



International Association for Identification

San Antonio, TX

July 30, 2018

Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC)

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Disclaimer

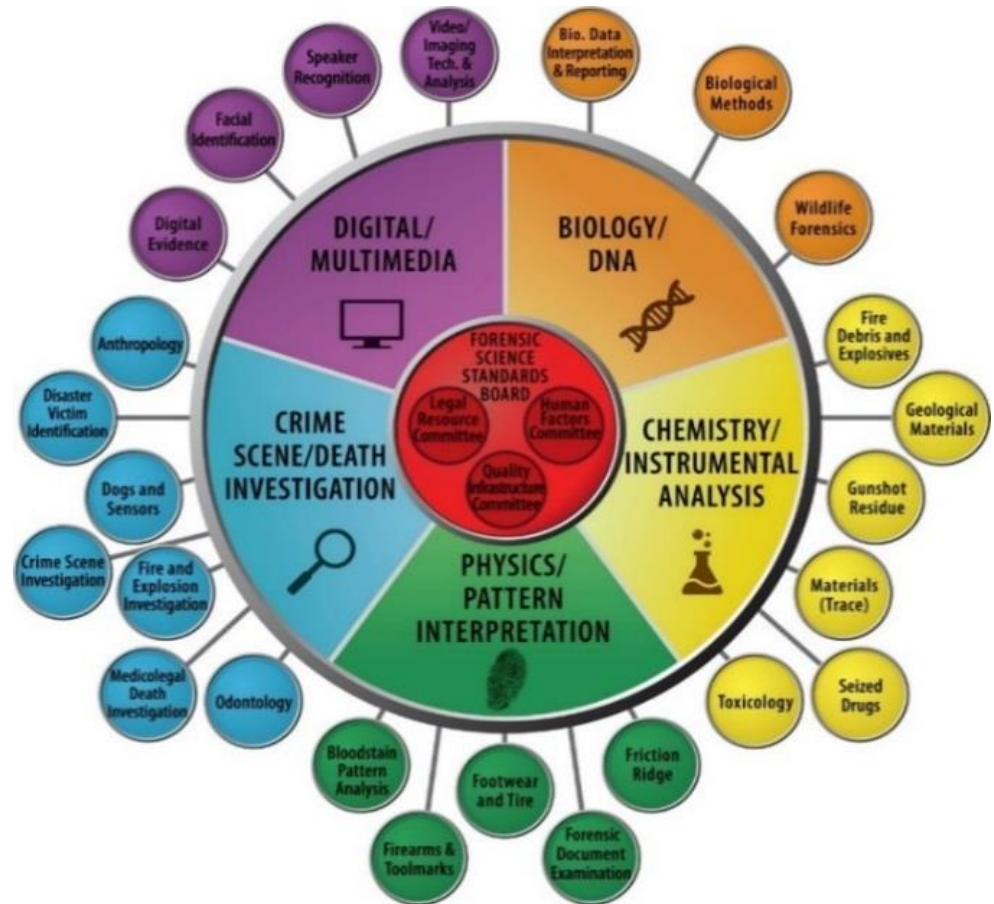
Opinions provided in this presentation are mine and not necessarily those of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the US Department of Commerce, nor the US Government.



OSAC Objective and Structure

To create a sustainable organizational infrastructure dedicated to identifying and fostering the development of technically sound, consensus-based documentary standards and guidelines for widespread adoption throughout the forensic science community

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) devised a multi-level organization, the OSAC, consisting of five Scientific Area Committees (SACs) which report to a Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB).



Agenda

- **FY18 and FY19 OSAC Budget Updates**
- **OSAC 2.0 Update**
- **OSAC Operations – All Hands Meetings - Nov/Dec 2018 and July 2019**
- **Federal Alignment of Forensic Science Research Needs**
- **Staying Informed**



**565 Experts
at OSAC
All Hands
Meeting in
Leesburg, VA**



OSAC Budget – FY2018

FY2018 Federal Omnibus Budget signed into law
on March 23, 2018 by President Trump

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Scientific and Technical Research Services (STRS) Funds*

Organization of Scientific Area Committees = \$3,000,000



* Now NIST STRS Funds, no longer transferred by DOJ



OSAC Budget – FY2019 (Proposed)

“DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2019”

(Senate Report Language, accompanying S.3072)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

“Forensic Sciences.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2018 amount for forensic science research. **Additionally, the Committee provides \$3,000,000 to support the Organization of 22 [sic] Scientific Area Committees** and \$1,000,000 to support technical merit evaluations previously funded by transfer from DOJ.”

