With this message, I report on the work of the “blue ribbon” panel that I announced at the Denver meeting and convened on Peaks Island, Maine, June 20-21, 2009. At the start of deliberations, the group chose to label itself as the American Academy of Forensic Sciences President’s Panel on Scientific Integrity (“Panel”). Here, the word “integrity” is meant in its broadest sense. As applied to our subject matter, it refers to reliability of the scientific results obtained by forensic practitioners and of scientific evidence introduced into the legal process.

The Panel comprised:

Madeline H. deLone, MS, JD
Executive Director
Innocence Project, Inc.
New York, NY

Karen Kafadar, PhD
Rudy Professor of Statistics and Physics
Department of Statistics, Indiana University
Bloomington, IN

Jan E. Leestma, MD, MM*  
Forensic Neuropathologist
Chicago, IL

John J. Lentini, BA
Scientific Fire Analysis, LLC
Big Pine Key, FL

David R. Senn, DDS*
Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Texas Health Science Center
San Antonio, TX

Anjali R. Swienton, MFS, JD*
President & CEO
SciLawForensics, Ltd.
Germantown, MD

Ronald L. Singer, MS*
Tarrant County Crime Laboratory Director
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Fort Worth, TX

*AAFS Fellow

continued on page 4
Inside This Issue

President’s Message ................................................................................................. 1
Legislative Corner ...................................................................................................... 3
Former Academy Member Sues AAFS & Others ...................................................... 3
A Word From Your 2010 Program Co-Chair ........................................................... 6
2010 FSF Silent Auction ............................................................................................ 7
Seattle Accommodation Information ......................................................................... 8
Seattle Housing Bureau Hotel Form .......................................................................... 9
Seattle 2010 Volunteer Form .................................................................................... 10
FSF Student Travel Grants ....................................................................................... 11
Guidelines for the Richosr Rosner Award ............................................................... 11
Foundation News ..................................................................................................... 13
Section News ............................................................................................................. 14
AAFS Membership Directory Update ....................................................................... 20
AAFS Code of Ethics and Conduct Statement ....................................................... 20
Teaching Opportunities in Kazakhstan ...................................................................... 21
FSF Contributors ..................................................................................................... 22
Contributing Article: Of Peccant Scientists ............................................................ 27
Applicants .................................................................................................................. 32
Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter ......................................................... 36
Meetings & Conferences ......................................................................................... 38

Future Annual Meeting Dates

February 22-27, 2010
Washington State Convention & Trade Center
Seattle, WA

February 21-26, 2011
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, IL

February 20-25, 2012
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Atlanta, GA

February 17-22, 2014
Washington State Convention & Trade Center
Seattle, WA

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Legislative Corner

As discussions continue to unfold about the National Academy of Sciences report on forensic science, a new player has weighed in on the debate: the United States Supreme Court. In its recent decision, *Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts*, the court specifically noted in its majority opinion the NAS report and sited the NAS report in several places:

“According to a recent study conducted under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, “[t]he majority of laboratories producing forensic evidence are administered by law enforcement agencies, such as police departments, where the laboratory administrator reports to the head of the agency.” …

And “[b]ecause forensic scientists often are driven in their work by a need to answer a particular question related to the issues of a particular case, they sometimes face pressure to sacrifice appropriate methodology for the sake of expediency.” …

And “The forensic science system, encompassing both research and practice, has serious problems that can only be addressed by a national commitment to overhaul the current structure that supports the forensic science community in this country.” And “[T]here is wide variability across forensic science disciplines with regard to techniques, methodologies, reliability, types and numbers of potential errors, research, general acceptability, and published material.”

The case only tangentially touches on the NAS report, *Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts* is about the defendant’s 6th Amendment right to confront adverse witnesses - in this case, government forensic scientists as a means to substantiate the need to cross-examine experts.

What might this mean in the future? I suspect that if any criminal attorneys were unfamiliar with the NAS report before *Melendez-Diaz*, they will know of its existence now. It’s also not a stretch that defense attorneys will now turn to the report for new issues to diminish forensic science testimony and conclusions of experts.

Of course, I am writing this from my perspective of a (now retired) government forensic scientist. We should remember that it is the duty of a defense lawyer to offer the best possible defense to his/her client. One of the arguments that will certainly be made in cases involving forensic science is that the NAS report notes some of the shortcomings of forensic science. From there, it’s a short distance to a reasonable doubt argument.

Those who testify, particularly in so-called “pattern evidence cases,” need to come to court ready for a spirited attack on their conclusions. Absolute statements concerning the uniqueness of physical evidence to a source may become problematic and should be

continued to page 35

Former Academy Member Sues AAFS and Others

James Blanco, former member of the QD Section, expelled from the Academy in 2008 following the investigation of an ethics complaint lodged against him, has brought a lawsuit against the Academy in the federal district court for the Northern District of California. In addition to the Academy itself, the Blanco Complaint, filed June 23, 2009, names "20 John Does," indicating the intention to subsequently identify other defendants by name as discovery proceeds. The basic thrust of the Complaint is that he was denied 'fair treatment' during the process that led to his expulsion. The Academy's insurance company and attorneys have been notified and an Answer will be filed within the period allowed. The Complaint can be found on the AAFS website (www.aafs.org); click on the link under the “News & Events” section.
President’s Message cont.

All seven have led distinguished careers in their respective fields. It is noteworthy that Professor Kafadar has sat on two National Academy of Sciences committees investigating forensic science issues, including the one that released the NAS Report referenced above. By design, no one on the Panel was a member of the current Board of Directors of the Academy. This was done to avoid the appearance of double input from anyone, as the Panel prepared recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors. I did, however, invite Board member Betty Layne DesPortes from the Jurisprudence Section to attend so as to assist me in drafting the Panel Report following the meeting weekend.

The nine of us met for two full days—June 20 and June 21—at The Inn on Peaks Island (Maine), on a weekend that varied from foggy with light rain and poor visibility to heavy rain with zero visibility, not atypical June weather on the Maine coast. Apart from Jan Leestma, who never got out of O’Hare, all but one of the participants stayed at The Inn, reducing the need to walk in the rain. Nevertheless, some did get up early to walk the Island’s perimeter road.

The Panel assembled in the wake of the February release of the National Academy of Sciences report Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward (“NAS Report”). My intention was that it would react to the NAS Report and also comment on the broader world of forensic science not addressed by the Report. Although the NAS Report did not contain an explicit statement of its limitations, it largely if not entirely was constrained to dealing with forensic techniques used in crime laboratories, and, even more narrowly, to pattern-identification techniques such as latent fingerprint identification, bite mark analysis, handwriting comparisons, and tool mark analysis. In so limiting its investigation and reportage, the committee responsible for the NAS Report left out the entire field of forensic science applied to civil disputes, arguably the larger part of forensic activity, and, by concentrating on crime laboratory procedures of a particular nature (pattern evidence identification), it failed to devote more than a single line to the very important field of fire investigation and, most importantly, completely ignored medical forensics. To become acquainted with some of the damage that can be done by relying on shaky medical analysis in determining whether a crime has occurred, one need go no further than the report of the Goudge Inquiry in Ontario in 2008. Although that inquiry may have gone astray in assigning administrative blame, it contains a remarkable tabulation of the injustices resulting from the careless and misguided work of a single forensic pathologist. Among the questioned medical theories highlighted by the Goudge Inquiry, the so-called “shaken baby syndrome” (SBS) theory is the most prominent. If the SBS theory is valid, it would appear to be the most remarkable crime solver in history, a veritable touchstone that not only tells the physician that a child has been murdered, but also identifies the murderer. If it is not, it probably has wrongly imprisoned hundreds, even thousands, of innocent people, for it has many times been the sole evidence used to convict defendants who, in many cases, lacked any prior criminal record. As a questioned forensic technique, it has much in common with all the other forensic techniques now in dispute. In all such cases, highly qualified and justifiably respected practitioners are arrayed on each side of the issue as to whether the theory or technique has already been scientifically validated.

What is said about SBS can be said about all the forensic techniques identified by the NAS Report as apparently lacking scientific foundation, as well as in the field of fire investigation. The time is long past for all of these controversies to be taken out of the adversarial system and handed for resolution to a body meriting respect from all sides of the controversies. The crucial first step in each case is for an investigation to settle the question whether each of the questioned techniques has been scientifically established, what I would call a validation investigation. A validation investigation is a threshold study; it does not set out to determine whether a technique is valid but rather whether it has already been found through previous studies and tests to be valid, that is, to have been scientifically established. For those techniques and theories that are found through this approach to have already been validated, the issue is put to rest, and disputes shift to whether the practitioner has properly applied the technique or theory. However, for those for which it is found that insufficient scientific foundation exists, research to determine whether it is valid will then commence, studies that would not have been undertaken so long as the practitioners of the theory or technique asserted that it had already been validated.

As I write this, the post-meeting discussions of the panelists have not quite yielded a report with unanimous backing. Nevertheless, all panelists supported a set of seven recommendations. I presented these recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Academy at its meeting in Seattle on August 1, and moved that it recommend their adoption as an Academy position. Following a lengthy discussion, amendments were made to a few of the proffered recommendations, after which all were unanimously recommended for adoption by the Academy. The amended recommendations were then brought back to the Panel, which accepted the amendments. The final versions are as follows:

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1:

As soon as reasonably practicable, a validation investigation must be launched by a scientific organization with the highest
credentials into each forensic science practice for which serious challenges regarding its scientific foundation exist or are raised in the future. If the validation investigation concludes that this scientific foundation is lacking, that organization or its equivalent must determine the research needed to validate the forensic science practice.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:**
All public and private forensic science laboratories, at a minimum, must be compliant with the laboratory-accreditation requirements set by ASCLD/LAB or an equivalent accrediting organization.

**RECOMMENDATION 3:**
Forensic science laboratory accreditation requirements established by ASCLD/LAB and equivalent accrediting organizations should be strengthened to include a mandate that all laboratory personnel designated by their units to testify in criminal prosecutions be board-certified in their respective fields.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:**
It is essential that forensic science methodologies and terminology be standardized and that the definitions of the terminology be readily accessible to the public.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:**
All professional forensic science organizations should establish, and provide the resources to enforce, Codes of Ethics imposing on their members, under penalty of expulsion or other serious sanction, the obligation to conduct investigations and provide testimony with the highest integrity.

**RECOMMENDATION 6:**
Any federal forensic science oversight agency should incorporate into any mandatory system of accreditation, certification, and/or validation those independent professional entities already engaged in the accreditation and certification tasks, such as the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board, ASCLD/LAB, the Medical Specialties Accreditation Board, and the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:**
The knowledge of attorneys and judges with respect to forensic science and scientific evidence must be improved. The responsibility for this improvement properly falls on forensic science practitioners and attorneys. A curriculum covering all forensic science disciplines, with entries at varying levels of proficiency, should be developed through the cooperative efforts of professional organizations of forensic practitioners and attorneys such as the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the International Association for Identification, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the National District Attorneys Association, and the National Center for State Courts and government agencies such as the Federal Judicial Center and the National Institute of Justice.

In accord with the Academy protocol for adopting a proposed position, these recommendations were emailed with a cover letter to all Academy members today (August 7). The full Board is scheduled to vote on August 26 on whether to accept the position, considering, as part of its deliberations, comments that will have been received from the membership by that time. The next President's Message will discuss the outcome and also make available the full Report prepared by the Panel.

