

# February, 2007 - Monthly Update

FYI, this update is sent each month to all IAI board members, officers, committee chairs, regional representatives, division secretaries, certification board chairs and secretaries, division editors and IAI staff. This update contains information that is of particular interest to these groups. It is sent by e-mail to all those for whom I have an e-mail address and by regular mail to the rest. **If you receive this by regular mail but have an e-mail account**, please let me know and I will add your e-mail address to the distribution list. It is much more efficient and cost effective to send it that way.

Hello again from the IAI office.

## *National Academy of Sciences (NAS)*

On January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, the NAS convened the first meeting of the Committee charged with *Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Science Community*. I had the honor and opportunity to make two presentations to the Committee, the first as Chair of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) and the second as the IAI's representative to the NAS. This first meeting was a chance for the Committee to get an overview of the challenges facing the forensics community and start to develop a work plan to address the eight issues that Congress mandated for Committee review.

Based on feedback received from the initial meeting, I believe the IAI will be called upon to offer more information on at least three areas: the Interoperability/Interconnectivity of AFIS; forensic services provided by identification units typically found in law enforcement agencies but not as part of a crime laboratory and third, issues surrounding pattern evidence, particularly as it affects fingerprint identification.

The next meeting of the Committee will be April 23, 2007 in Washington, DC at the National Academies Building. At this time the agenda has not been set but I will provide more information as it develops.

The web page for this Committee is:

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=48741>

There you will find complete information about the Committee, its Congressional charge, members, meeting agendas etc.

## *Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting*

The IAI's Board of Directors held a mid-year meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in San Diego and the Town and Country Resort, the site of this year's Annual International Educational Conference. A few of the highlights of the meeting included:

- A discussion regarding the feasibility of establishing an IAI Newsletter. The Newsletter would be published in the "off" months from the JFI and would include all association business, historical items, reports and news from the various IAI committees, historical information, new member listings etc. Alan McRoberts, chair of a special committee

researching this matter, presented a detailed report to the Board. A final decision regarding the newsletter will be made at this summer's board meeting.

- A preliminary agreement between the Crime Scene Certification Board and a group representing Crime Scene Reconstructionists regarding a certification program for the discipline of Crime Scene Reconstruction. At this time it appears likely that the Crime Scene Certification Board will develop a reconstructionist certification within their board.
- A decision to not pursue at this time the notion of a dual level of certification for latent fingerprint examiners.
- A tentative approval of a charter for a Central American Division of the IAI pending clarification of several points in the constitution and by-laws documents presented by the requesters.
- Approved a request for funding from the IAI Twins Study Committee to again attend the Twins event in Twinsburg, OH to collect fingerprints and DNA from twins.

### ***International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Forensics Award***

A while ago, the IACP formed a Forensic Committee to raise the visibility of forensics within the IACP community and represent that sector to the IACP membership. The committee has held several meetings the most recent of which was during last fall's IACP Annual Conference in Boston, MA. Board member Mike Campbell and I are honored to be members of this committee. During that meeting, the Co-Chairs of the Committee, Ann Talbot, the Laboratory Director for the State of New Mexico and Bill Berger, Chief of Police of the City of Palm Bay, Florida announced the finalization of the August Vollmer Award for Excellence in Forensic Science. The particulars of the award can be found by clicking on the link shown below. Please take a minute to review the information regarding this award and consider nominating someone who has made a significant contribution to the field of forensic science. As you will note, some of the awards are for individuals and some for agencies.

[http://www.theiai.org/iacp\\_vollmer\\_award.pdf](http://www.theiai.org/iacp_vollmer_award.pdf)

At the Boston Meeting, the award was first shown, a very, heavy and elegant medallion that is also pictured on the above link.

Again, please take time to visit this link and give some thought to nominating a deserving person for this award.

### ***ABC News – Cold Case Squad***

Teri Whitcraft from ABS News sent the following e-mail. If any of you have cases that might fit with her request, please contact her directly. I met her last year at the meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Meeting. She is a great lady who has become very interested in forensic science.

ABC NEWS: The Cold Case Squad

The ABC News Law & Justice Unit is developing a limited series on cold cases that have the potential to be solved.

We are looking for specific, compelling cases where some additional resources and/or national media attention might significantly improve the chance of solving the case and getting justice for the victim(s). The cases - which should have a strong investigative component as well as visual elements (photos or video of the victims, crime scene, etc), will be covered in depth during a series of hour-long Prime Time broadcasts. Ideally, the segments would document how progress is being made toward solving the case.

If you have a specific case to recommend, please contact Teri Whitcraft at Teri.whitcraft@abc.com or call her at 212-456-7052.

### ***San Diego Conference***

The IAI's Conference Planner, Candy Murray, advises that if you are planning to stay in San Diego after this summer's conference, it would be advisable to book your room early. There is an annual Comic Book Convention in San Diego from July 26-29 that draws many people and hotel rooms get scarce. (Just for giggles, here is the website for that convention: <http://www.comic-con.org/cci>)

### ***American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Meeting***

The week of February 19<sup>th</sup>, IAI President Diana Castro and myself will attend the annual meeting of the AAFS in San Antonio, Texas. This meeting is also the venue where many of the forensic associations have a board of director's meeting and/or business meetings. It is vital that the IAI stay connected to the greater forensics community by attending and networking with those other organizations. In addition, the IAI display booth will be set up and literature, sample JFI's, information about our certification programs etc. will be on display.

### ***Turkish Forensics Meeting***

This announcement came by e-mail and the writer asked that it be distributed to IAI members.

Dear Colleagues,

The 4th Annual Congress of the Cappadocia Forensic Sciences entitled "Türkçe Konuşan Adli Bilimciler Kongresi" [The Congress of the Turkish Speaking Scientists] held in Avanos, Nevşehir, Turkey, November 29 through December 2, 2007.

The Organizing Institutions:

The Municipality of Avanos City, the Department of Forensic Sciences, Ankara University Faculty of Medicine, the Association of Forensic Scientists and Chamber of Ankara Dental Association.

### **The Official Language of the Congress: Turkish with simultaneous translation into Russian and English**

Participants with abstract accepted are invited to attend the following activities without any charge:

1. Congress registration
2. Bus service for Ankara-Avanos-Ankara
3. Sightseeing of the Cities of Kırşehir, Avanos, Göreme, Cappadocia and Ürgüp as well as touristic spots of Ahi Evran, Cacabey, Apık Paşa, Underground city and Fairy chimneys at and Akhal Teke Horse Farm.

Addresses for abstract submission are:

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With kind regards,

Prof. Dr. Ý. Hamit Hancı

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