(p. 21-22)



OSAC Budget – FY2019 (Proposed)

**Questions about Support for Congressional Funding
of OSAC?**

IAI Members Can Contact your CFSO Representative:

Kenneth Martin

Martin Forensics, LLC

(508) 277-5037

kf.martin@verizon.net



OSAC 2.0 – Update

- OSAC 1.0 was announced in February 2014
- NIST stated plans to administer OSAC on a temporary basis (3-5 years) until transfer to another independent organization (OSAC 2.0)
 - Insure scientific integrity
 - Maintain financial stability
- Request for Information (RFI) – August 2017



OSAC 2.0 – Update



FEDERAL REGISTER

The Daily Journal of the United States Government

Notice

Request for Information on the Development of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science 2.0

A Notice by the National Institute of Standards and Technology on 08/30/2017



PUBLISHED DOCUMENT

AGENCY:

National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION:

Notice; request for information.

SUMMARY:

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) established the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science in 2013 as part of a larger effort to strengthen forensic science in the United States. NIST has primary responsibility to support

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Printed version:

PDF

Publication Date:

08/30/2017

Agencies:

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dates:

NIST will accept written responses to this request for information until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on October 30, 2017.

Document Type:

Notice



55 responses were received and published in the Federal Register in 2017



OSAC 2.0 – Update

**NIST meeting this summer with boards of
6 professional forensic science
organizations**



OSAC 2.0 – Update

- NIST presented updates to FSSB – June 2018
- Feedback from professional forensic science organization meetings will be compiled
- NIST will share with FSSB again later this year



OSAC Operations – All Hands Meetings

- **November 5-8, 2018 – Houston, TX**
 - Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis SAC + 6 Subcommittees and Crime Scene/Death Investigation SAC + 7 Subcommittees
- **December 11-14, 2018 – Phoenix, AZ**
 - Biology/DNA SAC + 3 Subs, Physics/Pattern Interpretation SAC + 5 Subcommittees, Digital/Multimedia SAC + 4 Subcommittees and Resource Committees
- **July 9-12, 2019 – Charlotte, NC or Orlando, FL or Ft. Lauderdale, FL (Tentative)**
 - Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis SAC + 6 Subcommittees, Crime Scene/Death Investigation SAC + 7 Subcommittees and Resource Committees
- **July 23-26, 2019 – Charlotte, NC or Orlando, FL or Ft. Lauderdale, FL (Tentative)**
 - Biology/DNA SAC + 3 Subcommittees, Physics/Pattern Interpretation SAC + 5 Subcommittees, and Digital/Multimedia SAC + 4 Subcommittees



Federal Alignment of FS Research Needs

- OSAC publishes Forensic Science Research Needs for
 - Each forensic science discipline (25 OSAC Subcommittees)
 - Posted on OSAC website from all 25 Subcommittees
- OSAC currently has listed **103 Research Needs** with links to supporting documentation
 - <https://www.nist.gov/topics/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/osac-research-and-development-needs>
- NIJ R&D solicitations all point to NIJ FS TWG and to OSAC published Forensic Science Research Needs



NIJ Research & Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes

A. Program Description

Overview

Sample NIJ solicitation

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals for basic or applied research and development projects. An NIJ forensic science research and development grant supports a discrete, specified, circumscribed project that will: (1) increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice, or (2) lead to the production of useful material(s), device(s), system(s), or method(s) that have the potential for forensic application. The intent of this program is to direct the findings of basic scientific research; research and development in broader scientific fields applicable to forensic science; and ongoing forensic science research toward the development of highly-discriminating, accurate, reliable, cost-effective, and rapid methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes. The forensic science operational needs discussed at NIJ's FY 2015 Forensic Science TWG meeting may be found on NIJ.gov, and are intended to assist in proposal development. Additional research needs of the forensic science community can be found at the [Organization of Scientific Area Committees website](#).



