

The logo graphic consists of several concentric, overlapping arcs in shades of purple, blue, green, and yellow, resembling a stylized globe or a signal wave. The acronym 'OSAC' is written in a large, bold, dark blue sans-serif font, positioned to the right of the graphic.

OSAC

Organization of Scientific Area
Committees for Forensic Science

Forensic Science Standards Board

Steven Johnson, Chair

OSAC Membership

550+
Members

Practitioners

Researchers and Academics

Private sector

Professional Societies

Expertise

25 specific forensic disciplines

General expertise in scientific
research, measurement science,
statistics, law, and policy

Forensic Science Landscape in the U.S.

409 Federal
State
Local Crime
Laboratories

88% accredited (as of
December 31, 2014)

14,300 full time personnel

18,000+ Law Enforcement
Agencies

2,400+ Medical
Examiner/Coroners Offices

2,300+ Prosecutor Offices

3,000+ Public Defenders
Offices

Population of 327M

50 States

Divided into 3007
Counties

FSSB Membership

20
Members

SAC and Resource Chairs

Professional Societies

Researchers and Academics

ALL VOLUNTEERS

OSAC Committees

3 Resource
Committees

Legal

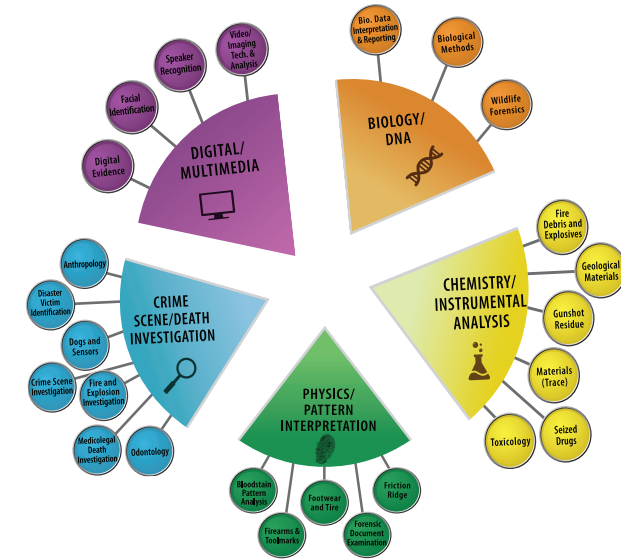
Human Factors

Quality Infrastructure

Statistics
Task Group

Statistician and/or
Measurement Scientist
appointed from each
relevant OSAC unit

5 Scientific Area Committees



25 SAC Subcommittees

Biology/DNA

3 Subcommittees

Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis

6 Subcommittees

Crime Scene/Death Investigation

7 Subcommittees

Digital/Multimedia

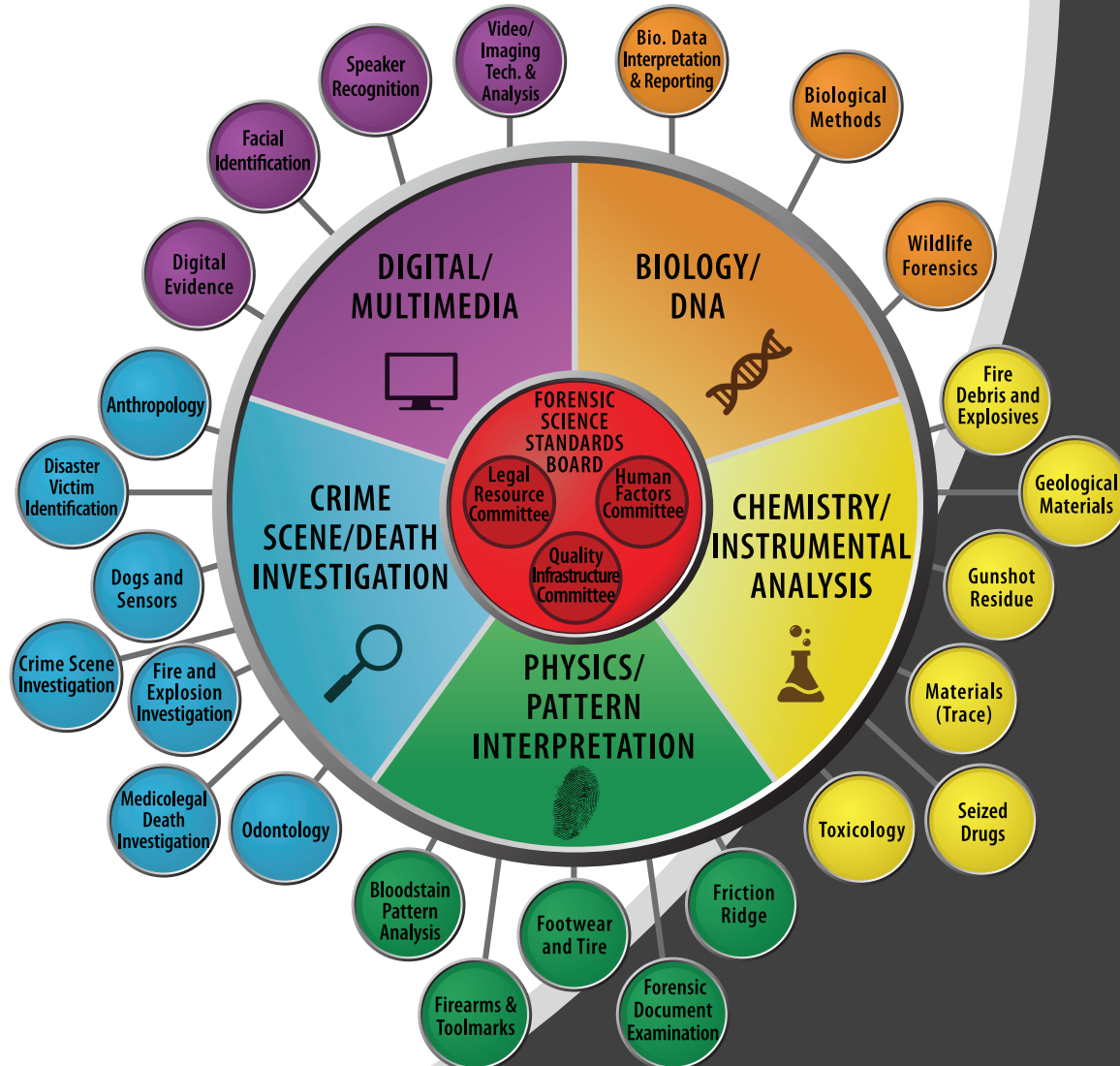
4 Subcommittees

Physics/Pattern Interpretation

5 Subcommittees

OSAC Committees

Composition



10/31/2018 Status

550+ members

325 affiliates

2600+ Applications

Employer Classification

Federal: 24%

State: 19%

Local: 18%

Academic: 19%

Private: 19%

FFRDC: 14%

Job Classification

Practitioner: 56%

Researcher: 17%

Educator: 10%

Other: 10%

Attorney: 2%

QA Manager: 2%