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1 To the extent that I am criticizing the excellent work of the body that produced the NAS Report, I target only its failure to be explicit in describing the limits it chose to place on its scope of inquiry. Judge Harry T. Edwards, Co-Chair of the investigating group, told me in May that they realized at the outset that an investigation of the entire field of forensic practice was far beyond what could be accomplished with the time and assets available and therefore limited their work at the outset—without revealing this decision. As a result, their Report is widely treated in the public press as addressing all of forensic science and its criticisms as applying to all forensic science, instead of the tiny (though important) fraction that is involved.

---

It’s not too late to register for the:

**IVTH Mediterranean Academy of Forensic Sciences (MAFS) Meeting**
October 14-18, 2009
Antalya, Turkey
Maritim Pine Beach Resort Hotel, Belek - Antalya
www.mafs2009.org

Pre-registration is open until October 2, 2009.
A Word From Your 2010 Program Co-Chair

Thank you for your heroic efforts to submit abstracts by the set deadline. We all know only too well how time slips through our fingers. At the past AAFS meeting, August seemed to be an eternity away, now we are rolling into the fall prep months for the 2010 meeting. Therefore, once again I extend a big thank you to the incredible number of people interested in presenting at the next annual meeting. Nearly 1,000 abstracts were received and are under review. Your submissions depicting your efforts in research, case investigation, judicial review and a multitude of other facets are the foundation for a solid annual meeting.

The strength of the Academy’s scientific sessions does require substantial numbers of abstracts, but it is also dependent upon a review of those abstracts. The next monumental task falls onto the shoulders of each section program chair and the session co-chair of the posters, workshops, breakfast seminars, and luncheon sessions. It is their duty to cull through the submitted abstracts and select the best to represent the issues, emerging technology, relevant education needs, and cutting edge research. The program team understands the skills required to ensure abstract quality and commends the chairs and co-chairs for taking on this task. Each reviewer should understand that we are not governed by a set number of sessions, hours, or days but that the length of a program should be measured by the number of quality submissions. Because of these efforts, attendees will be assured an informative and resounding program.

Thank you to everyone for their contribution to the Academy process, and I look forward to 2010 and its well planned scientific sessions.
**FSF Needs Your Help With the 2010 $ilent Auction!**

With your help, the Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) Annual Silent Auction can exceed expectations during the 2010 Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. Does your agency or department have “logo” gear such as hats, patches, pins, coffee mugs, T-shirts, denim shirts, polos, etc., that you would be willing to donate to the auction? Many of us are collectors of such items for display at work or at home.

Through extensive research, the FSF will obtain a number of fun items, but YOUR donation will make a huge difference. Please forward items to Kimberly Wrasse at the Academy office no later than December 31, 2009. You and your agency will be recognized for your donation. Thank you in advance.

**Suggested Ideas. . . . . .**

![Patches](image1.png)  ![Mugs](image2.png)  ![Pins](image3.png)  ![Caps](image4.png)  ![Shirts](image5.png)

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**badge Alert!**

It is the policy at AAFS annual meetings for attendees to have name badges in order to enter special sessions, workshops, breakfasts, and scientific sessions. In the past, attendees and guests have been allowed to enter the Exhibit Hall without a badge. Please note, **ALL** functions will require a name badge in order to enter. All attendees, guests, and the press will not be allowed to enter to any function without a badge. This policy will be strictly enforced, so please come prepared.

---

**Seattle Opera Tickets Available**

On **Saturday, February 27, 2010**, come and enjoy a night on the town with your peers during the 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle. **Stephen Billick** (Psychiatry & Behavioral Science) has made arrangements with the Seattle Opera to hold a limited number of tickets for the Verdi opera, *Falstaff*.

In *Falstaff*, the merry wives of Windsor unite in mischief-making when an ignoble nobleman plots to plunder their savings in this inventive creation capping Verdi’s career. A true ensemble tour-de-force, *Falstaff* improves upon the original *Merry Wives* script, keeping the sweet young lovers subplot and adding the knight’s most pithy observations from *Henry IV* for good measure. Equal parts orchestral virtuosity and riotously paced comedy, the opera is a perfect fusion of renaissance realism and light-hearted fantasy.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance will be sold at cost, around $100 per ticket. Interested persons should contact Anne Warren at awarren@aafs.org.

---

**Attend the AAFS Annual Business Meeting and Win a Complimentary Meeting Registration!**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Fellows and Members of AAFS will be held on Wednesday, February 24, at 4:15 p.m., at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle, WA. It is essential for all Fellows and Members to attend this very important meeting in order to reach a quorum for the voting process. Agenda items include the election of the 2010-11 Officers and recognition of all Members being promoted to Fellow status. You will also be briefed on AAFS activities during the past year and plans for the future.

As an incentive to attend, all Fellows and Members present will automatically be entered in a drawing to receive a complimentary meeting registration to attend the 2011 AAFS Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL.
The Washington State Convention & Trade Center is the site for the 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. The AAFS has secured a block of rooms (through the Seattle Housing Bureau) at special meeting rates at the following hotels. All properties are within walking distance of the Convention Center:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel Name</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Double</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheraton Seattle Hotel</td>
<td>$162</td>
<td>$162</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hilton Seattle Hotel</td>
<td>$157</td>
<td>$177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renaissance Seattle Hotel</td>
<td>$174</td>
<td>$174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Hyatt Seattle Hotel</td>
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<td>$199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Lion Hotel</td>
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<td>$149</td>
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All properties are within easy walking distance of the waterfront, Pike Place Market, the historic Pioneer Square, the International District, art galleries, and all types of shopping. A quick two-minute ride on the Monorail will take you to the Pacific Science Center as well as to Seattle’s Space Needle.

Make your plans today to join your colleagues in Seattle next February 22-27, 2010, to continue your education from many of the world’s most distinguished forensic professionals.

The Seattle Housing Bureau will handle all reservations centrally. The hotels will not accept reservations directly, nor will you be able to make your reservations by contacting the AAFS office. Please use the Hotel Reservation Form found on page 9. The hotel rate does not include a 15.6% sales tax (subject to change).

There are four ways to make your reservation and receive the special meeting hotel rate:

**Online:**
Visit the AAFS website (www.aafs.org), click on “Meetings,” “AAFS Annual Meeting.” Scroll down and click on the “Accommodations” link.

**Phone:**
Call the Seattle Housing Bureau at (888) 877-0255 or (206) 461-5881. The hours of operation are: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (PST).

**Fax:**
Complete the hotel reservation form found on page 9. Only fully completed forms will be accepted at the Seattle Housing Bureau at (206) 461-5853. Use one form per room, make copies as needed.

**Mail:**
Only fully completed forms will be accepted at the Seattle Housing Bureau, 701 Pike Street, Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98101.

The Seattle Housing Bureau will send you an acknowledgment of your reservation. Please review all information for accuracy. Email confirmations will be sent within 48 hours of the reservations being processed. Confirmations for reservations made via fax or mail will be sent within 10-14 days. If you do not receive your acknowledgment within this time frame, please contact the Seattle Housing Bureau. You may also check your reservation online at www.aafs.org. Click on “Meetings,” “AAFS Annual Meeting.” Scroll down and click on the “Accommodations” link. Click on the “Already Have a Reservation?” link located at the bottom of the page. You will not receive a confirmation from the hotel.

To take advantage of the special meeting rates, please make your hotel reservations no later than **January 21, 2010.** After this date, the AAFS room blocks will be released and hotels may charge higher rates.

Reservations may be changed or cancelled via the website or through the Seattle Housing Bureau until February 4, 2010. Cancellations received after January 21, 2010, will be charged a $25 processing fee. Do not contact the hotels directly until after February 4, 2010.
INSTRUCTIONS: The deadline date for new reservations is **January 21, 2010**. For best availability and immediate confirmation, make your reservation online at: www.aafs.org.

INTERNET: Visit the AAFS website at www.aafs.org. Click on “Meetings”, “AAFS Annual Meeting”. Scroll down and click on the “Accommodations” link.

PHONE: Call the Seattle Housing Bureau at (888) 877-0255 or (206) 461-5881.

FAX: Only fully completed forms will be accepted at the Seattle Housing Bureau at (206) 461-5853. Use one form per room, make copies as needed.

MAIL: Only fully completed forms will be accepted at the Seattle Housing Bureau, 701 Pike Street, Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98101.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The Seattle Housing Bureau will send you an acknowledgement of your reservation. Please review all information for accuracy. If you do not receive your acknowledgement within 7 to 10 days or have questions regarding your reservation, please contact the Seattle Housing Bureau at (888) 877-0255 or by email at: hotelres@visitseattle.org. You will not receive a confirmation from the hotel.

ROOM RATES/TAXES: To take advantage of the special Seattle rates, please book your reservation by **January 21, 2010**. After this date, the Seattle room blocks will be released and rooms may only be available at higher rates.

All rates are per room and are subject to 15.6% tax, (subject to change).

Special requests can not be guaranteed, however hotels will do their best to honor all requests. Hotels will assign specific room types upon check-in, based on availability.

DEPOSITS: All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card or check. Credit cards will not be charged a deposit. Checks are only accepted with mailed forms in the amount of $250 deposit made out to the Seattle Housing Bureau.

RESERVATIONS: Reservations may be changed or cancelled via the website or through the Seattle Housing Bureau until **February 4, 2010**. Cancellations received after **January 21, 2010** will be charged a $25 processing fee. Do not contact the hotels directly until after **February 4, 2010**.

**HOTEL SELECTION**

Please list four choices in order of preference.

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<th>First</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Third</th>
<th>Fourth</th>
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</table>

*If all requested hotels are unavailable, a reservation will be made at the next available hotel.*

Please indicate criteria for choices:

- [ ] Comparable room rate
- [ ] Proximity to conference site

# of occupants # of beds requested

**To request a suite, please contact the Housing Manager at (206) 461-5894**

List all room occupants:

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</table>

**DEPOSIT INFORMATION**

All reservations requests must be guaranteed. Credit cards will not be charged prior to the arrival date. Hotel Reservation Forms received without a valid credit card will not be processed. Please be advised that the credit card must be valid through the dates of the convention or your reservation will not be processed. Checks are only accepted with a mailed Hotel Reservation Form, in the amount of $250 deposit and made out to the Seattle Housing Bureau.

- [ ] American Express
- [ ] Discover
- [ ] Diner's Club
- [ ] MasterCard
- [ ] Visa

Card Number Exp. Date

Name on Credit Card

Cardholder’s Signature*  

* Necessary to process reservation
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE 2010 AAFS ANNUAL MEETING

The 2010 AAFS Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 22-27, 2010, in Seattle, Washington. Volunteers are needed to accomplish an array of administrative and gate keeping tasks throughout the week of the meeting. Volunteers who are not members of the Academy may receive complimentary registration to attend all non-ticketed sessions of the meeting with a minimum of 8 hours of completed volunteer service at the meeting. This does not include sessions requiring pre-registration or fees other than the basic meeting registration fee. If you plan to attend sessions, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator for the AAFS Registration Form. Please Note: Those individuals receiving complimentary registration will not be eligible for continuing education credit.

Although AAFS Members do not receive complimentary registration for volunteering, the Academy needs its members to volunteer. Your service to the Academy is recognized as instrumental in making the event a success. Persons accompanying registered attendees are also welcome to volunteer if they wish.

