



E70 Scientific Area Committee for Physics and Pattern Evidence

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have gained an understanding of the Scientific Area Committee (SAC) for Physics and Pattern Evidence, which includes the disciplines of friction ridge, firearms and tool marks, questioned documents, footwear and tire tread, and blood stain pattern analysis.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by educating attendees on the standards development process and the role of the SAC for Physics and Pattern Evidence within that process.

The Physics/Pattern SAC will provide direction and oversight for the five subcommittees; interface with the resource committees (Human Factors, Legal Resource, and Quality Infrastructure); communicate activities, progress, and recommendations; review, facilitate public comment, and approve standards and guidelines; and coordinate research priorities.

The subcommittees that address each of these five disciplines will include subject matter experts who will develop and vet standards and guidelines regarding that discipline's techniques, protocols, validation of new techniques, test methods and materials, terminology, and training; will define requirements for accreditation and certification; will develop research priorities; and will coordinate the transition of existing Scientific Working Group (SWG) documents into approved standards or guidelines. These subcommittees nominally correspond to the current scientific working groups Scientific Working Group on Friction Ridge Analysis, Study, and Technology (SWGFAST), Scientific Working Group for Firearms and Tool Marks (SWGGUN), Scientific Working Group for Forensic Document Examination (SWGDOC), Scientific Working Group for Shoeprint and Tire Tread Evidence (SWGTREAD), and Scientific Working Group on Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (SWGSTAIN).

The intent of the Physics/Pattern SAC and subcommittees is to foster the development of rigorous standards and guidelines within and across these disciplines, to assist in the adoption and enforcement of these standards and guidelines, and to encourage research and evaluation to test and validate these methods. The ultimate purpose is to enhance the actual and perceived rigor of these disciplines through transparent, accurate, and reliable processes.

Standards, OSAC, SAC