R&D Tech: 2%

Judge: 1%

What Does the FSSB Do?

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) oversees the Scientific Area Committees and Subcommittees

Establishes governance rules and policies to ensure the development of quality standards

Encourages standards use in the provision of forensic science services

Administers overall operation of the organization

Approves standards for inclusion on the OSAC Registry

Engages in all efforts related to forensic science standards

Informs the forensic science community of research needs and gaps



- OSAC Registry serves as a trusted repository of high-quality, science-based standards and guidelines for forensic practice.
 - Criteria: standards and guidelines must have been developed using a **consensus-based process** and must pass the OSAC review of **technical merit** by forensic practitioners, academic researchers, statisticians and measurement scientists.
- Elevating a standard to the official OSAC Registry is an endorsement of the high quality of the document and encourages its adoption by all relevant agencies and practitioners.
- At this time, OSAC does not have authority to enforce standards.
- The ultimate goal of OSAC and its 550-plus members is to facilitate the development of science-based standards for each of 25 distinct forensic science disciplines and to promote their widespread adoption.





Standards on the Registry and in Progress

- OSAC Registry (15)+
 - Approved by OSAC – highest level of vetting
- OSAC drafted standards published by an SDO (20+)
 - Drafted by OSAC, completed SDO consensus process – may have changed since being released by OSAC, but is a published standard
- OSAC drafted standards sent to an SDO (73)
 - Drafted by OSAC with input from resource committees, approved by SAC and send to SDO
- Under Development: OSAC drafted standards working through OSAC development process (250+)
 - Working draft document inside the OSAC development process (not publicly available)