Below is a list of the various areas where volunteers are needed as well as an information form. Credit Card information is now required; however, your card will only be charged should you attend the meeting for free and fail to fulfill your volunteer commitment*. Volunteer Applications must be received no later than December 1, 2009, and are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AAFS Office Administration</th>
<th>Luncheons</th>
<th>Plenary Session</th>
<th>Registration Desk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast Seminars</td>
<td>Special Sessions</td>
<td>2011 Meeting Promotion Booth</td>
<td>Scientific Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Student Academy</td>
<td>Local Information Booth</td>
<td>Section Business Meetings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AAFS 62nd Annual Meeting Volunteer Information Form*

Name: ___________________________________ Title: ____________________ Organization: __________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________________________________

City: _________________________________________________ State/Province: _____________________________________

Zip/Postal Code: _______________ Country: _______________________ Home Phone: ________________________________

Fax: __________________________ Work Phone: ___________________________ Cell Phone: _________________________

E-mail: _________________________________________________

The best way to contact me during the meeting is: [ ] Phone [ ] Email [ ] Other _______________

Signature: ________________________________________ Credit Card #: _______________________________

AAFS is authorized to charge up to the 2010 Non-Member registration rate for registration fees should I attend the meeting and not fulfill my volunteer work assignment(s).

I plan to arrive in Seattle, WA, on __________________________ and depart on __________________________

Please check all dates you are available to volunteer. Mark the time(s) of day you are available (am and/or pm) as well as the maximum number of days for which you are willing to volunteer. Please Note: Every attempt is made to fulfill your requests however there is no guarantee your requests will match our needs.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates Available</th>
<th>Time of Day Available</th>
<th>I prefer to work: [ ] Full Days [ ] Half Days</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 20</td>
<td>am pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 21</td>
<td>am pm</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Monday, February 22</td>
<td>am pm</td>
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<td>Friday, February 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 27</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Maximum number of days willing to work:

[ ] I am requesting “Complimentary” registration as a non-member with a minimum of 8 hours of volunteer service.

*Form must be filled out completely. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) is pleased to offer three (3) Travel Grants this year for students to assist with travel expenses in attending the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Meeting in Seattle. A complimentary 2010 meeting registration is also included with this award. This is a wonderful opportunity, and members are encouraged to promote it.

Travel Grant Guidelines:

- The applicant must be a fourth year undergraduate or a graduate student at an accredited four-year college, university, or professional school whose accreditation is acceptable to the FSF Board of Trustees.
- The applicant must have a letter of recommendation from his/her advisor or professor.
- The applicant must submit a 400-600 word essay explaining how attendance at an AAFS meeting will impact his/her career decision.
- The applicant must submit a curriculum vitae including information such as forensic science areas of academic study and practice, academic record, forensic science activities, membership and participation in professional organizations (such as the AAFS), presentations at professional and academic meetings, as well as any publications and other pertinent data related to his/her forensic background.

The deadline for submission of the completed applications is **October 15**. Please forward a cover letter containing detailed contact information, your letter of recommendation, your essay, and your curriculum vitae electronically to Kimberly Wrasse at kwrasse@aafs.org or by mail to: Kimberly Wrasse, FSF, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

Applications are judged by the FSF Student Travel Grant Subcommittee. Selection of Grant recipients is based solely on the information provided in submitted documents.

The FSF Board of Trustees is able to approve the expenses, not to exceed $800 per student, for up to three (3) students this year. A complimentary 2010 meeting registration is also awarded to the grant winners. Good luck!

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**Guidelines for the Richard Rosner Award for the Best Paper**

The Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences announces its annual award, “The Richard Rosner Award for the Best Paper by a Fellow in Forensic Psychiatry or Forensic Psychology.” To qualify:

1. The paper should have been completed as part of the work of the forensic fellowship year, OR within one year of the completion of the forensic fellowship year based upon work or research that took place during that year,
2. The paper must have not been previously published, and

To apply for the award:

1. Send the original paper, plus six copies,
2. Send an original letter, plus six copies, from the director of the forensic fellowship program affirming that the author was a forensic fellow and the year of the author’s forensic fellowship, and
3. Send seven copies of the author’s curriculum vitae.

All submissions should be sent to: Sondra Doolittle, AAFS, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. Submissions must be received by **December 31, 2009**.

The award consists of:

- Free membership for one year in the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section of the AAFS, if the author meets the requirements and completes the application process
- Free registration to the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting
- Acceptance of the paper for presentation at the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section of the AAFS Annual Scientific Meeting
- Free subscription for one year to the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, the official publication of the AAFS
- Recommendation of publication to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*
- A cash award of $350 to the author
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Living up to Life
From time to time, an article appears in the *Academy News* regarding the activities of the Forensic Sciences Foundation. These articles usually concern the various awards and grants that the Foundation has given out, or asks for money. While I certainly intend to do both here, I thought it appropriate to briefly discuss the origins and aims of the Forensic Sciences Foundation so that those of you who are not familiar with our activities might have a better understanding of who we are and what we do.

The Forensic Sciences Foundation was created by the AAFS Executive Committee in October 1969 “for the purpose of promulgating research, educational programs, consultation facilities, public relations, automating data, dissemination of materials and publications, training, assistance to educational institutions, speaker’s bureaus, classification of written matter, assistance to law enforcement agencies, and to aid our national, state, and local institutions of justice in regard to forensic sciences...” While some of these functions have either disappeared or have been assumed by other groups within the Academy, the Foundation remains the focus of the Academy’s education and research efforts. Beginning with the first research grant obtained in May 1971, a grant from the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (now know as the Drug Enforcement Agency) to conduct a “Feasibility Study of an Early Warning Information System,” the Forensic Sciences Foundation has been involved in numerous research projects, training activities and publications. For a more complete review of the Foundation’s history, I highly recommend Ken Field’s authoritative work, “History of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences: 50 Years of Progress 1948 – 1998.” In my opinion, the volume is a “must read” for anyone wishing to learn more about the AAFS.

Over the years, the fund raising activities of the Forensic Sciences Foundation have enabled us to fund numerous smaller research projects, particularly those of students studying forensic science. Many of those students have become leaders in the field, in no small part because of the encouragement and financial support provided by our various programs. Even with the severe economic downturn suffered this past year, the Foundation has still been able to provide some funding to students and researchers. You’ve seen the solicitations in the *Academy News* for many of these programs, and although some, such as the Acorn and Lucas Grants have closed for the year, applications for the Student Travel Grants are still being solicited. Check out the article on page 11 for details.

In addition to our regular ongoing programs, we have been very fortunate to receive, as the result of an effort spearheaded by Past President Carol Henderson, a three-year, $300,000 grant from NIJ to fund additional research projects. Although this solicitation has also closed for this year, you’ll have two more chances to apply for funding from this program.

All of these efforts could not exist without the financial support of the AAFS membership. Every issue of the *Academy News* contains a solicitation for donations, and you’ve all seen the envelopes placed in with your registration materials at our yearly scientific meetings. Please consider making a donation. This grass roots support is vital to the continued existence of the Foundation, particularly during these economic times. In addition, please consider supporting us by registering for the Foundation sponsored workshop this February, and by providing something for our annual FSF Silent Auction. Further information regarding the FSF Silent Auction can be found on page 7.
In the recently-decided case, *Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts*, 2009 U.S. LEXIS 4734 (U.S. June 25, 2009), the Court held that for Confrontation Clause purposes a lab analyst is as much a witness as someone who observes the crime; it also ruled that lab reports are not admissible as business records, because they are intended for use in court and are “a record for the sole purpose of providing evidence against a defendant.” This raises the question of the constitutionality of having an analyst other than the one who ran the tests serve as the in-court witness, a practice which many of our country’s laboratories employ either out of necessity or because so far, they have been able to. As the Court noted, the accused needs to know “what tests the analysts performed, whether those tests were routine, and whether interpreting their results required the exercise of judgment or the use of skills that the analysts may not have possessed.” The Court emphasized that cross-examination was the tool to ensure that methods were applied reliably, and emphasized the difference between a witness who can authenticate the document and one who may testify as to its contents. Since some laboratories have analysts who conduct testing and other scientists who routinely testify as custodian of record, thus keeping the casework flow uninterrupted, this ruling may affect how labs are forced to allocate already scarce resources. I am hopeful that this timely decision will encourage discussion amongst our section’s presentations in February.

Additionally, in keeping with the theme of the 2010 annual meeting, we have designed a session to showcase some of the prior efforts that have laid quite a strong foundation for our path forward. Numerous groups, including but not limited to ASCLD-LAB, ABC, NIST, TWGFEX, SWGMAT, and ASTM E-30, have been working diligently for years to raise the level at which we work and provide measures to ensure quality practices within the field. On Wednesday, February 24th, we will be holding a special Criminalistics plenary session titled “Addressing the Recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences: Existing Infrastructure and Future Directions” that will highlight some of these efforts. Chaired by our own Vincent Desiderio, speakers will include John Lentini, Susan Ballou, Heather Seubert, and Dean Gialamas from the Criminalistics Section and Victor Weeden from the Path/Bio Section. The topics to be covered include laboratory accreditation, QA/QC procedures and protocols, analyst certification, physical standards, and standard methods of analysis.

Please make sure to review the program changes for the upcoming meeting once the Advance Program becomes available so that you can arrange your travel accordingly. Most notably, the Opening Session has been moved from Wednesday morning to Tuesday evening, scientific sessions will commence Wednesday morning, our section business meeting will be midday Wednesday, followed by the AAFS Annual Business Meeting. Whether or not scientific sessions are held on Saturday will depend on the number and quality of the submissions we receive. Hotel reservations can now be made through the AAFS website (www.aafs.org).

By the time this article is published, the abstract submission deadline will have passed. One other important deadline to remember is the October 1 deadline for membership applications (this includes both new applications and applications...
for promotion. If you qualify for promotion, make sure to get your application in before October 1 so that we may recognize your achievement in February.

Speaking of achievements, the Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2011 Criminalistics Section Awards. There are three different awards available to be presented to a member of the Criminalistics Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. The nominee must be a member of the section and you do not need to provide a nomination for all three awards.

The Paul L. Kirk award is given to someone who has developed a method that greatly improves the capacity or accuracy of criminalistics or forensic science or has performed a special service that results in a marked improvement in the quality, recognition, or acceptance of criminalistics or forensic science.

The Mary E. Cowan award is given to an individual who has accomplished or performed a special service or has a history of service to the Criminalistics Section, the Academy, or forensic science.

A Meritorious Service Certificate may be presented to individuals who have dedicated themselves unselfishly to the section.

Please provide the nominee’s full name and appropriate information regarding their background. You must provide a description of why you are nominating the person and their qualifications for the award. Please submit your nominations to Hiram Evans, Nominating Committee Chair, at hiram.evans@verizon.net. All nominations must be in writing. Nominations should be submitted by December 31, 2009.

Students, don’t forget to submit your travel grant essay by October 15 on the importance of attending the AAFS Annual Meeting. Student travel grants are available through the Forensic Sciences Foundation. See page 11 for guidelines and criteria.

See you in Seattle!

DIGITAL & MULTIMEDIA SCIENCES

Sources: Mark Pollitt, MS
David W. Baker, MFS, Section Secretary

Interest in digital forensic education has mushroomed in the last several years. Job opportunities in both traditional digital forensic science positions and electronic discovery have burgeoned, spurring educational institutions to develop degrees, majors, and concentrations in digital forensics. In order to ensure that new practitioners are adequately trained, it is important that they receive an education not only in the technology, but also in the principles and practice of forensic science. As more and more technology becomes embedded in our daily lives, digital forensic practitioners will be challenged to develop methodologies to exploit these potential sources of evidence. To do so in a fair and unbiased manner, it is important that they have a solid grounding in the legal, ethical, and scientific aspects of their practice.

This effort began several years ago, through the Technical Working Group on Education and Training in Digital Evidence (TWGED-DE). The TWGED-DE was sponsored by the National Institute of Justice and hosted by the West Virginia University Forensic Science Initiative. FEPAC guidelines were developed by the group, funded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in conjunction with the University of Tulsa and the National Center of Forensic Science. A pilot project will begin very soon.

