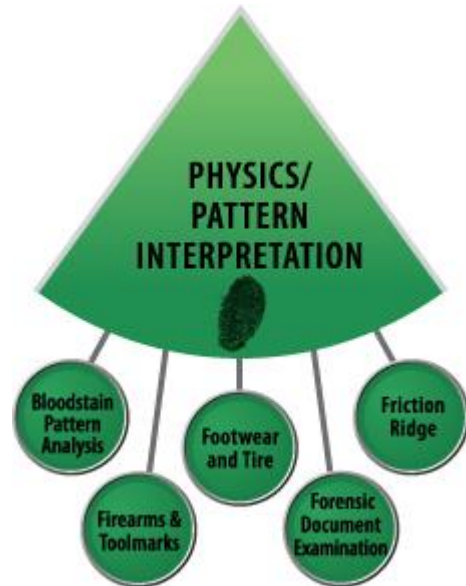




Physics and Pattern Evidence Scientific Area Committee

Chair: Austin Hicklin, Noblis
February 2016

Physics/Pattern SAC - Subcommittees



- Firearms & Toolmarks
 - *Chair: Andy Smith, San Francisco Police Department Crime Lab*
- Footwear and Tire
 - *Chair: Matt Johnson, Orange County Sheriff's Dept Crime Lab*
- Friction Ridge
 - *Chair: Melissa Gische, FBI Laboratory*
- Questioned Documents
 - *Chair: Rigo Vargas, Mississippi Forensic Laboratory*
- Bloodstain Pattern Analysis
 - *Chair: Toby Wolson, Miami-Dade Police Dept. Forensic Services Bureau (retired)*



Physics/Pattern SAC: Purpose

- To foster the development of rigorous standards and guidelines within and across the pattern disciplines
- To assist in the adoption of these standards and guidelines
- To encourage enforcement of these standards and guidelines through accreditation, certification, and training
- To encourage evaluations to test and validate procedures
- To encourage research to improve the disciplines
- To enhance the rigor of these disciplines through transparent, accurate, and reliable processes

Goals for standards and guidelines

- Standards and guidelines need to be practical: to be as rigorous as practical given current capabilities

BUT

- OSAC also needs to recommend research to continually improve the disciplines in these areas
- Terminology and conclusions: consistent across disciplines
- Procedures: as quantitative and objective as practical
- Documentation: complete and transparent
- Reporting and Testimony
 - *include all data on which conclusions are based*
 - *distinguish data, conclusions, and opinions*
 - *clearly state the limitations and caveats of conclusions*
 - *clearly specify the bases of opinions*



Physics/Pattern SAC: Current Priorities

- Coordination across disciplines in these areas:
 - *Conclusions*
 - Developing multi-discipline “Standard for Source Conclusions” document
 - *Terminology*
 - *Research Needs*



Comments or questions?

Austin Hicklin
hicklin@noblis.org