



### **F42 Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC): Developing Forensic Science Standards, Identifying Research Needs, and Informing the Research Community and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ)**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how, during the development of standards, OSAC helps to discover a range of forensic science research needs and how they are communicated to researchers and to the forensic science community.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by educating attendees on the processes employed by the OSAC to identify research needs and to inform the forensic science community. Attendees will also learn how the NIJ is capturing this information and implementing it into an effective forensic science research strategy that ultimately strengthens the underlying scientific foundations applied to the practice of forensic science.

OSAC is comprised of approximately 560 voting members and more than 250 affiliates appointed to 34 functional units consisting of 5 Scientific Area Committees and 25 Subcommittees addressing nearly two dozen forensic science disciplines. There are approximately 200 task groups assigned to the development of standards and guidelines. During their deliberations, these world-class subject-matter experts concurrently discover research gaps, which they now capture on the OSAC research needs template and forward to the Forensic Science Standards Board (OSAC's governing board). The OSAC Charter and Bylaws calls for the organization to "provide insight on each forensic science discipline's research and measurement standard needs." To date, more than 50 forensic science research needs have been identified and communicated to the forensic science community. The research needs are posted in the monthly OSAC Newsletter, an online service distributed to more than 10,000 subscribers. All of the research needs are chronicled on the OSAC website at <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/osac-research-development-needs.cfm>.

In finding a more effective path toward the implementation of research avenues to inform and fund forensic science research, OSAC has teamed with the NIJ to provide them with its insights and to provide consultation, where required. The NIJ will use this information to inform the NIJ Technical Working Groups advising and prioritizing their list of research topics for NIJ. The NIJ ultimately uses this information to distribute solicitations to the research community reflecting those priorities. The NIJ awards the winning proposals and ultimately seeks to fill the gaps identified on the OSAC list of research needs.

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#### **Standards and Guidelines, OSAC, NIJ**