The deadline for membership and promotion applications is October 1. Every year there are a few members/applicants who do not submit their documentation to the AAFS office before the deadline. As a result, their promotion or acceptance is delayed by another year. If you applied for promotion last year but your application was held back, please coordinate with AAFS Membership Coordinator, Cheryl Hunter to make sure your promotion application is complete and will move forward this year.

ENGINEERING SCIENCES

Source: Helmut G. Brosz, PE, Section Secretary

ESS Ski Trip 2010:
For Seattle’s AAFS Engineering Sciences Section ski/board getaway, the group has decided upon Mount Hood. It has 200 combined runs, five ski areas with lovely cross-country skiing and downhill slopes, and is only 3.5 hours from the Seattle, WA airport. Plan to ski Saturday, February 20th, and Sunday, February 21st. Please send Laura Liptai (liptai@biomedicalforensics.com) an email if you plan to attend as the group will soon settle on a hotel.

A Recipe for Disaster Within the Forensic Industry
The Forensic Engineering industry in North America faces “a recipe for disaster” as the quest for talent becomes increasingly challenging given the large number of forensic professionals set to retire in the next decade. With greater demand for diversified forensic services and the subsequent need for specialization and expertise regarding these services, the result has produced amplified competition in procuring talent in the area of forensic science.

As the retirement age looms, we become progressively aware of the millions of baby boomers who reach eligibility. As a result, industry-wide turn-over in the field of forensics could reach an excess of 50% during the next ten to fifteen years. Significant thought must be placed upon who will replace current staff and the evolution of our specialized practice.

The forensic industry competes much like all other economic sectors for college graduates. In many instances, the focus of education within the niche of forensics often goes unnoticed as many are unaware of the programs and opportunities that exist within this field of study. We would like to hear from our Engineering Sciences Section members and others with respect to colleges and universities that offer forensic engineering or science education of any kind. The University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa, Ontario offers these courses through continued on page 16
Section News cont.

William R. Smith along with the University of New Haven which offers forensic science courses through Alexis Sommers. Additionally, Ryerson University-Toronto, Canada now offers a $1,000 per year award to undergraduate students who produce the best research, thesis, or project relating to forensic engineering sciences. This award has been funded by two members of our section, Peter Brosz (Brosz & Associates), and Helmut Brosz (Institute of Forensic Electro-Pathology). We look forward to establishing a database regarding forensic education and courses offered in North America or internationally, as a means of securing the future of our profession.

Jim Hyzer presents the Engineering Sciences Section Founders Award to Scott Batterman.

GENERAL

Source: Julie A. Howe, MBA, Section Secretary

Thanks to everyone who submitted an abstract for the upcoming meeting in Seattle. Program Chairs Angela Geis and Claire Shepard are busy reviewing abstracts to develop an informative and interesting program for everyone to enjoy.

For those of you seeking membership or promotion, the deadline for applications is October 1. We encourage everyone to reach Fellow status and receive full benefits of membership, including voting privileges or serving as section or AAFS officer. It also proves your dedication to the profession to become a Fellow! Prior to submitting a request for promotion, please read not only the Academy requirements but also those of the General Section to ensure you comply.

The General Section offices of Chair and Secretary are open for election this year. Nominating Committee members Jim Adecock (Chair), Timothy Palmbach, Neal Haskell, Catherine Doughtery, and Frank Ciaccio will identify one candidate for each of these positions. In addition to floor nominations at the February 2010 meeting, any Fellow in the General Section may be placed on the ballot for either of these positions by petition. Petitions must be supported in writing by a minimum of three Members or Fellows of the General Section to be valid. Petitions must be received by the Academy office no later than October 15, 2009. Candidates nominated by the Committee or placed on the ballot by petition will be asked to provide the Committee with a one-page resume no later than December 15, 2009. The Committee will publish a list of the candidates for General Section offices in the January issue of the Academy News.

The 2010 General Section Reception Committee is looking for financial supporters. If you know anyone who may be willing to be a reception supporter, the committee would sure like to hear from you. Please email the committee members (Richard Walton, Mary Ellen O’Toole, Michael Piper, Natalie Punte Borgan, Kiyomi Griffey, Patrick O’Connor, and Chair Mary Fran Ernst) with their contact information as soon as possible.

Please also consider becoming a 2010 FRIEND OF THE GENERAL SECTION (FOGS). For a $50 contribution you can help ensure that our 2010 General Section Reception will be special. The Reception will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, from 7-8 p.m. in the Washington State Convention & Trade Center. For your contribution, your name will appear in the AAFS Meeting Program, the reception entrance sign, and you will receive a priceless illuminated FOGS pin of your very own!

Don’t forget to make your Seattle hotel reservations early! See page 9 for the Seattle Housing Bureau Form. We look forward to having an educational scientific session and hope that you can attend the meeting.

Students, don’t forget to submit your travel grant essay by October 15 on the importance of attending the AAFS Annual Meeting. Student travel grants are available through the Forensic Sciences Foundation. See page 11 for guidelines and criteria.

JURISPRUDENCE

Source: Roderick T. Kennedy, JD, Section Chair

The Jurisprudence Section is grateful to have had 49 abstracts submitted, including three proposed workshops for the 2010 annual meeting. We have cooperative programs on the line with the Toxicology, Engineering, and Questioned Documents Sections which we anticipate will be both exciting and informative.

Of course, we now need to hear from persons interesting in helping to moderate these sessions. Affiliates or Members looking to advance their membership status in the Academy should view such tasks as a great way to do so, and their help will be most welcome.

I want to congratulate and thank our program committee, Christine Funk, Andrew Northrup, Paul Singer, and Andy Sulner (in no order at all, because the Section Chair is more a fan of anarchy than appointing chairpersons) for soliciting and assembling such a varied program from so many different sources.

We hope that the Section History Committee will have a report for us at the Section Business Meeting in Seattle. This year’s section meetint will not be a luncheon, but more than likely an afternoon meeting with light refreshments provided by the Section (if we can afford ‘em).
I hope that all who take summer breaks have done well by them, and promise more and better news next month.

**ODONTOLOGY**

**Source:** Gary M. Berman, DDS, Section Chair

With the start of football here in the Midwest, we are reminded to start making plans to attend the 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, Washington, February 22-27, 2010. I know that Program Chair Paula Brunet has been hard at work reviewing the abstracts that everyone submitted. She promises an exceptional meeting, and don’t forget to sign up for the Thomas Krauss Bite Mark Breakfast on Friday morning. Hotel registration is currently available via a link on the AAFS website (www.aafs.org). Don’t wait until the last minute. Register early!

As reported in the July issue, there will be changes in the structure of the annual meeting. Keep this in mind when making your plane and hotel reservations. The Opening Session and President’s Opening Address will be shifted from Wednesday morning to Tuesday evening. Thus, this will be a really long day, starting with the ASFO scientific session and annual business meeting at 8:00 that morning. The first half-day of the AAFS scientific sessions will take place on Wednesday morning. Our section annual business meeting will be held at the usual time on Wednesday afternoon. Due to this shift in scheduling, Paula believes the Odontology Section scientific paper presentations will probably be completed early Friday afternoon.

The American Board of Forensic Odontology will be presenting a workshop entitled: “Dental Identification” after the AAFS meeting starting in the evening of February 26. More information is available at www.abfo.org.

The Forensic Sciences Foundation (FSF) has both Acorn and Lucas grants available for research funding. Plan to apply for a FSF grant after the meeting but before June 1, 2010. Also, the ASFO and ABFO have funds available through their respective Research Committees. If you are interested, please contact the FSF (www.forensicsciencesfoundation.org), ASFO (www.fsfbio.org) or the ABFO (www.abfo.org). Please note that grants may be combined for research that exceeds the $1,000 maximum level of the ASFO grants.

**PATHOLOGY/BIOLOGY**

**Source:** Kim A. Collins, MD, Section Secretary

Thanks go out to Amy Gruszcecki, Chair of the Best Resident Paper Award Committee, for her hard work and encouragement of our forensic pathology trainees! The winner of the Best Resident competition for 2009 is Pamela Ulmer for her presentation “Role of Scene Reconstruction in the Medicolegal Investigation of Sudden Unexpected Infants Deaths.” Honorable mention goes to Jeremy Deisch for his presentation “Child Deaths Due to Television Falls with Injury Patterns that Mimic Child Abuse.” Congratulations and keep up the good work!

Although the Pathology/Biology Section is predominated by forensic pathologists, the section, as its name implies, also includes non-physicians. The largest group of non-physicians in our section is the forensic entomologists, but members can have a variety of different backgrounds such as forensic botany and forensic veterinary medicine. I asked Jeff Tomberlin to give us an update on the activity from our non-pathologist members: Non-pathologist membership continues to remain strong representing approximately 11% of our 863 members. Most individuals are private practitioners, professors, and/or consultants, and we continue to maintain a diverse international pool with members not only in the United States and Canada but also in countries such as Germany, Italy, Australia, and China. Our non-pathologist members continue to make a strong presence at conferences outside of the AAFS Annual Meeting. These conferences include the European Forensic Entomology Conference in Uppsala, Sweden and the North American Forensic Entomology Association conference in Miami, Florida (thanks to Jason Byrd). Also, Members are being recognized for their many contributions to the Pathology/Biology Section. In 2008 and 2009, the Pathology/Biology Section recognized M. Lee Goff (entomology) and David Hall (botany) respectively for their lifetime contributions to our section.

We are fortunate to have the dedication and commitment of section member Jamie Downs to keep us informed and current in the realm of governmental and legislative affairs. The following is a very important update from Dr. Downs:

The fact that the recent National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on Forensic Sciences has been the source of great interest in Washington has provided further opportunity to educate on the present status of all the numerous disciplines of forensic science and the need for a focus on capacity rather than simply backlog. The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) was a driving force encouraging that this study be undertaken; in fact, the CFSO Chair Pete Marone served as a member of the NAS Panel. In addition, two Forensic Pathologists and AAFS Fellows, Ross Zumwalt and Marcella Fiore, served on this illustrious body. The findings of the report are exactly what we thought they would be and should come as a surprise to no one.

The efforts of the CFSO have been directed to find the broadest possible consensus in order to assure that progress is thoughtful and in our mutual interests for the determination of truth and securing justice. Towards that end, the CFSO held two well-attended stakeholder meetings in Washington, bringing together the member organizations and numerous interested parties from the legal, investigative, scientific, and governmental communities. Through those efforts, a consensus position is being developed. The CFSO has worked to build that consensus among our own constituencies as well as meet with policy-makers in Washington to bring that consensus message forward. As a participant of those meetings, I have found it refreshing to note the high level interest in our field by the government. In fact, in a meeting with the President’s White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (WHO STP), it was stressed that there is great interest - at all levels of government, up to and including the President.

continued on page 18
the President himself - in assuring the highest quality forensic science. The WHOSTP has brought together the various federal forensics players in an effort to determine the best strategy to move forward from their perspective. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the national, state, regional, and local levels all have the best possible delivery of unbiased forensic services. The NAS has called for a new, independent federal agency, the National Institute of Forensic Sciences (NIFS) to oversee and implement the NAS recommendations, to include periodic re-assessments of the status of the forensics system as a whole and at the various constituent levels. The Congress has also begun to meet to draft a policy and legislative initiative. They have held two hearings to address this specific issue and how it might be structured (see “Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: the Role of the National Institute of Standards and Technology” http://science.house.gov/publications/hearings_markups_details.aspx?newsid=2374). The reality is that such a major endeavor may not be achievable immediately. The CFSO, through those same stakeholder meetings, is exploring reasonable “real world” solutions given present realities.

