

International Association for Identification



May, 2009 – IAI 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 also available on the “Members’ Area” of the IAI’s website. Please see the last page of *Identification News* for login and password information.

Hello again from the IAI office.

Tampa Conference General Information

Each year many IAI divisions set up a display at the annual conference to sell merchandise advertise upcoming division conferences etc. Any division interested in obtaining display space at the Tampa Conference to set up a display, please contact the IAI Exhibit Coordinator, Jim Murray. Jim can be reached at (407) 568-7436 or by e-mail at conference@theiai.org

As in previous years, a meeting of all certification board chairs and secretaries will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday morning of the conference week. It is particularly important that all certification board leadership attend this meeting to hear an update on accreditation of IAI certification programs by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) and discuss any required operational changes required by the FSAB.

On Wednesday morning, August 19th, a breakfast meeting will be held for all division presidents, secretaries and regional representatives in attendance at the conference. This annual event is an excellent opportunity for division leadership to discuss pertinent issues with IAI leadership and network with leaders of other divisions. A sign-up sheet for this breakfast will be posted in the conference registration area. Please sign up if planning to attend.

Tampa Conference Registration Information

The Tampa Conference registration booklet is now posted on the IAI’s website, www.theiai.org. As noted previously, the registration booklet is not going to be printed in hard copy this year but will only be available on the website. Note that registration also open at this time.

Monthly Update

The IAI is a large organization with IAI members and divisions scattered all over the world. This *Update* goes to all division secretaries and editors, some of who are not members of the parent body. That information then gets passed on to the division members. Because many members of IAI Divisions are likewise not members of the parent body IAI, some information contained in these updates is duplicative of that contained in my *Identification News* columns and vice versa.

Consequently, please bear with me if you read some of the same articles in both this *Update* and the *Identification News* columns.

IACP Forensic Science Committee

The IACP Forensic Science Committee held a one day meeting in Minneapolis on May 6th. Attendees at the meeting, hosted by the Target Corporation, discussed the IACP's response to the NAS recommendations, suggested resolutions for adoption by the membership during the Denver Conference this fall, a possible forensics program for the Denver Conference and other issues. At the beginning of the day, attendees were treated to a tour of the Target forensics laboratory in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. The laboratory does video and fingerprint analysis and is one of the best private laboratories in the country. Target has state-of-the-art equipment to conduct video analysis and often assists law enforcement agencies with particularly difficult cases.

On April 17 and 18, 2009, I had the opportunity to make a presentation to the leadership of the IACP regarding the recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). A complete report of that meeting and the IACP's positions relative to the NAS recommendations will be published in the June/July *Identification News*.

NIJ Research Solicitation (Request for Proposals)

The National Institute of Justice has issued a solicitation "Fundamental Research to Improve Understanding of the Accuracy, Reliability, and Measurement Validity of Forensic Science Disciplines." NIJ seeks qualified applicants to conduct research to improve the understanding of the accuracy, reliability, and measurement validity in the forensic science disciplines within the context of their criminal justice applications. Through this solicitation, NIJ seeks qualified applicants to conduct validation studies and research to improve the scientific foundation of individual disciplines across the following categories.

- Firearms and toolmark identification.
- Questioned documents.
- Trace evidence, with emphasis on microscopic examination techniques.
- Fire debris analysis and arson scene investigations.
- Latent print and other pattern/impression evidence
- Blood pattern analysis.
- Digital evidence.

Please share this information with anyone who may be interested in responding to this solicitation. You may find the full text at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl000878.pdf>.

2010 Federal Budget Information

Below is a note about the President's Budget request for 2010. This has a direct impact on forensic science and is good news indeed.

This information concerns the President's budget for 2010. Coverdell has never been in the President's budget before, always added by Congress. Not only that, the funding level is up.

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants. The Coverdell program awards grants to states and units of local government to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services, including those provided by state and local laboratories. The FY 2010 Budget proposes \$35,000,000 for this program.

DNA Initiative. This program provides capacity building grants, training, and technical assistance to state and local governments, and supports innovative research on DNA analysis and use of forensic evidence. The FY 2010 Budget proposes \$151,000,000 for this program.

Byrne Competitive Grants. The Byrne Competitive Grants program awards grants to state, local, and tribal government agencies, for-profit and non-profit organizations, and faith-based and community organizations to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system and assist victims of crime. The FY 2010 Budget proposes \$30,000,000 for this.

2009 IAI Membership Dues

Per IAI by-laws, those who have not paid dues for 2009 have now be dropped from membership. Postcards have been sent to those who have not renewed membership notifying them that their IAI membership has lapsed. Those who were dropped can reactivate their membership by paying 2009 dues. If there are any questions regarding 2009 dues, please call or e-mail the IAI office.

Survey

The following request came to me from IAI Board Member Bridget Lewis. It concerns a survey regarding hiring and retention of crime laboratory personnel. If you would like to participate, please see the information below:

Your assistance is requested in gathering information about the characteristics of professional laboratory staff positions in your laboratory. This information is being collected in conjunction with the Midwest Forensic Resource Center call for Technical Innovations in Management and Infrastructure.

Our objective in this project is to identify the factors that make laboratory positions attractive to forensic scientists. The survey is being undertaken to help supervisors, directors, and HR personnel to hire exceptionally qualified forensic scientists and to identify factors that will help to retain existing scientists and staff.

We request that you forward the invitation document to relevant staff in your laboratory (the invitation letter is a PDF document located at <https://www.bus.iastate.edu/misresearch/RNR/EmployeeSurveyLetter.pdf>). In the document we tell the employees about the project, how to access the survey, and how much time we anticipate it will take for them to complete the survey. As noted in the letter, we expect that this survey will take between 30 and 45 minutes to complete. Because this is a significant amount of time, we encourage you to let your staff know about the importance of this survey and the value of investing time in completing this survey.

All of the responses to this survey will remain confidential, and only aggregated responses will be presented in the final report. We do not track IP numbers or ask for contact information, so we hope that your staff will be willing to respond.

Thank you for taking the time to help us in this important study. The final report will be available upon its completion at the Midwest Forensic Resource Center website. We will also send you a

copy directly upon request. If you have any questions about this request, the questionnaire, or the project as a whole please contact us by email or telephone.

Principal Investigators:	Dr. Anthony Townsend College of Business Iowa State University Ames, Iowa 50011 (515) 294-7834 Fax: (515) 294-2534 amt@iastate.edu	Dr. Brian Mennecke College of Business Iowa State University Ames, Iowa 50011 (515) 294-8100 Fax: (515) 294-2534 mennecke@iastate.edu
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From the FBI

The April 2009 issue of *Forensic Science Communications* has been posted to the FBI's Internet site at <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/lab/fsc/current/index.htm>. If you have trouble accessing the issue via the link, go to the FBI's home page and access "Reports & Publications" on the left-hand side. *Forensic Science Communications* is listed under law enforcement services.

Thank you for your continued interest in *Forensic Science Communications* and your patience while waiting for the issue to be posted.

Kim Waggoner
Managing Editor

NIST/NIJ AFIS Interoperability Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting

The fourth meeting of this Technical Working Group (TWG) was held on May 4-5, 2009 in St. Petersburg, FL. A synopsis of the meeting will be provided in the June/July 2009 *Identification News*.

As always, don't hesitate to contact the IAI office if there is anything we can do to assist you.

Joe Polski