



Breakfast Seminars — 2019

BS3 Digging Up New Standards for Forensics: An Update on Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs)

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will: (1) learn about advances in forensic science standardization from United States SDOs, including the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Standards Board (ASB), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International, the American Dental Association (ADA), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), as well as international SDOs, and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO); and (2) gain a better understanding of the progress of documentary standards development in different forensic science disciplines, including fire debris, seized drugs, biology, digital evidence, toxicology, friction ridge, blood stain pattern, footwear/tire tread, crime scene investigation, and fire investigation.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: The 2009 Report by the National Research Council stressed the lack of standardization in forensics.¹ The advent of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science, administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), has resulted in several years of concerted efforts to identify gaps in standards and begin their development using the voluntary consensus standards development process. This presentation will impact the forensic science community by making attendees aware of new and emerging standards in the various forensic science disciplines and how they can be implemented in the laboratory setting, incorporated into quality manuals, be applied to accreditation scopes, and can assist in further validation of methods and techniques in interlaboratory studies.

Presenters will provide an overview of recent progress in standards development in forensic sciences. In 2009, the National Research Council Report, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*, summarized the challenges facing the forensic science community and the lack of mandatory standardization, certification, and accreditation.¹ From this Report, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the NIST signed a Memorandum of Understanding which led to the establishment of the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) and the NIST-administered OSAC for Forensic Science. OSAC has been working closely with various SDOs to bring the community together to define requirements for the various disciplines for submission to the standards development process.

Learn about standards currently in development, soon to be published, and new standards from various SDOs, such as ASB, ASTM International, ISO, the American Dental Association (ADA), and the NFPA. New standards include interdisciplinary topics, such as evidence collection and labeling, interpretation, and reporting, and discipline-specific standards in the areas of criminalistics, digital evidence, facial recognition, photography, biology, pattern evidence, and crime and fire scene investigation, with a focus on terminology, measurement uncertainty, measurement traceability, quality assurance, and calibration.

Reference(s):

- ¹. National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*, Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2009.

Standards, Development, Standards Developing Organizations