In the realm of Medicolegal Death Investigation in particular, the CFSO has been working with the major scientific organizations (AAFS and NAME) to develop a strategic plan for advocating for the discipline while advancing the science. Specifically, the NAS report calls for the creation of a working group to develop and promote best practices. Board certified forensic pathologists should constitute the leadership of such a body and work closely in those efforts with qualified medicolegal death investigators at all levels in order to determine how best to proceed. Most of the other NAS recommendations should naturally flow from such a panel: adequate administration, staffing, education, training, and continuing education are essential in order to enhance service delivery. All practitioners should be certified and operations accredited. Research efforts should be enhanced. In order to improve the delivery of death investigation services, there must be significant recruiting efforts to attract and retain practitioners. Of course, all these efforts will require funding. In the end, the question should not be “how can we afford to fund such an idealized system?” but rather “how can we not?” The present state of budgets at all levels of government will pose a real challenge to effective implementation of the NAS recommendations; however, without an aggressive agenda, we are predestined to fail:

“The greater the difficulty, the more glory in surmounting it.”- Epicurus

In improving the Forensics, the “neutrality” playing field needs to be leveled - the fact that the analysis and reports of scientific fact and unbiased opinions related thereto may be expected to be entered into the inherently adversarial realm of the justice system should favor neither side. Only in such a manner can we truly guarantee “justice for all” not merely one side. This is another matter the CFSO is working with the Administration and the White House to solve.

Thank you Drs. Downs, Tomberlin, and Gruszecki, and congratulations to our members who have been recognized for their hard work and accomplishments!

Students, don’t forget to submit your travel grant essay by October 15 on the importance of attending the AAFS Annual Meeting. Student travel grants are available through the Forensic Sciences Foundation. See page 11 for guidelines and criteria.

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Source: Bradley J. Adams, PhD, Section Secretary

Congratulations to several of our Physical Anthropology Section Members who are embarking on new jobs. Amy Mundoff recently completed her PhD from Simon Fraser University, and has accepted a faculty position with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville starting in January 2010. Amy will be Assistant Professor in the Anthropology Department, specializing in Forensic Anthropology. Debra Prince has been appointed as Assistant Professor at Boston University School of Medicine’s Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology. Debbi will be part of the new Master’s program in Forensic Anthropology. She has also been appointed to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the State Forensic Anthropologist. Robert Pickering has accepted an offer in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he will be Senior Curator of the Gilcrease Museum and Director of the Museum Science and Management Degree Program at Tulsa University. Please email Bradley Adams (badams@ocme.nyc.gov) if you have job announcements that you feel would be appropriate for inclusion in upcoming AAFS newsletters.

Tal Simmons reports that The School of Forensic and Investigative Sciences at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) has established TRACES – the Taphonomic Research in Anthropology: Centre for Experimental Studies – on 13 acres of land and associated facilities in the northwest of England. TRACES currently conducts experiments in all aspects of decomposition, trauma, forensic entomology, and forensic DNA using animal models. For further information, please contact Peter Cross (paczoss1@uclan.ac.uk) or Tal Simmons (tlsimmons@uclan.ac.uk).

Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pennsylvania will host the next meeting of the Northeast Forensic Anthropology Association (NEFAA) from October 30th to November 1st. For more information about the meeting, check out the Mercyhurst website at http://nai.mercyhurst.edu/nefaa.

For 2009, the Ellis Kerley Forensic Sciences Foundation awarded its graduate scholarship to Christopher Grivas of the University of New Mexico. The Foundation’s international recipient was Dragana Vucetic from Bosnia. For 2010, the graduate scholarship recipient will be Angela Soler from Michigan State University. The international recipient will be Mellisa Land Valle from the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team. The presentation of the 2010 Kerley Awards will be made at the Physical Anthropology Section/Kerley Foundation Reception.
during the 2010 Annual Meeting. Lastly, the Physical Anthropology Section will confer its prestigious T. Dale Stewart Award to Marcella Sorg at the 2010 AAFS meeting.

Students, don’t forget to submit your travel grant essay by October 15 on the importance of attending the AAFS Annual Meeting. Student travel grants are available through the Forensic Sciences Foundation. See page 11 for guidelines and criteria.

PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Source: John L. Young, MD, Section Chair

As you begin making plans for the AAFS annual meeting next February in Seattle, you also have the opportunity to plan on coming to Baltimore for the 40th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL). It will be held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel October 29-November 1. You will find the advance registration form and the advance program online at www.AAPL.org.

Once again the AAPL meeting will feature a forensic sampler; this time it is entitled “Firesetting and Bombing.” As usual, we can expect to be challenged to bring our expertise to bear on the information presented by AAFS members from other sections. Other meeting highlights include interesting reports on research in progress, enticing luncheon speakers including Stephen J. Morse, Congressman Kennedy, and attorney Kyle Courtney. This year’s mock trial will be a retrospective of the Hinckley trial. You can expect difficulty selecting among all the simultaneously scheduled papers, workshops, panels, and courses. In addition, visitors from the UK will debate the treatability of pedophilia. This year’s courses will cover malingering, stalking, and the successful treatment of problematic sexual behaviors.

Also not to be missed will be a wide-ranging wealth of over 50 poster presentations spread across three mornings. Posters and authors will be up early and remain available during the morning coffee breaks.

There is a special discounted hotel rate (available until September 28); advance registration for the meeting ends October 5. Of note, there is a discount of $150 on the registration fee for staying at the meeting hotel.

Those who come will have a great opportunity to learn and visit with old friends as well as to meet new ones.

News for this column from members is always welcome at jlmyoung@pol.net.

QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

Sources: Jane A. Lewis, MFS, Section Chair
Carl R. McClary, BA, Section Secretary

The summer has flown by, at least for us, and it means that we have passed our Academy submission deadline and can now concentrate on putting together our program. Karen Runyon and Kathleen Storer. Section Program Chairs, have been diligent in gathering abstracts for our workshops and scientific sessions. I’m confident that, based on what I’ve heard thus far, everyone will find a reason to attend. Mum is the word until everything is finalized! From the solicitation of abstracts to the choosing of participants, section program chairs put a lot of work into organizing a program for the AAFS. Please remember to thank these volunteers and also let one of us know if you would be interested in serving on the section’s executive committee or serving as a moderator for Seattle. We can always use talented help! If you have any questions regarding your abstract submissions, or the AAFS program for next year, be sure to contact Karen Runyon or Kathleen Storer.

On another note, our discipline is proud of the advances in the validation of the scientific foundation of Questioned Documents and we thank the Academy for supporting us and for providing us a venue to share information and present our successes. Our long-term association has done much in the way of forging relationships among our other forensic friends. Even today, though, we face the challenges of educating others of these successes, recently to some within the Academy. We remain confident, however, that we will soon all support each other in the common quest for providing the best possible service to the justice community, forensic science, and the community at large.

TOXICOLOGY

Source: Kenneth E. Ferslew, PhD, Section Secretary

The preparations for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Seattle are continuing at breakneck speed. The pieces of the 2010 Toxicology Section are being put together and it looks like a great program is taking shape. Phil Kemp (Section Program Chair, pkemp@arlok.com, 405-271-1144), Ruth Winecker (Section Workshop Chair, winecker@ocme.unc.edu, 919-415-4428) and their teams are reviewing abstract submissions, workshop proposals, and will be working with the various presenters to put the finishing touches on the various scientific sessions. This year’s meeting will have a different schedule from years past with an additional Wednesday scientific session and new scheduling for the section’s business meeting. Make sure to take note so that you don’t miss a session or meeting you wish to attend. Attendees can look forward to the perennial Special Sessions on Drugs and Driving coordinated by Jennifer Limoges and on Pediatric Postmortem Toxicology coordinated by Rob Middleberg. In addition, Peter Stout and Jeri Ropero-Miller are putting together a joint special session with the Jurisprudence Section entitled “Melendez-Diaz and Other 6th Amendment, Confrontational Clause Cases, Their Impacts and Perspectives.” A goal of this special session is to provide a forum for the discussion of the needs of forensic science evidence in regard to the 6th Amendment for each of the justice system components. The Annual Lectureship in Toxicology will be presented by Dr. Caleb Banta-Green from the University of Washington, who will present his collaborative group’s research of municipal wastewater as a means of studying the epidemiology of drug use. It will present a

continued on page 20
different perspective on the impact of urine drug excretion to all of us in toxicology. There will also be the Open Toxicology Forum with Bob Zettl and Chip Walls for an enjoyable evening of collegial interaction. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help or needs to participate in Academy activities for potential membership advancement, please contact any of the section officers. Section Chair, Jeri Ropero-Miller (jerimiller@rti.org, 919-485-5685), and Section Secretary, Kenneth Ferslew (ferslew@etsu.edu, 423-439-6424), are eager and willing to assist you. Make sure to register early to guarantee a place, especially in the workshops, and make plans to attend this year’s AAFS meeting in Seattle. I look forward to seeing you there!

AAFS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

All completed applications - including any additional requirements - for membership and promotion must be received at the AAFS Office by October 1, 2009, in order to be considered for approval at the 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting.

AAFS Membership Directory Update

Please make a note of the following changes to the 2009 AAFS Directory of Members and Affiliates:

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Email: dorionr@gmail.com  

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weednv@ocmemd.org

AAFS Code of Ethics and Conduct

In early September, members and affiliates will begin to receive their annual dues renewal notice. AAFS Policy - 6.1.4.6. - stipulates that by paying your dues you agree to abide by the AAFS Code of Ethics and Conduct in accordance with Article II of the AAFS Bylaws.

AAFS Policy and Procedure - 6.1.4.6. Members and affiliates shall be required to reaffirm their acceptance of the provisions of the Academy Code of Ethics annually with their dues renewal. (Ethics Committee Rules and Procedures were approved by the AAFS Executive Committee on August 3, 2007. This action was ratified by the Board of Directors, August 2007.) The AAFS Policy and Procedure Manual may be found in its entirety on the AAFS website (www.aafs.org) on the “AAFS” dropdown menu.