Staying Informed

OSAC Monthly Standards Bulletin (online)



OSAC Standards Bulletin July 2018

BULLETIN SUMMARY

This Bulletin provides an update on forensic science standards that are moving through the development process at standards developing organizations (SDOs), and those that are moving through the Registry Approval Process at the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC).

Please consider providing comments on documents that are open for comment.

OSAC Registry Standards open for comment: 0 Items
SDO Documents open for comment: 3 Items

OSAC REGISTRY NEWS

New Approved Standards on OSAC Registry

ASTM E2937-18: Standard Guide for Using Infrared Spectroscopy in Forensic Paint Examinations was **Approved for the OSAC Registry** (Materials Trace Subcommittee, June 18, 2018)

ASTM E1610-18: Standard Guide for Forensic Paint Analysis and Comparison was **Approved for the OSAC Registry** (Materials Trace Subcommittee, June 13, 2018)

Standards Moving Through the OSAC Registry Approval Process

This section only lists standards that moved from one step in the OSAC Registry Approval Process to another during the last month. A list of all [standards currently under consideration](#) is available on the OSAC website.

ASTM E2329-17 Standard Practice for Identification of Seized Drugs moved to the **Standards in the Appeals Phase**.

OSAC Draft Standards Submitted to Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs)

OSAC developed the following draft standards and has submitted them to SDOs for formal development:

[Facial Identification Subcommittee](#)

The following draft standards were submitted to ASTM E30.12 Digital and Multimedia Evidence:

- WK58704, Facial Image Comparison Feature List for Morphological Analysis

[Materials \(Trace\) Subcommittee](#)

The following draft standards were submitted to ASTM E30.01 Criminalistics:

- E1967-2011A, Test Method for the Automated Determination of Refractive Index of Glass Samples using the Oil Immersion Method and a Phase Contrast Microscope



Staying Informed

**OSAC
In Brief
(members)**



Staying Informed

**OSAC
Quarterly
Newsletter
(online)**



Staying Informed

**OSAC
Annual
Reports
(online)**



Staying Informed

- Receive the OSAC Quarterly Newsletter & latest announcements

- www.nist.gov/osac

- Click **“Follow OSAC at NIST”**



- View publicly available information

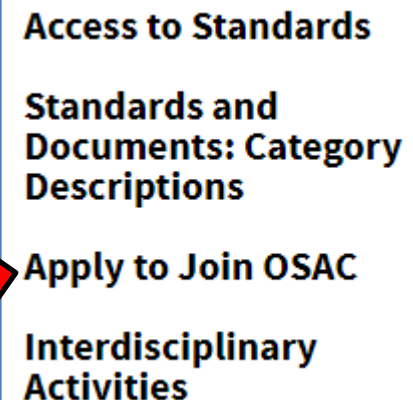
- OSAC Homepage:

- <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/index.cfm>

- Apply for OSAC membership:

- www.nist.gov/osac

- Click on **“Apply to Join OSAC”**
in the menu at the left



- Access to Standards
- Standards and Documents: Category Descriptions
- Apply to Join OSAC
- Interdisciplinary Activities



Questions?

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Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science
OSAC Newsletter
 August 2015 | Vol. 1, Issue 1

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Feature Article:
OSAC Publishes the Standards/Guidelines Registry Approval Process

One aim of the OSAC is to identify and promote existing technically sound, consensus-based, and fit-for-purpose documentary standards that are based on sound scientific principles. This is achieved through the OSAC Registry of Approved Standards and the OSAC Registry of Approved Guidelines. A standard or guideline that is posted on the registry demonstrates that the methods it contains have been judged by forensic practitioners, academic researchers, measurement scientists, and statisticians, to be valid.

Once populated, forensic scientists and practitioners will be able to refer to the OSAC Registry of Approved Standards and the OSAC Registry of Approved Guidelines for a uniform set of high quality standards on how to produce scientifically sound and statistically valid test results, laboratory results, and courtroom testimony. These standards should help to increase confidence in the criminal justice system and the testimony put forth by practitioners.

The OSAC has recently developed and launched the OSAC Registry Approval Process of Published Standards and Guidelines, which is a rigorous process that includes checklist criteria against which existing standards and guidelines are to be analyzed before they are posted to the registries. This includes an analysis of technical merit, the openness of the development process (to ensure balanced interests are represented), consensus,

... Continued page 4

OSAC website: <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/>

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