

### **CB01 Forensics Standards Development: What's New With Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs) and What is the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science's Role**

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**Learning Overview:** After attending this presentation, attendees will have learned about the standards development process in the United States and internationally, as well as the advances in forensic standardization from United States and international 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), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the international SDO, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Organization for Standardization, and other relevant SDOs. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the progress of consensus standards development in different forensic disciplines, including fire debris, seized drugs, biology, digital evidence, toxicology, friction ridge, blood stain pattern, footwear/tire tread, crime scene investigation, and fire investigation. Attendees will learn how the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science working to facilitate the development and encourage forensic science service providers to implement them.

**Impact on the Forensic Science Community:** This presentation will impact the forensic science community by educating forensic professionals on new and emerging standards in the various forensic disciplines as 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 inter-laboratory studies. The 2009 National Research Council (NRC) stressed the lack of standardization in forensics.<sup>1</sup> The advent of the OSAC administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the ASB has resulted in several years of concerted efforts to identify gaps in standards and begin their development using the voluntary consensus standards development process.

In 2009, the NRC published *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*, which summarized the challenges facing the forensics community and the lack of mandatory standardization, certification, and accreditation.<sup>1</sup> From this report, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and 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.

This presentation will provide an overview of the standards development processes in the United States and internationally. Informative content will include recent progress in standards development in forensic sciences. Attendees will learn about standards currently in development, soon to be published, and new standards from various SDOs, such as the ASB, the ASTM International, the ISO, the ADA, the NFPA, and other relevant SDOs. 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.

The OSAC for Forensic Science 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. The various roles in the standards development process and promotion of implementation of these standards will also be covered.

#### **Reference(s):**

- <sup>1</sup>. National Research Council (NRC), Committee on Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Science Community. (2009). *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

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#### **Standards, OSAC, Implementation**