Article II. CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

SECTION 1 - THE CODE: As a means to promote the highest quality of professional and personal conduct of its members and affiliates, the following constitutes the Code of Ethics and Conduct which is endorsed by all members and affiliates of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences:

a. Every member and affiliate of the Academy shall refrain from exercising professional or personal conduct adverse to the best interests and objectives of the Academy. The objectives stated in the Preamble to these bylaws include: promoting education for and research in the forensic sciences, encouraging the study, improving the practice, elevating the standards and advancing the cause of the forensic sciences.

b. No member or affiliate of the Academy shall materially misrepresent his or her education, training, experience, area of expertise, or membership status within the Academy.

c. No member or affiliate of the Academy shall materially misrepresent data or scientific principles upon which his or her conclusion or professional opinion is based.

d. No member or affiliate of the Academy shall issue public statements that appear to represent the position of the Academy without specific authority first obtained from the Board of Directors.
Teaching Opportunities in Kazakhstan

Source: Thomas L. Bohan, PhD, JD

As all those who read even a bit of the President’s Message in the most recent Academy News, the 2009 Educational Outreach Program of the Academy took place in Kazakhstan. It was our hope and that of our hosts that the visit would be the beginning of a long fruitful educational exchange between the Academy and Kazakhstan. I am pleased to announce the next step toward realizing those hopes. **Kairat Kalieievich Amankulov**, Associate Member of the Criminalistics Section and director of all state forensics activities in his country, has just sent me a list of the specialists he wishes to have travel to Kazakhstan in the immediate future. He foresees having two AAFS visitors at a time in Kazakhstan, each presenting a five-day course to forensic laboratory personnel in Astana, the capital. The plan is that each visitor would arrive on a Saturday, teach Monday through Friday, and leave the following Sunday. This would provide time to recover from the trip prior to conducting the course, and for exploring the surroundings after the course is over. Director Amankulov would pay all expenses, including round-trip economy air fare and food and lodging within Kazakhstan. Since no stipend would be paid, the arrangement would amount to having the opportunity to see and explore a very different, dynamic society, expenses paid, in exchange for presenting a five-day course in your field of specialization. All those who believe that they have at least one set of the qualifications specified below and who would be interested in doing good while having a wonderful time should contact me at TBOHAN2@maine.rr.com or tlb@mtcforensics.com. I direct those who would like to learn more about what to expect to the President’s Message in the July 2009 issue of Academy News.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 2009</td>
<td>Methods of DNA detection from different samples. Evaluation of quality and quantity of DNA defined by different methods and from different carriers:</td>
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| Forensic Molecular-Genetic Examination | - Systems and quantity of genetic markers used for molecular-genetic testing  
- Methods of kinship examination  
- Mathematic models used for statistical data processing. How it is possible to check data validity  
- Problem of judgmental conclusion in forensic examination  
- Establishment of DNA database  
- Existing and developing DNA projects  
- Software for DNA studies  
- DNA examination of plants and animals for forensic purposes  
- Mitochondrial DNA sequencing |
| September 2009        | 1. General points and objects of forensic and ecological examination: |
| Forensic and Ecological Examination Precursors | - Peculiarities of court procedures on ecological issues  
- Methods of defining of third sewage pollution (heavy metal, detergents, pesticides etc.)  
- Methods of defining of intoxication, disease of sea dwellers (fish, seals etc.)  
- Methods of study for negative anthropogenic influence on local water body  
- Methods for defining of pollution by oil and oil products  
2. Study of soil ecological conditions: |
|                       | - Evaluation methods for chemical soil pollution  
- Methods of defining of soil pollution by oil and oil products  
- Methods of defining the extent of damage caused by soil degradation  
- Extraction of polluted substances from the soil |
|                       | 3. Study of open air ecological conditions: |
|                       | - Methods of air sampling  
- Methods of defining of hazardous substances in the air of industrial zones |
|                       | 4. Evaluation methods of forestry ecological condition |
|                       | 5. Methods for study of urban ecological conditions |
|                       | 6. Methods for study of industrial zones' ecological conditions |
| October 2009          | 1. Foreign experience in forensic examination of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. Possibility of elaboration of united methodologies in this direction. |
| Forensic Examination of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors | - Methods of study for medicines consisting psychotropic substances  
- Modern methods of study for synthetic drugs  
2. Defining the source of origin of herbal drugs substances (cannabis and its derivatives, opium poppy)  
3. Methodological approach to the issue of storage conditions for drugs substances  
4. Scientific approach to creation of specific map on drugs plants origins (correlation between quality (and other) characteristics and soil and climate conditions; regular monitoring) |
The Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc., gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions made to the Foundation and its Endowment Fund. Please accept our apologies if your name has been inadvertently omitted and contact the AAFS office as soon as possible with the correction. This listing reflects contributions received from 8/01/08 through 7/31/09.

The Fund’s balance through 6/01/09 was $440,359.96. Additionally, the Endowment has provided $117,383 in awards and grants since its inception in 1990.

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FSF “I Gave An Hour” Contributors

Former FSF Trustee Gil Brodgon came up with a great idea for Academy members with advanced degrees. The idea was for everyone to consider contributing to the FSF the equivalent of one hour of their annual salary or the equivalent of the fee charged for one hour of consultation. The forensic sciences have been good to all of us. If you make a lot, consider contributing a lot! For salaried persons, one hour represents about 1/2000th of annual income. For those who receive consulting fees, please consider contributing an amount consistent with one hour (or more) of what you charge for consultation. Below is a list of the “I Gave an Hour” contributors thus far. The fund’s balance through 08/01/09 was $14,970. For those of you who would like to contribute, please complete the IGAH form and return to the AAFS office.

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Of Peccant Scientists

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Is there any litterateur of a lowly or a grand reputation who has not given his/her prescription for sound ethical behavior? In naming names where does one start and, correspondingly, where does one end? Cicero may be the earliest expounder of ethical dictates for the instructions he offers in his *On Moral Duties (De Officiis)*. Shakespeare presents his views in the tragedy *Hamlet* through the precepts that the Lord Chamberlain, Polonius, lays on the shoulders of his son, Laertes, before the son sallies forth into the world on his own. The culmination of that sermon presents an oft-quoted and memorable injunction

*This above all: to thine own self be true,*  
*And it must follow, as the night the day*  
*Thou canst not then be false to any man.*

But like the deficient but oft-repeated admonition to “do good and avoid evil,” what is meant by Polonius’ preacher, in the context of a particular ethical dilemma, to avoid being “false to any man.”? Glittering generalities of this sort, disconnected from the reality of day-to-day living, just do not bake ethical loaves. Nor, for the matter, does negativism.

So, for that reason, the other worldliness of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences mandate (in AAFS Bylaws, Article II, Section I.c., of its Code of Ethics and Conduct) that “no member or affiliate of the Academy shall materially misrepresent data or scientific principles upon which his or her conclusion or professional opinion is based” needs the refinement of illustrative exemplars of what constitutes a material misrepresentation to make it fully effective as an ethical guideline.

Closer to contemporary times, we see that Lord Chesterfield, like the fictional Polonius before him, was deeply concerned that his son Philip would not stray from the straight and narrow of ethical propriety. In his letter numbered XIV penned from London on September 21, 1747 the scrivener exhorts his son to avoid lying as if it were an ethical plague.

*I really know nothing more criminal, more mean, and ridiculous than lying. It is the production either of malice, cowardice or vanity ... lies are always detected sooner or later*

One can readily quarrel, without being accused of petty quibbling, with Lord Chesterfield’s notion that the lie that will be surely disclosed will keep the lie from being voiced in the first instance. There have to be better reasons for ethical compliance than the stain of being caught. Lord Chesterfield himself enumerates a number of such straightening reasons.

Francis Bacon, some 400 years ago, spoke less to the general public than to the professional person in urging him/her to act in compliance with the dictates of his profession so as to maintain unmarred the image he presents as such a person. As he -

*I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves by way of amends to be a help and an ornament thereto.*


*continued on page 28*
Concerns for the ethical uprightness of scientists can be found in both fiction and in fact.

**In fiction:**
In the justly famed novel by Scotsman A.J. Cronin, titled *The Citadel*, we meet and follow the medical and personal evolution of medical doctor Andrew Manson, a newly minted medico assigned to be an assistant to the ailing Dr. Page in a dismal mining town in Wales. Being new to his profession, Dr. Manson is still imbued with a vigorous desire to be scientific and ethical in his practice.

Dr. Manson fervently and frequently prayed that he would “never become slovenly or mercenary, never jump to conclusions ... He wanted to find out. To be scientific.” (p. 50) Arrayed with these strong and salubrious beliefs, Dr. Manson was asked to sign a certificate committing a miner, Emrys Hughes, to an institution for the mentally ill. The signatures of two medical practitioners were required, one, Dr. Bramwell, had already signed on to the commitment order.

After being briefed by Dr. Bramwell on Hughes’ sudden onset of violent and disoriented symptoms, Dr. Manson, seeking to make his own independent evaluation of Hughes said “I’ll take a look at him.” Being at the Hughes residence at the time of his discussion with Dr. Bramell, Dr. Manson immediately proceeded to the Hughes upstairs bedroom where he conducted a comprehensive examination of Hughes.

After the examination, Dr. Manson was convinced, contrary to Dr. Bramwell’s opinion, that Hughes, although displaying what could be considered to be the symptoms of a mental disease, had in fact an eminently treatable thyroid deficiency with classic signs of myxoedema. With this new knowledge being brought to his attention, Dr. Bramwell agreed to wait on the results of the thyroid treatment before certifying the commitment of Hughes.

And the treatment worked like a charm enabling Hughes to vacate his bed and to return to his employment in short order. To Andrew Manson, M.D., Hughes; full recovery was attributed to “the triumph of the scientific method.” (p. 53) which, in fact, it was...

But the scientific method lacked the strength and the endurance to overcome Dr. Manson’s falling afoul of the temptations for substantial monetary success in his practice. So when importuned by his wealthy patients to give them a series of injections to counter the effects of hay fever, he was most compliant even though he was well aware that the injections were worthless. It was the sizeable monetary return that began to rule Manson’s ethical conscience and moral decision-making. He had become a creature of simian-like acquisitiveness.

Yet the time did come when Dr. Manson awoke to the fact of his having prostituted himself to his desire for filthy lucre. It took the time of his death during surgery of a patient at the incompetent hands of Dr. Charles Ivory and witnessed by Manson who had unqualifiedly recommended Ivory for the surgical task at hand for him to undergo an ethical wake-up call, an epiphany of sorts.

In harsh terms Manson decried the numerous “jackals” who had sullied the practice of medicine for him and had taken him in to their seedy ways. They gave “unnecessary injections” (p. 321), used “pseudoscientific remedies” and “chased the guinea all the time”. In the culmination of the tale, Manson is observed about to open his own practice with two specialists utilizing no “shoddy methods” and “an absolute allegiance to the scientific ideal.” All ended well with the medical ethics being on firm and agreeable grounds.

**In fact:**
But the happy endings of fiction are not always mirrored in the real world where the unromanticized human factor intrudes. On all sides and in all directions ethical perplexities and even transgressions have rocked the confidence of the public in the sanctity of all aspects of the scientific enterprise, exposing every manner of defalcation, even hypocrisy. The situation is enough to corrugate even the most hardened brow.

And scientists of every discipline are affected and none untouched by this withering storm of calamitous ethical betrayals of principles both longstanding, and lacking in nuance or subtlety or ambiguity.

**The Sad Tale of Judith Thomas and Juan Contreras is Emblematic**

Many questions remain – now that their basic fraud has been exposed. Why did they, being qualified research scientists, perpetrate this long term fraud? Why did it take eight years, from 1998 to 2005, for the fraud to continue and to be unrecognized? What should be the penalty for the consummation of such foul and fouling misconduct? Why did their publication in many scientific journals of their flawed and fallacious results from their misbehavior occur without raising a call to arms against it? Where was the much vaunted pre-publication review of submitted manuscripts and the post publication peer review of other researchers immersed in the same or similar research? Where, in short, were the whistleblowers?

But these questions precede the facts, upon which the questions hinge and the answers may relate.

Judith Thomas and Juan Contreras were staff members at the University of Alabama at Birmingham during the occurrence of these frauds and chiefly accountable for them. They were munificently funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health to the tune of 23 million dollars. Yes, 23 million.

Thomas and Contreras were supported by the NIH grants to enable them to conduct tests on the efficacy of two new immunosuppression drugs hypothesized to be valuable after kidney transplant surgery. Their research targeted “several rhesus macaques to be the ‘guinea pigs’” in their experiments. The research expectation was that one of the monkey’s kidneys would be replaced by a transplant with coincident immunosuppressant therapy. One month after the first nephrectomy a second was to be performed on the other kidney.

However, things went drastically downhill when the second kidney transplant surgery was never performed on 32 of the monkeys and that neglect was never reported in the NIH reports by the two researchers nor in the scientific publications resulting from their studies. Consequently the value of the immunosuppressant drugs which were the central focus of the research were erroneously and misleadingly “inflated” giving rise to the very real possibility and concern that other researchers uninvolved in the Thomas/Contreras work would rely on these fallacious reports from the 16 articles (14 of which have now been withdrawn) published by Thomas/Contreras giving unverifiable
credence to the two immunosuppressant drugs being evaluated. The upshot could have been even more damning and drastic. According to the Office of Research Integrity’s (ORI) investigative report on the Thomas/Contreras research fiasco, other researchers’ acceptance of the Thomas/Contreras published fraudulent results “could lead to ... placing patients at harm where enrolled in “clinical trials designed on the basis of the falsified results.

