Global Identity Summit
Tampa, Florida
September 23, 2015

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC): Forensic Science Standards – Community Participation Opportunities

John Paul Jones II
Associate Director of OSAC Affairs
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Agenda

• OSAC Overview
• Relevance for Global Identity Summit Participants
• Where **YOU** can Impact the Process
• Staying Informed
NIST Forensic Science Efforts

http://www.nist.gov/forensics/

National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS)

Department of Justice
Federal Advisory Committee co-led by NIST
40 Commissioners setting policy

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

NIST-administered effort with
>540 members of the community
establishing standards and guidelines

NIST Funded Internal Research Programs

1. Ballistics & Associated Tool Marks
2. Digital & Identification Forensics
3. Forensic Genetics (DNA)
4. Toxins
5. Trace
6. Statistics

~$7.5M/year invested

CoE: ~$4M/year invested for 5 years (2015-2020)

Gaithersburg Campus

NIST Forensic Science Center of Excellence

Consortium of universities funded to improve statistical foundation for pattern and digital evidence and to develop training on probabilistic methods for practitioners and other stakeholders
OSAC Objective

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.
OSAC at a Glance

Task Groups at Every Level: 130+

FSSB appointed June 2014
QIC, LRC, HFC – July 2014
SAC – August 2014
Subcommittees – October 2014

http://nist.gov/forensics/osac/index.cfm
OSAC Members Employer Classification
(as of 13 February 2015)

542 OSAC Members
Total

OSAC Members
Classification

- Federal Govt: 27%
- Local Govt: 19%
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- Private Sector: 17%
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OSAC Members Job Classification
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542 OSAC Members Total

- Practitioner: 57%
- Researcher: 19%
- R&D Technology Partner: 2%
- Quality Assurance Manager: 1%
- Educator/Trainer: 9%
- Other: 9%
- Attorney: 2%
- Judge: 1%
OSAC Registries: A Framework for a Quality Infrastructure

OSAC Registries

MANDATORY
Registry of Approved Standards

NON-MANDATORY
Registry of Approved Guidelines

Catalog of Forensic Standards and Guidelines

Existing standards and guidelines including SWG documents

Forensic Science Laboratories and Accreditors
OSAC Catalog of Forensic Standards and Guidelines: 700+ References

• The catalog is intended to contain any standard, guideline, best practice, protocol or policy created in collaboration with a body of stakeholders that is applicable to forensic science.

• OSAC members can potentially select standards and guidelines from this listing to submit for addition to OSAC Registries or to form a basis for new standards and guidelines to be created.

OSAC Registries of Approved Standards and Guidelines

Documentary standards and guidelines that have demonstrated:

1. Technical merit
   – Detailed Scope
   – Examination of fitness for purpose
   – Consideration of uncertainty measurement and potential bias
   – Method validation, as appropriate

2. Reasonable standards development process
   – Due Process
   – Consensus
   – Openness
   – Transparency
   – Freedom from undue influence
   – Balance of interests

Registry Sources:
1. An existing standard developed using approved processes
2. Catalyzed with an existing SDOs
Standard - mandatory
• Specifies uniform methods, actions, practices, or processes, protocols
• Compliance recommended to be mandatory and modified only under unusual circumstances: (shall)
• Approved by FSSB

Guideline – strongly recommended
• Suggested methods, actions, practices, or processes to consider in absence of applicable standards
• Best practices that are strongly recommended but not required (should)
• Approved by SAC
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Relevant Subcommittees for GIS

• Biology/DNA
  – Biological Methods
  – Biological Data Interpretation & Reporting

• Crime Scene/Death Investigation
  – Anthropology
  – Disaster Victim Identification
  – Medicolegal Death Investigation
  – Odontology

• Digital/Multimedia
  – Facial Identification
  – Speaker Recognition
  – Video/Imaging Technology & Analysis

• Physics/Pattern Interpretation
  – Friction Ridge
  – Forensic Document Examination (Handwriting)
  – Footwear & Tire
Facial Identification Subcommittee

Mission:
• Develop consensus standards and guidelines for the image-based comparisons of human facial features and to provide recommendations for the research and development necessary to advance the state of the science.

