

American Academy of Forensic Sciences

February 18, 2014

Seattle, WA

# Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

*previously called "Guidance Groups"*

**Input Received and Proposed Plan Development**



# **Welcome & Introductions**

Mark Stolorow

Director, Law Enforcement Standards Office,  
NIST Office of Special Programs

# AAFS Presentation Overview

Time	Topic	Presenter
10 min	Welcome & Introductions	Mark Stolorow
5 min	Brief Background on NIST	Rich Cavanagh
15 min	Notice of Inquiry Responses Received by NIST	Susan Ballou
30 min	Plan for the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)	Barbara Guttman & John Butler
15 min	OSAC Membership	John Paul Jones
<b>45 min</b>	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>All</b>

# Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

## Value

- Practitioner generated (forensic scientists)
- Courtroom connected (legal input)
- Scientifically valid (researchers and statisticians)
- Standards enforcement potential (standards developers & accreditation bodies)

# Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

## **Public Input** – NIST seeks public input – *and we listen*

- Met with SWG Chairs at NIST – (June 18, 2013)
- Sought public feedback with Notice of Inquiry (NOI) published in Federal Register - (Sept 27 – Nov 26, 2013)
- Met with AAFS, AFTE, IAI, NAME, and SOFT - (Dec 2013 - Jan 2014)
- OSAC presentation before the National Commission on Forensic Science at first meeting - (Feb 4, 2014)
- OSAC presentation and plan posted on [nist.gov/forensics](http://nist.gov/forensics) after NCFS presentation - (Feb 5, 2014)
- Met with A2LA, ABFT, AFQAM, ANSI/ASQ-FQS, ASCLD-LAB, CAP, L-A-B) forensic science accreditation bodies on Feb 10, 2014
- Convene forum at AAFS (with webcast) – (Feb 18, 2014)

# Why Does this Matter to You?

- **As DOJ ends funding for most SWGs what's next?**
  - OSAC will maintain access to all legacy SWG documents &
  - Populate SACs and Subcommittees with thought leaders
- **How will OSAC enhance standards development?**
  - Leverage consistency where appropriate among forensic science disciplines in 5 Scientific Area Committees (SACs)
  - Strengthen best practices, guidelines and standards
- **How can you participate?**
  - Applications for self-nomination will be published shortly
  - Relevant professional organizations can recommend

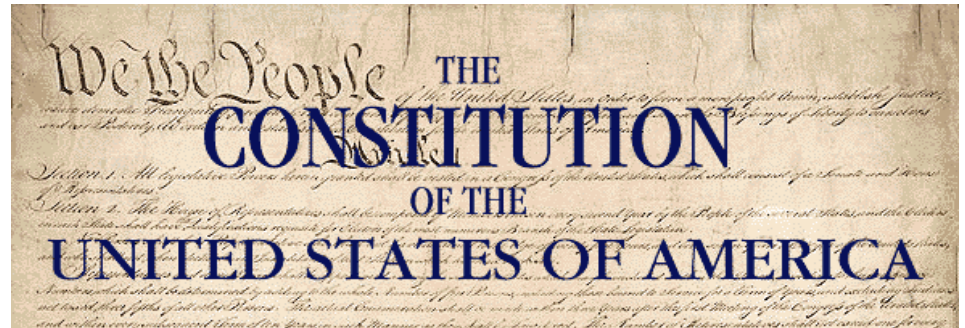
# **Brief Background on NIST**

Dr. Richard Cavanagh

Director  
NIST Office of Special Programs

# National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

- Non-regulatory agency within U.S. Department of Commerce
- Founded in 1901 as National Bureau of Standards



Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to ...*coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures*



# National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

## *Unique Mission within the Federal Government ...*

to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing

**measurement science, standards, and technology**

in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life

- **Deep research expertise underpins technological innovation** – e.g., new materials, advanced clinical diagnostics and therapies, advanced communications, forensic science etc.
- **Non-regulatory status** enables an important role as a convener that facilitates collaboration between agencies of the Federal Government, industry, private organizations, and state and local governments

# NIST: A Premier Scientific Institution

*A world-leading measurement science and standards program*

- Work resulting in 4 + 1 Nobel Prizes since 1997
- Kyoto Prize winner in 2011
- MacArthur Fellowship winners in 2003 and 2013
- National Medal of Science winners in 1998 and 2007
- ~ 10 National Academy Members
- ~120 National Society Fellows
- ~60 National/International Awards/year



Debbie Jin  
2003 MacArthur  
Genius Grant  
2013 L'Oreal/UNESCO  
"For Women in  
Science" award



Dan Shechtman  
2011 Nobel Prize  
in Chemistry  
based on work while  
Visiting Scientist at NIST



Bill Phillips  
1997 Nobel Prize  
in Physics



Eric Cornell  
2001 Nobel Prize  
in Physics



John Hall  
2005 Nobel Prize  
in Physics



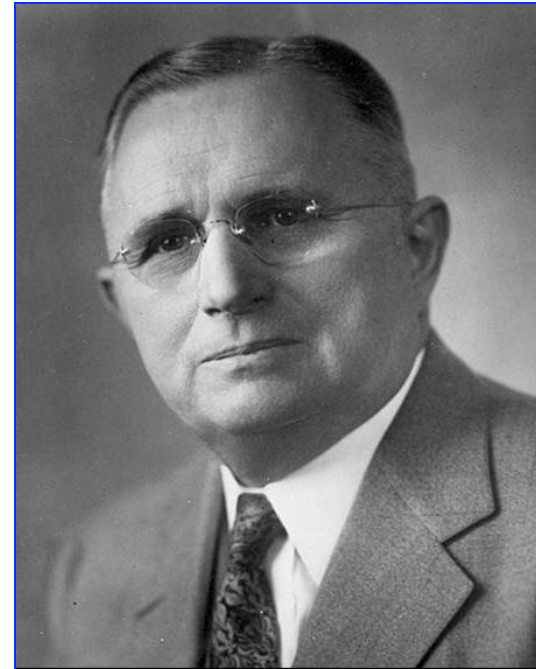
David Wineland  
2007 National Medal of Science  
2012 Nobel Prize