Measures have been belatedly taken to right the ethically fractured imbalance created by this damaging fraud. In the first instance, it necessary to state that the ORI report indicated that both Thomas and Contreras “denied intentionally committing fraud.” Yet one is hard pressed to support that excusative denial since surely their actions were, in their reckless allegiance to muzzling the true facts, the equivalent of intentional fraud.

Thomas, a former member of NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has resigned her full professorship at the University of Alabama. She has also entered into a “Voluntary Exclusion Agreement” barring her for ten years from receiving any funding from the U.S. Government or from any advisory positions with the U.S. Public Health Service for the same period.

As to Contreras, he has also resigned his University’s assistant professorship and agreed, like Thomas, to be barred for three years, in his case, from government funding and similarly from any advisory positions with the U.S. Public Health Service.

Nothing has thus far been said about the possibility of these two researchers suffering any criminal liability for what has all the indicia of a fraud on the U.S. government nor whether any effort will be made to recoup (a la Bernie Madoff) any of the 23 million dollars of grant moneys which the pair scammed from NIH. A University of Alabama official charged with monitoring the integrity of research at the University has described the conduct of the duo as “a very serious offense,” a commentary lacking in the equivalent of intentional fraud.

The Cause of this Tawdry Thusness

From a perusal of the seven articles published by the New York Times on the Kuklo research fantasia it is learned that Dr. Kuklo while a U.S. Army surgeon held a well-paid consulting relation with Medtronic whose bio-engineered bone growth product “Infuse” was the subject of experimentation and exhortation by Dr. Kuklo as well as other products marketed by Medtronic. But the Army has been unable to find “that Dr. Kuklo ever sought or received (Military) permission” to be a paid consultant to Medtronic while an Army officer.

continued on page 30
Although widely used in civilian hospitals for bone injuries, “Infuse” was particularly thought to have merit to rehabilitate injured servicemen returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan with severe bone injuries. Although Dr. Kuklo claimed a “92% success rate” for the Medtronic bioengineered product, Dr. Norvell V. Coots, commander at Walter Reed, declared Dr. Kuklo’s conclusions to be unwarranted, being based on “all falsified information” constituting “a breach of trust” as well as a “breach of academic protocol.”

“The total number of patients Dr. Kuklo reported as having been treated for such wounds at Walter Reed during the study period – 138 soldiers – was greater than the number for which the hospital could find records.” (N.Y.T., May 13, 2009, A1.)

As might be expected, in view of the real possibility of a conflict of interest by Dr. Kuklo in his relation to Medtronic, the financial arrangements between Medtronic and Dr. Kuklo have also been the subject of investigative reporting by the New York Times. On June 18th the New York Times relayed information gleaned from Medtronic under the pressure of an investigation spearheaded by Senator Charles E. Grassley of Iowa to the effect that $788,280 in direct payments and $64,000 in indirect payments had been made to Dr. Kuklo since 2001.

The Aftermath
Dr. Kuklo left the U.S. Army and joined the staff of the Washington University Medical School in St. Louis, Missouri. But it took a year after cementing his new medical school relationship for Dr. Kuklo to disclose to Washington University that he was “making more than $50,000 annually from” Medtronic. The University then gave Kuklo an option either to reduce his financial ties with Medtronic to under $10,000 or to “stop the study” he was undertaking. He is said to have “opted to stop the study.” In September 2006, Dr. Kuklo submitted a conflict-of-interest form in which he stated that he had and would not have “any financial ties to companies involved in his research.” Three days later Dr. Kuklo signed with Medtronic as a paid consultant.

So far nothing has been publicized as a response from Dr. Kuklo or any attorney representing him. However, Dr. Kuklo’s on-line vita, as of June 19, 2009, paints a picture of an upstanding and much-accoladed physician. It lists as awards Dr. Kuklo’s being listed in Best Doctors in America in both 2007 and 2008 and his medical degree to work to gain him the rewards of a moneyed career. Moray came to his fortune not by treating clients with assorted illnesses meriting his devoted and careful medical attention but by giving his all to a pharmaceutical company in which he had a large scale financial stake in producing medications that secured widespread consumer attention and enabled him to reap astronomical monetary awards. His life became one ruled by cupidity in all its odious guises.

And in the end Moray was caught in a trap from which there was no escape but one.

Is The Judas Tree a parable for our times for research scientists?

The More the Scientific Fraud the Unmerrier
The above well-credentialed scientists are only on the contemporary cutting edge of scientific hanky-panky. Others can be mentioned, if only because their manipulations of scientific data were striking and revealed by their more conscientious scientific brethren. Physicist Jan Hendrik Schon’s finagling with his scientific data caused other scientists to call for more sturdy and exacting ethical education whereas there are those who think that fudging data is not something that a scientist needs to be told to avoid. That understanding, it is said, comes with the turf.

Dr. Schon’s fabrications, committed by him while an employee of Bell Labs, were translated into “many prominent articles at the journals Science and Nature,” the crème de la crème of scientific publications. His deceptions were majorly supportive of his claims of finding superconductivity in plastic material. Those claims have now been blown to smithereens giving rise to an urgent call for the sciences to take immediate steps to curb such misconduct. (see Reich, Eugenie Samuel, Plastic Fantastic: How the Biggest Fraud in Physics Shook the Scientific World, Palgrave/Macmillan 2009)
In Memoriam

Stanley M. Becker, MD, Associate Member of the Pathology/Biology Section, October 2005

Vaclav Krcma, Retired Fellow of the Criminalistics Section, Unknown

Floyd McDonald, MA, Retired Fellow of the Toxicology Section, February 2007

Arthur Stein, MD, Retired Member of the Pathology/Biology Section, January 2009

William Storer, MS, Fellow of the Questioned Documents Section, June 2009

Edward S. Tom, BS, Retired Fellow of the Criminalistics Section, September 1989

Sidney Weinberg, MD, Retired Fellow of the Pathology/Biology Section, April 1986
The following individuals have submitted applications for Associate Member, Trainee Affiliate, or Student Affiliate. Applications that are received and completed by October 1, 2009, will be considered for approval at the February 2010 Board of Directors Meeting. Due to space constraints, AAFS does not list members who are applying for promotion to Fellow or to Member. Comments or concerns regarding an applicant should be submitted in writing to: Cheryl Hunter, Membership Coordinator, AAFS, 410 North 21st Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904; chunter@aafs.org. Comments must be received by February 19, 2010.

Applicants

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<th>Associate Member</th>
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<td>Acosta, Carole M., MS</td>
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<td>Ammitto, Kerry J., MS</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>Bailey, Jodi R., MA, MS</td>
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### Teaching Opportunities in Kazakhstan cont. from page 21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| October 2009 IT in Forensic Examination | 1. Available IT equipment for forensic examination, its capacity.  
2. Capacity of foreign hardware and software complexes for phonographic studies in order to compare with available developments from Saint Petersburg ("Kamerton").  
3. Methodology for forensic examination of unauthorized access to computer (local network, hardware and software, Internet resources).  
5. Diagnostics of software and informational systems.  
6. Diagnostics of hardware (video one spacemonitoring equipment, modem, file server, mobile phone, cash register, PC, etc.)  
7. Methods for defining licenses hardware and software. |
| November 2009 Trace Evidence Examination | 1. Examination of different devices' traces (for example on locks, clothes, etc.)  
2. Examination of label records on the vehicles.  
3. Examination of wheel tread traces. |
| November 2009 Ballistic Examination | Ballistic examination |
| February 2010 Handwriting Examination | Methods of examination depending on age of human, his/her psychotropic, alcohol or drugs influence, etc.  
IT applied for this type of examination. |
| February 2010 Videophonoscopic Examination | Examination and definition of record editing on digital carriers.  
Defining the original of record on digital carriers.  
Software applied for this type of examination.  
Noise characteristics. |
| March 2010 Forensic Portrait Examination | Methods for defining the persons which appearance was artificially (plastic surgery) or naturally (aging) changed.  
Methods for defining the persons by objective pictures produced by digital devices.  
Methods for defining the persons by subjective presentations of his/her look (sketch). |
| April 2010 | Study the experience of abroad laboratories for traffic accidents examination. |

### Legislative Corner cont.

evaluated. Prosecutors must improve their understanding of the methods employed in forensic science laboratories and the nuances of testimony. Judges, who serve as gate keepers to determine whether expert evidence is admissible, must be prepared to rule on matters of reliability and validity of scientific evidence.

Finally, it's time for the Federal Government, specifically Congress, the Department of Justice, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to “step up to the plate” and provide leadership and funding to address the various issues raised in the NAS report, particularly in areas concerning the validity of certain classes of physical evidence, funding for education and research, and so forth.
Young Forensic Scientists Forum Newsletter

Becoming a More Active Member in the Forensic Science Community

Now that we have submitted our abstract for this year’s session, “The Future of Forensic Science: Where We Are and Where We Are Going,” we are looking for ways to help young forensic scientists become a part of the forensic science community. With this goal in mind, the next big deadline coming up for the Academy is October 1, 2009; the deadline to apply for AAFS membership. We ask that all young forensic scientists consider becoming members of AAFS. Information about the different types of membership and how to apply can be found at the AAFS website (www.aafs.org). Through our education and training we are taught to respect the great forensic scientists of the past and present but what we may not realize is that we are the future! AAFS is aware of how important young forensic scientists are and how important it is for them to be included in the forensic science community from the beginning. One way to transition into the Academy is through work with YFSF. Many new YFSF committee volunteers meet each year to plan the next year’s session. We are always looking to raise the bar and we do so with new and inventive ideas on how to get young forensic scientists inspired. If you would like to become part of the YFSF Planning Committee for next year please contact me a dudleycash@gmail.com. Don’t let the October 1st deadline pass you by!

Arllis Dudley-Cash
President YFSF

The Future of Forensics: Where We Are and Where We Are Going

Hello Young Forensic Scientists! We are very excited about the theme we have chosen for the 2010 YFSF Special Session! In our last issue we announced our theme would be “The Future of Forensics: Where We Are and Where We Are Going.” We selected this theme because we are the next generation of forensic scientists. The schedule is set and with that comes a wonderful group of professionals who will share with you their knowledge of the past of forensics, where we currently are, and some of the amazing advances that are on the horizon. We are excited about the wide range of topics that will be sure to satisfy your curiosity and pique your interest. The speakers will be covering such topics as biometrics, digital forensics, animal related crimes, and much, much more. We will also have a special presentation by the 2009 FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist winner. The fun doesn’t stop after our Special Session, it continues on to the evening Poster Session, then into Wednesday with the Bring Your Own Slides Session, and culminates with a great Breakfast Session on Thursday. If you haven’t signed up to submit a poster or slides, you still have plenty of time to sign up to be a part of the fun. We will keep you updated as we get closer to Seattle, WA. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at any time: Tanisha Henson (Tanisha.henson@yahoo.com) and Rachael Lehr (Rachael.lehr@gmail.com).

Tanisha Henson
YFSF Program Chair
2010 YFSF Financial Support

Every year the YFSF relies on the financial contributions and support of the forensic community to make our Special Session a success. The events held at each meeting include a day long scientific session, a working breakfast session, a poster presentation, and a “Bring Your Own Slides” presentation. The goal of the YFSF is to assist young scientists in establishing a solid foundation in their field; these sessions are critical in the professional development of our audience.