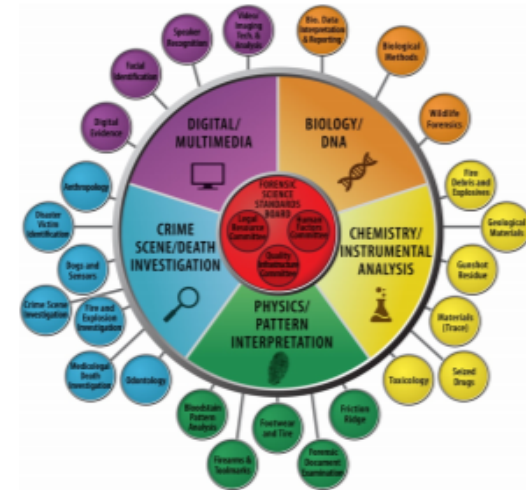
OSAC Standards Implementation Pathways



OSAC Registry Implementation Plan

Prepared for
The Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC)

By
Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)



20180826





OSAC Standards Implementation Pathways



Self Adoption

Professional Associations

Criminal Justice (Courts)

Accrediting Bodies

Funding Bodies (Carrot)

Funding Bodies (Stick)

Others

Research and Development

129 R&D NEEDS

- EVERY committee has identified a research need in their discipline
- OSAC-identified R&D needs were referenced and supported through NIJ Forensic Science R&D Solicitations
- Enriching Interdisciplinary Projects across the disciplines
- Identify particular strengths and weaknesses - of all disciplines - so that we may chart an effective path forward

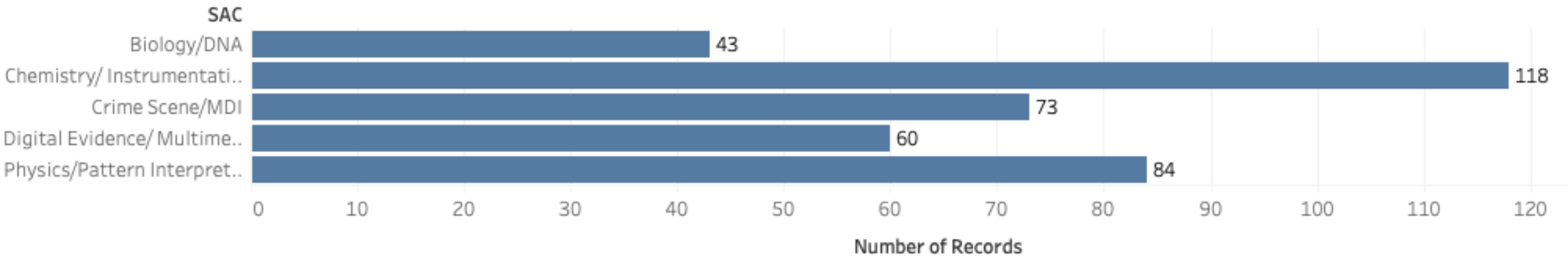
Roadmaps



Reminder of Project Objectives

- Recognized that OSAC should have had a plan before starting work
- Obtain a high-level view of work underway
 - Standards in development
 - Standards to be developed
- Goals
 - See if there is duplication of topics across disciplines
 - Identify areas where interdisciplinary standards should be developed
 - Ascertain progress on Organizational Priorities by Subcommittees
 - Possibly halt work on certain topics
 - Redirect Subcommittees priorities as appropriate

Analysis – # of Standards by SAC



Challenges

- Conclusion Scales in the Pattern Disciplines
- Terminology
 - not all disciplines agree on same definition for many terms
 - Why the OSAC preferred terms are important
- Quantifying “Significant Differences” in Trace Disciplines
- Bringing more rigorous validation to many forensic disciplines
- Addressing for whom the Standards should be written
- Good Enough vs. Perfect
 - “living documents”
- Uncertainty in Qualitative Identifications

We still
have work
to do

Within OSAC

- Registry Approvals
- Improved the Registry Approval Process within OSAC
- Promote the adoption of OSAC Standards
- Revamping the Organizational Priorities

Outside OSAC

- Continue to work alongside our partners, e.g., Federal offices, SDOs, practitioners, and other stakeholders
- Outreach for the Implementation of OSAC Standards to forensic service providers, associations, criminal justice system, and Federal, state, and local offices

What are OSAC's Highest Priorities?

- Short-term and/or Long-Term Strategic Plans or Roadmaps for the FSSB and SACs
- Reprioritize the mission of the member subcommittees
- Engage with our OSAC members, stakeholders, forensic science industry for amplified impact
- Increase the standards approved for the OSAC Registry



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www.nist.gov/osac



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OSAC

Organization of Scientific Area
Committees for Forensic Science

Thank you
