



OSAC RESEARCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORM

Title of research need: Validation of Conclusion Scale

Keyword(s):

Submitting subcommittee(s): Forensic Document Examination **Date Approved:**

(If SAC review identifies additional subcommittees, add them to the box above.)

Background Information:

1. Description of research need:

A form of validation showing the conclusion scale used accurately represents the opinions reached.

2. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need:

3a. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

More examiners would be willing to accept a conclusion scale that had research to back its effectiveness. The more examiners who follow the scale the more solid the discipline.

3b. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

Because multiple subcommittees will be utilizing the conclusion scale, validation that the scale is reliable will strengthen the forensic community as a whole.

3c. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

Any research that can further validate forensic science will be a positive to the criminal justice system. Better scientific research will yield better standards. Better standards will be more widely accepted in courts of law. When testifying in courts that recognize the standards, examiners who follow the standards will spend less time defending their science and more time testifying to the evidence involved in the case.

4. Status assessment (I, II, III, or IV):

	Major gap in current knowledge	Minor gap in current knowledge
No or limited current research is being conducted	I	III
Existing current research is being conducted	II	IV

This research need has been identified by one or more subcommittees of OSAC and is being provided as an informational resource to the community.

Approvals:

Subcommittee	Approval date: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
<i>(Approval is by majority vote of subcommittee. Once approved, forward to SAC.)</i>	

SAC		
1. Does the SAC agree with the research need?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the SAC agree with the status assessment?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If no, what is the status assessment of the SAC:	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	
Approval date:	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="17-Mar-2016"/>	
<i>(Approval is by majority vote of SAC. Once approved, forward to NIST for posting.)</i>		