At previous annual meetings we have received both monetary and educational support from the AAFS sections, various forensic science vendors, and universities. If you or your group would like to provide support for the 2010 Young Forensic Science Forum Special Session at the 2010 AAFS Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, please contact the Contributor Liaison, Samantha Neal, at Samantha.Neal@mail.wvu.edu for more information.

Samantha H. Neal
YFSF Contributor Liaison

2010 YFSF Breakfast Session

Whenever I tell someone what I do for a living the response is usually the same: “Oh, like on TV?” I usually smile in response and give a polite “Well no, not exactly”. This exchange happens often between people in forensics and people outside of the field. Shows like CSI (and all of the spin offs), NCIS, and Bones have become cultural phenomenons. The popularity of these shows has even lead to reality shows such as “Forensic Files”. All of these shows, however, can give the public a skewed sense of what forensic science is. Results come back in an hour’s time, databases flash with the entire life history of the criminal at the click of a button, and everyone looks perfect all the time— even at the scene of a murder.

People in the field know that this just isn’t the case. Results take longer, labs aren’t as well equipped, and no one looks that good at a crime scene. So how much of our shows are fiction and how much is reality? There is usually some science mixed in all of these shows, right? Where does the science end and the flash for TV begin?

What effect do these shows have on the public? The public is definitely more aware of forensic science. More students are interested in going into forensics in school and many labs are no longer struggling with recruitment. However, that same awareness has created some expectations when people sit on juries. Prosecutors and members of the news media coined the phrase the “CSI Effect” to explain why juries were demanding more science in the courtroom. But is there really a CSI effect?

We are hoping to answer some of these questions in this year’s YFSF Breakfast: “CSI Fact and Fiction: The Effect of Forensics in the Media.” We will have a speaker discuss where the reality of these shows end and the fiction begins. We will follow this with a discussion about how CSI is affecting the court system. We are very excited about these speakers and the topic in general.

We believe it will be a lot of fun and will help all of us to get a better idea of how the fiction of CSI can blend into the reality of our daily lives. In the upcoming newsletters, we will be sharing more about our speakers and their presentations. Until then, think about how forensics in the media has affected you. Did it help you choose the field? Do you need to explain to your relatives that you don’t get to ride around in a Hummer or lead a SWAT team? We would love to hear how your life has been affected by these shows. Send an email to jloakes-smith@slmpd.org to share your stories, ask questions, or if you have any ideas about the breakfast this year. Until next time...

Jenna Oakes-Smith
YFSF Breakfast Session Chair

2010 YFSF Bring Your Own Slides Session

The time has come to start thinking about presenting at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting in Seattle. The YFSF Bring Your Own Slides session is currently looking for presenters. This is a great opportunity to work on your presentation skills with a group of your peers in a national yet casual environment. Subjects including research projects and interesting cases from all sub-disciplines are welcome. If you would like to present or just want more information, contact Casandra Hernandez (chernandez@nlcl.org) or Dade Chisler (Dade.Chisler@mail.wvu.edu). Presenters will be required to submit a one page abstract and their curriculum vitae. We are looking forward to a great slides session in Seattle!

Casandra Hernandez
YFSF BYOS Chair

2010 YFSF Poster Session

As an undergrad, graduate student, or new forensic professional are you interested in presenting at the 2010 AAFS Annual Meeting in Seattle? If so, the YFSF Poster Session is the perfect opportunity! Set on a smaller scale than the larger AAFS Poster Sessions, it provides a great way to get your feet wet in presenting research to your professional peers. The poster topics can range from research in any of the forensic disciplines to interesting casework- but all research topics are welcome! With 26 posters presented at the last conference, we are hoping to surpass last year’s numbers in both topics and the number of institutions presenting research.

In order to register for the YFSF Poster Session, please submit your curriculum vitae and a one to two page abstract by January 1, 2010, to YFSF Poster Session at yfsfposter@gmail.com. Should you have any questions, feel free to e-mail those as well. We’re looking forward to a great poster session in Seattle.

Anthony Sutter
YFSF Poster Session Chair

Stephanie Crider
YFSF Poster Session Co-Chair
Meetings and Conferences

SEPTEMBER 2009

14-18
23rd World Congress International Society for Forensic Genetics—To be held at the Hilton Hotel in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
CONTACT: Analía Procupez
(+5411) 4378-1128
secretariat@isfg2009.org
www.isfg2009.org

14-18
Basic Crime Scene Reconstruction Course
CONTACT: Bevel, Gardner & Associates
(405) 447-4469
Fax: (405) 447-4481 -or-
David Garber
(619) 409-5992
dgarber@chulavistapd.org

14-18
Basic Facial Reconstruction Sculpture Workshop—To be held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.
CONTACT: Betty Pat. Gatliff
(405) 321-8706
www.skullpturelab.com

15-17
IMF 2009 - 5th Intl. Conference on IT Security Incident Management & IT Forensics—To be held in Stuttgart, Germany.
CONTACT: http://imf-conference.org/

16-20
The Oakstone Institute 2009 Pathology Board Review Course —To be held at the InterContinental Hotel in Chicago, II.
CONTACT: Kyle Jackson
(203) 437-3075
www.cmeonly.com/pathology

21-25
Advanced Facial Reconstruction Sculpture Workshop—To be held at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.
CONTACT: Betty Pat. Gatliff
(405) 321-8706
www.skullpturelab.com

21-25
Forensic Soil Examination—To be held at the McCrone Group’s College of Microscopy in Westmont, IL.
CONTACT: Chuck Zona
(630) 887-7100
czona@mccrone.com
www.collegeofmicroscopy.com

21-25
The Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists & the Rocky Mountain Division of the Intl. Assoc. of Identification Fall 2009 Training Conference—To be held at the Fort Collins Marriott, in Fort Collins, CO.
CONTACT: Matt Jorgenson
mjorgenson@co.wled.co.us
www.nwafs.org/meetings.htm

OCTOBER 2009

5-9
Basic SANE Training—To be held at the North Georgia Technical College.
CONTACT: GNESA
(404) 815-5261
Fax: (404) 815-5265
jrutherford@gnesa.org
www.gnesa.org

5-9
Scanning Electron Microscopy—To be held at the McCrone Group’s College of Microscopy in Westmont, IL.
CONTACT: Chuck Zona
(630) 887-7100
czona@mccrone.com
www.collegeofmicroscopy.com

8-9
Forensics Conference—To be held in Singapore.
CONTACT: Grace Lee
+65 6223 4680
grace_lee-kok@sal.org.sg
Fax: +65 6224 8374
medlegalsociety@yahoo.com
www.sal.org.sg/content/
online_event_reg.aspx

National and International meetings of interest to forensic scientists are included as space permits. For a complete list, go to the AAFS website (www.aafs.org) and click on the “Meetings” link.
12-14  
Particle Isolation, Manipulation and Mounting—To be held at the McCrone Group's College of Microscopy in Westmont, IL.  
CONTACT: Chuck Zona  
(630) 887-7100  
czona@mccrone.com  
www.collegeofmicroscopy.com  

12-15  
20th International Symposium on Human Identification—To be held at the JW Marriott, Las Vegas Resort at Summerlin.  
CONTACT: Carol Bingham  
carol.bingham@promega.com  
www.promega.com/geneticsymp20  

14-17  
Forensic Odontology in a Medical Examiner's Office—To be held at the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.  
CONTACT: http://dental.udmercy.edu/ce  
(313) 494-6626  

14-18  
IVTH Mediterranean Academy of Forensic Sciences Meeting—To be held at the Maritim Pine Beach Resort Hotel in Belek - Antalya.  
CONTACT: Scientific Correspondence  
info@mafs2009.org  
www.mafs2009.org  

15-16  
The Forensic Anthropologist: Your Partner in Crime Solving—To be held at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah, GA.  
CONTACT: Janice Reynolds  
(912) 478-1755  
janrey@georgiasouthern.edu  
http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/content/forensic.html  

18-23  
MAAFS, MAFS, SWAFS, SAFS Joint Meeting & Call for Papers—To be held at the Wyndham - Orlando in Orlando, FL.  
CONTACT: Emily Varan  
emilyvaran@fdle.state.fl.us  
Desiree Reid  
desreereid@att.net  
www.mafafs.org/2009 jointmng.htm  

18-30  
Forensic Laboratory and Medical Examiner's Office Operations Course for Human Rights Field Investigators—To be held at the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office, Fort Worth, TX.  
CONTACT: Lindsay Welch  
(617) 301-4226  
lwelch@phrusa.org  

19-23  
Identification of White Powder Unknowns  
To be held at the McCrone Group's College of Microscopy in Westmont, IL.  
CONTACT: Chuck Zona  
(630) 887-7100  
czona@mccrone.com  
www.collegeofmicroscopy.com/  

23-24  
The Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law's 9th Annual Conference—To be held at the Power Center Ballroom at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA.  
CONTACT: (412) 396-1330  
wechtinstitute@duq.edu  

26-30  
California Association of Criminalists  
114th Semi-Annual Seminar—To be held at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, CA.  
CONTACT: Brian Karp  
(408) 808-3945  
Fax: (408) 279-6245  
bkarp@crimelab.sccgov.org  

27-28  
Managing Communications During an Aircraft Disaster  
CONTACT: www.ntsb.gov/TC/CourseInfo/PA302_2009.htm  

29  
Transportation Disaster Response—Airport Preparedness Program  
CONTACT: www.ntsb.gov/TC/CourseInfo/TDA404_2009.htm  

NOVEMBER 2009  

3-5  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Mass Fatality Incidents for Medicolegal Professionals—To be held at the NTSB Training Center in Ashburn, Virginia.  
CONTACT: TrainingCenter@ntsb.gov  
(571) 223-3900  
www.ntsb.gov/TC/CourseInfo/TDA403_2009.htm  

4-6  
Raman Microscopy—To be held at the McCrone Group's College of Microscopy in Westmont, IL.  
CONTACT: Chuck Zona  
(630) 887-7100  
czona@mccrone.com  
www.collegeofmicroscopy.com  

4-7  
35th Annual NEAFS Meeting—To be held at the Ocean Place Resort & Spa in Long Beach, NJ.  
CONTACT: Laura Tramontin  
(609) 584-5054, ext. 5462  
atiny@hotmail.com  
www.neafs.org/annualmeeting/annmeeting.htm  

4-7  
65th Regional Meeting of Southwest Regional American Chemical Society—To be held in at the Camino Real Hotel in El Paso, TX.  
CONTACT: http://swrm.info/  

DECEMBER 2009  

2-4  
Body Fluid Identification—To be held at the McCrone Group's College of Microscopy in Westmont, IL.  
CONTACT: Chuck Zona  
(630) 887-7100  
czona@mccrone.com  
www.collegeofmicroscopy.com/  

JANUARY 2010  

4-8  
Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course—To be held in St. Louis, MO.  
CONTACT: Mary Fran Ernst or Julie Howe  
(314) 977-5970  
Fax: (314) 977-5695  
mldi@slu.edu  
http://medschool.slu.edu/mldi  

25-26  
National Conference on Recent Advances in Forensic Medicine & Toxicology—To be held at the Kodai Resort Hotel in Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu), India.  
CONTACT: www.intelmedicon.com
Do you know someone who may be interested in AAFS membership?

Please provide the information below and AAFS will send an application to:

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________________________________________________________

State: ____________________ Zip: ________________________

Please provide your name so the potential applicant will know who requested the application. AAFS will also recognize you by placing a Sponsor ribbon in your 2010 Annual Meeting registration packet. Please detach form and return to AAFS. Thank you.

Your name: ________________________________________________________________

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