Objectives:
1. Standardize terminology relevant to all levels of facial image comparison (facial assessment, facial review, and facial identification), including automated systems
2. Standardize methods, protocols, procedures, and training to competency for all levels of facial image comparison and for the implementation and optimization of automated facial recognition systems
Facial Identification Subcommittee

Objectives continued:

3. Collaborate among domestic and international members of the facial identification community (organizations, agencies, individuals, etc.) to maximize collective resources.

4. Promote, articulate, and advance the scientific basis of facial identification among the members of the relevant operational communities (e.g., criminal justice, intelligence, immigration, border protection, identity management) through collaborative efforts to identify gaps, prioritize specific research, development, test and evaluation topics, and by disseminating standards and guidelines.
Facial Identification Subcommittee

Objectives continued:
5. Respond to emerging facial identification challenges, such as advancement of technology and changing legal environments, to ensure the above objectives remain current and relevant to the scientific community

Task Groups:
• Terminology
• Training
• One-to-One
• Systems & Capture
• Public Communication
OSAC Recent Collaborative Meetings

7/27-28: LRC, HFC, QIC, Chemistry SAC & Crime Scene SAC at NIST

7/29-30: FSSB at NIST

8/2-3: Physics @ IAI
OSAC Recent & Future Meetings

Recent:
• Digital SAC – August 3rd & 5th @ IAI
• OSAC Plenary Day – August 4th @ IAI

Future:
• Biology SAC – October 15th & 17th @ ISHI
• Full OSAC Meeting - January 25-29, 2016
  – 500+ in Leesburg, Virginia
• AAFS Public Reporting – February 22-23, 2016
  – 5 SAC Chairs Public Presentations
  – 24 Subcommittee Chairs Public Presentations
Potential for International Collaborations

OSAC & ENFSI: Jan De Kinder 2015 (Europeans)

OSAC & NIFS: Dr. Linzi Wilson-Wilde 2015 (Australia)

OSAC & International Forensics Strategic Alliance 2015
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OSAC Registry Approval Process: Requires Public Comment

No documents reside on the OSAC Registry of Standards or Registry of Guidelines yet.
Where You Can Impact the Process: SDO

- OSAC Standards/Guidelines will be developed predominantly in existing Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) like ASTM, AAFS, NFPA, ADA, etc.
  - Become a member and vote “Affirmative” or “Negative with Comment” to recommend a change to a standard under development.
Where You Can Impact the Process: OSAC

- OSAC Mandatory Public Comment Process
  - OSAC Standards/Guidelines – once a Scientific Area Committee (SAC) determines a standard/guideline has technical merit and has followed a reasonable standards development process – they vote to post a “Notice of Intent” to add the document to an OSAC Registry.
  - 30 day public comment period opens (Submit your comment)
  - Subcommittee will adjudicate public comments
  - Also an appeals process
APPLY: Become an OSAC Member or Affiliate

- 1940 Total Applications (as of 9/15/2015)
  - 542 OSAC Members
  - 190 Affiliates appointed
- 1398 Applications in Database for Affiliates
  - All potential Affiliates must fill out an application

OSAC Application: https://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac-application.cfm

- Applicant database updated on 1st & 15th each month
- Affiliates are selected by OSAC Unit Chairs
- Added to Kavi Workspace and receive email
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OSAC Newsletter

• Monthly Release
• Public Comment Period
• OSAC Vacancies
• OSAC Meetings
• Feature Articles
• Accomplishments
Stay Informed

• Receive the OSAC Monthly Newsletter & latest announcements
  – [www.nist.gov/forensics](http://www.nist.gov/forensics)
  – Insert your email address

• View publicly available information
Questions?

John Paul Jones II
Associate Director for OSAC Affairs
NIST
100 Bureau Drive, Mailstop 8102
Gaithersburg, MD 20899
301-975-2782
John.jones@nist.gov

www.nist.gov/forensics
Standards Open for Public Comment: Now Closed


2. SAC Chem Seized Drugs RA-3 (Standard): ASTM E2548-11e1 Standard Guide for Sampling Seized Drugs for Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis, 2011


Link: https://workspace.forensicosac.org/kws/public/workgroup?wg_abbrev=sac_chem
Standards Open for Public Comment: Now Closed

