



Stephen Greene

OSAC, Forensic Science
Standards Board

A Message From Your OSAC Representative

Greetings, esteemed members of the IAI! I am delighted to provide you with an update on the recent developments within the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC). Exciting progress has been made in the field, highlighting the commitment to advancing forensic science standards and practices.

As of January 23, 2023, the OSAC Registry stands strong with a remarkable collection of standards. Among them, 97 standards have been published, and 36 are currently proposed by OSAC, totaling 133 standards. Furthermore, 51 standards published by Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs) are eligible for inclusion in the OSAC Registry. Additionally, OSAC has been actively drafting 116 standards and progressing through the development process at SDOs. This dedication to standardization is further emphasized by the drafting of over 170 standards within OSAC itself, reflecting the collective efforts of forensic professionals in shaping the discipline's future.

Implementing the OSAC 2.0 structure and process has yielded positive outcomes and some challenges. The organization has become more streamlined and efficient with fewer Scientific Area Committees (SACs) and Subcommittees (SCs). Moreover, resource committee (RC) members have been integrated into SCs, fostering collaboration and optimizing available expertise. However, some RCs continue to encounter challenges in sourcing members for their respective SCs, stemming from the limited bandwidth of specific areas of interest.

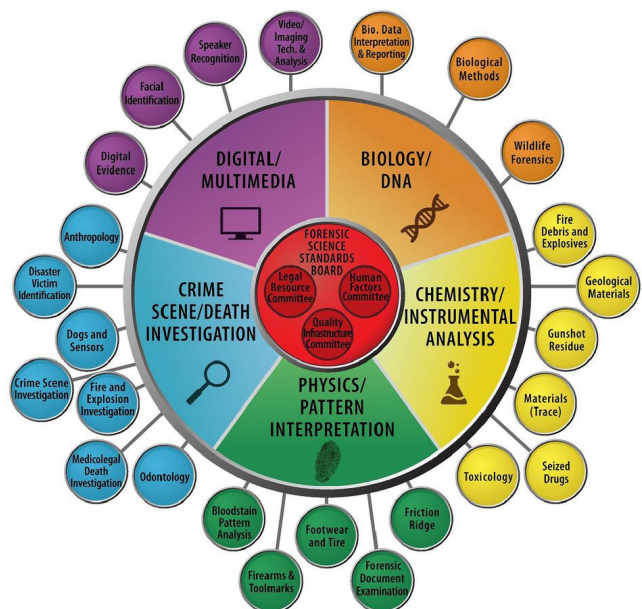
While legacy standards from various disciplines, such as ASTM, have been accepted through the registry process, robust discussions and debates have occurred at the Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) level regarding their adherence to the required standards for placement on the OSAC Registry. These deliberations underscore the meticulous evaluation process to ensure the highest quality and conformity to industry standards.

The OSAC scientific and technical review panels (STRPs) have played a pivotal role in maintaining the integrity of standards before their submission to SDOs. Collaborative

efforts between SCs and counterpart SDOs have developed eight standards over the past fiscal year. Since January of this year, 45 STRPs have been conducted, demonstrating the effectiveness of this review mechanism. The FSSB has carefully managed the collaborative SDO process to prevent circumvention of the OSAC process, ensuring comprehensive review and input from all OSAC entities.

Recognizing the need to expand outreach beyond traditional forensic science service providers (FSSPs), OSAC has undertaken initiatives to engage with "non-traditional" FSSPs. These non-traditional providers include law enforcement agency (LEA) crime scene units, facial examination units, and LEAs with their own latent print units or digital evidence exploitation teams. OSAC contracted Steven Johnson to champion this cause as a standards implementation advocate. Since October of the previous year, Steven has diligently worked towards inclusive implementation and welcomes any assistance or information to further this effort.

To enhance understanding of OSAC-developed standards, the



American Academy of Forensic Sciences Standards Board (ASB) has continued to develop valuable resources to augment OSAC's efforts. Factsheets and webinars produced by various consensus bodies within ASB offer concise summaries of each standard, facilitating broader comprehension among practitioners. These resources outline the purpose, necessity, and benefits of adopting specific standards. Approximately 50 factsheets are available on the AAFS website, with more to come, serving as valuable references for navigating ASB/OSAC standards.

Furthermore, ASB has introduced over 10 checklists for standards related to IAI disciplines. These checklists are practical tools for agencies to assess compliance with specific standards, identify implementation gaps, monitor progress, and demonstrate compliance for accreditation purposes. By utilizing these checklists, agencies can ensure adherence to established standards, elevating forensic science practice's overall quality and reliability. The AAFS website provides access to the current checklists.

These factsheets and checklists offer forensic professionals invaluable resources to enhance their understanding and

effectively implement OSAC-developed standards. ASB remains committed to expanding its efforts to support the advancement of forensic science through standardized practices. Expect further developments and additional resources as the field continues to progress.

Lastly, my time as your IAI OSAC FSSB representative will conclude at the end of September. I want to express my deep gratitude to the IAI for granting me the opportunity to be your voice at OSAC over the past three years. It has been a fulfilling experience contributing to the growth and development of forensic science standards. I have complete confidence in Jeff Gurvis, the newly appointed representative, to uphold the IAI standards and further the OSAC mission. He will be a great asset with his wealth of knowledge, time on the IAI Board of Directors, and expertise serving on the Bloodstain Pattern Analysis OSAC SC! Please join me in warmly welcoming Jeff as he assumes this important role. Together, let us continue to drive the advancement of forensic science to new heights!

Stephen Greene

