



B201 The Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science Highlights Recent Standards and Baseline Documents for Many Disciplines

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the latest standards and guidelines reviewed by the OSAC for Forensic Science, recent baseline documents added to the OSAC Subcommittees webpages, and a summary of OSAC's 50+ Research and Development Needs. The OSAC is comprised of 34 operating units and more than 200 task groups populated by more than 560 OSAC members and 250 affiliates, all working on specific standards activities. The OSAC facilitates collaborations among forensic science practitioners, researchers, statisticians, and measurement scientists to bolster existing standards and guidelines, develop new standards from scratch, highlight the "state of forensic science disciplines," and identify research needs for the forensic science community.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by educating attendees on the standards and guidelines reviewed by the OSAC, describing the purpose of the OSAC baseline documents listed on the OSAC website, and identifying existing research gaps in specific disciplines. Instructions will also be provided describing how individuals can become involved with the OSAC and have an impact on standards development efforts.

The OSAC has been fully operational since January 2015 and continues to transition the fragmented standards development efforts in the forensic industry to a unified process of recognizing valuable standards and guidelines that have both scientific merit and wide-based community acceptance. The OSAC Subcommittees have started to add baseline documents to their specific subcommittee webpages that describe the "state of the discipline" at this point in time while they work to develop new or updated standards for listing on the OSAC Registry of Approved Standards. These baseline documents contain practical information regarding forensic science disciplines that can help forensic scientists, judges, lawyers, researchers, other interested parties, and the general public to better understand the nature, scope, and foundations of the individual disciplines as they are currently practiced. This presentation will highlight some of the key baseline documents listed on the website.

The OSAC continues to implement the OSAC Registry Approval Process of Published Standards and Guidelines, which includes criteria against which existing standards and guidelines will be analyzed before being approved for posting on the OSAC Registries. This includes an analysis of technical merit, openness of the development process (to ensure balanced interests are represented), consensus, harmonization, and impact on the forensic science community. This presentation will highlight all the standards and guidelines currently listed on the OSAC Registries.

Another of the OSAC's objectives is to inform the forensic science community of research needs that are discovered during the OSAC's standards development activities. These research recommendations may be considered by other agencies and organizations when they develop their own agency research needs and when soliciting funding for forensic science research. The 25 OSAC Subcommittees have identified more than 50 research and development gaps that need to be addressed by the forensic science and academic community. This presentation will highlight some of the critical research needs identified in the OSAC.

Standards, OSAC, NIST