John Cahn  
1997 National Medal of  
Science and 2011 Kyoto Prize  
in Materials Science

# Forensics at NIST

*NIST's involvement in Forensic Science began in 1913*



*NBS's William Souder*

*"one of the nation's best and least known criminologists."*

*Washington Post 1954*

# Forensics at NIST

**NIST has a long and rich history of work in support of law enforcement.**

Currently providing research and measurement services such as validated test methods, Standard Reference Materials, and Reference Data in areas such as:

- crime scene investigations
- computer forensics
- fire investigations
- drug detection
- drunk driving testing
- biometrics (fingerprints and handwriting analysis)
- firearms/ballistics
- standards for body armor, nonlethal weapons
- explosives detection technologies
- sports integrity/fairness
- genetics and DNA-based identification



Support the Departments of Defense, Justice, and Homeland Security in carrying out their programs

# **NIST as Convener/Facilitator in Standards Development**

- **Convened and formed National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM)**
  - **Provided standards and guidance for State regulators**
  - **Transitioned NCWM to the private sector**
- **Convened and formed Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP)**
- **Published Smart Grid Roadmap**
  - **Transitioned SGIP to the private sector**
- **Estimated 460 NIST staff are committee members of over 100 national and international Standards Development Organizations (SDO) and participate in over 1000 standards development activities**

# **Notice of Inquiry (NOI)**

## Responses Received by NIST

Susan Ballou

Program Manager for Forensic Sciences  
NIST Office of Special Programs

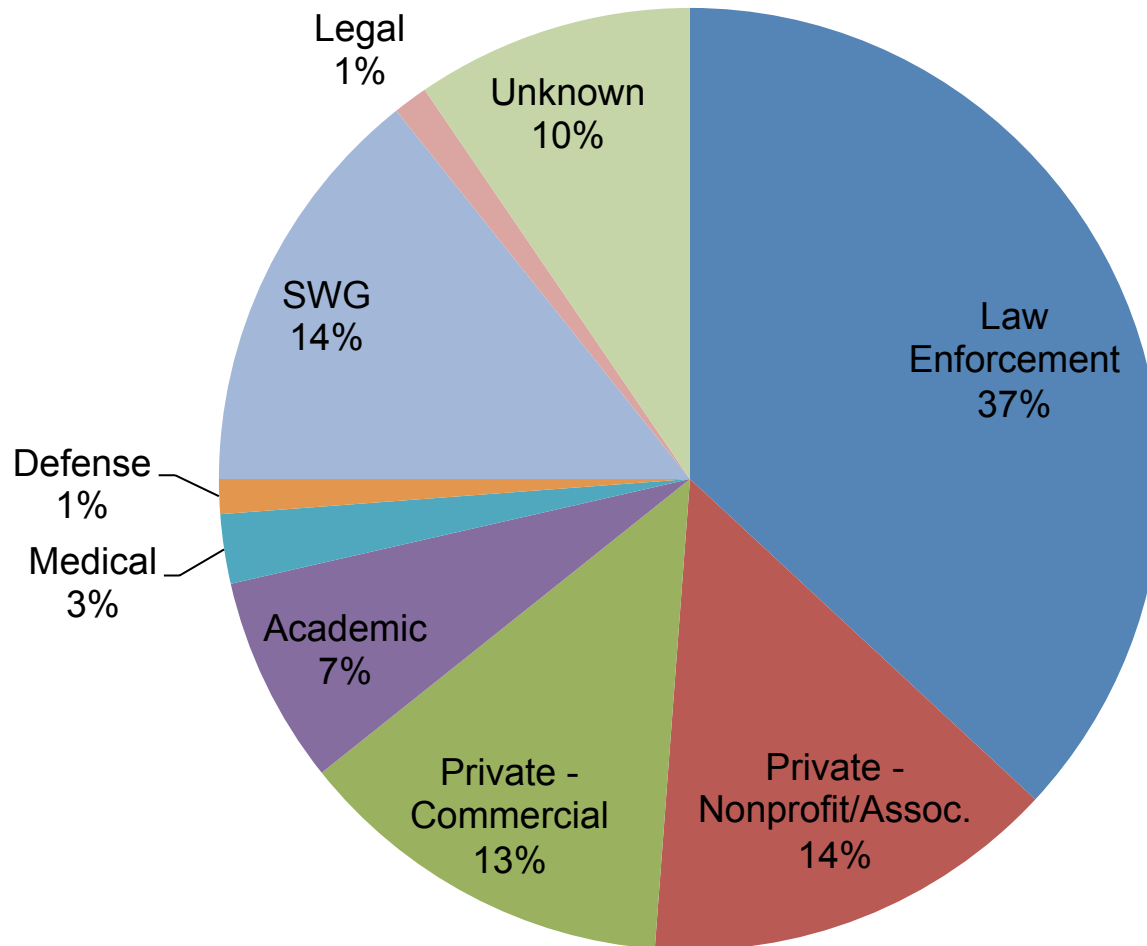
# NOI Responses

Notice of Inquiry (NOI) published in Federal Register: Sept. 27 – Nov. 26, 2013

## **82 responses received**

- 12 SWGs commented
- 15 other groups including ASCLD, CAC, CFSO, IAI, Innocence Project, NACDL
- More than a dozen labs and a half dozen companies
- Individuals from 20 states, D.C. and four countries (UK, Canada, Germany, and Australia)

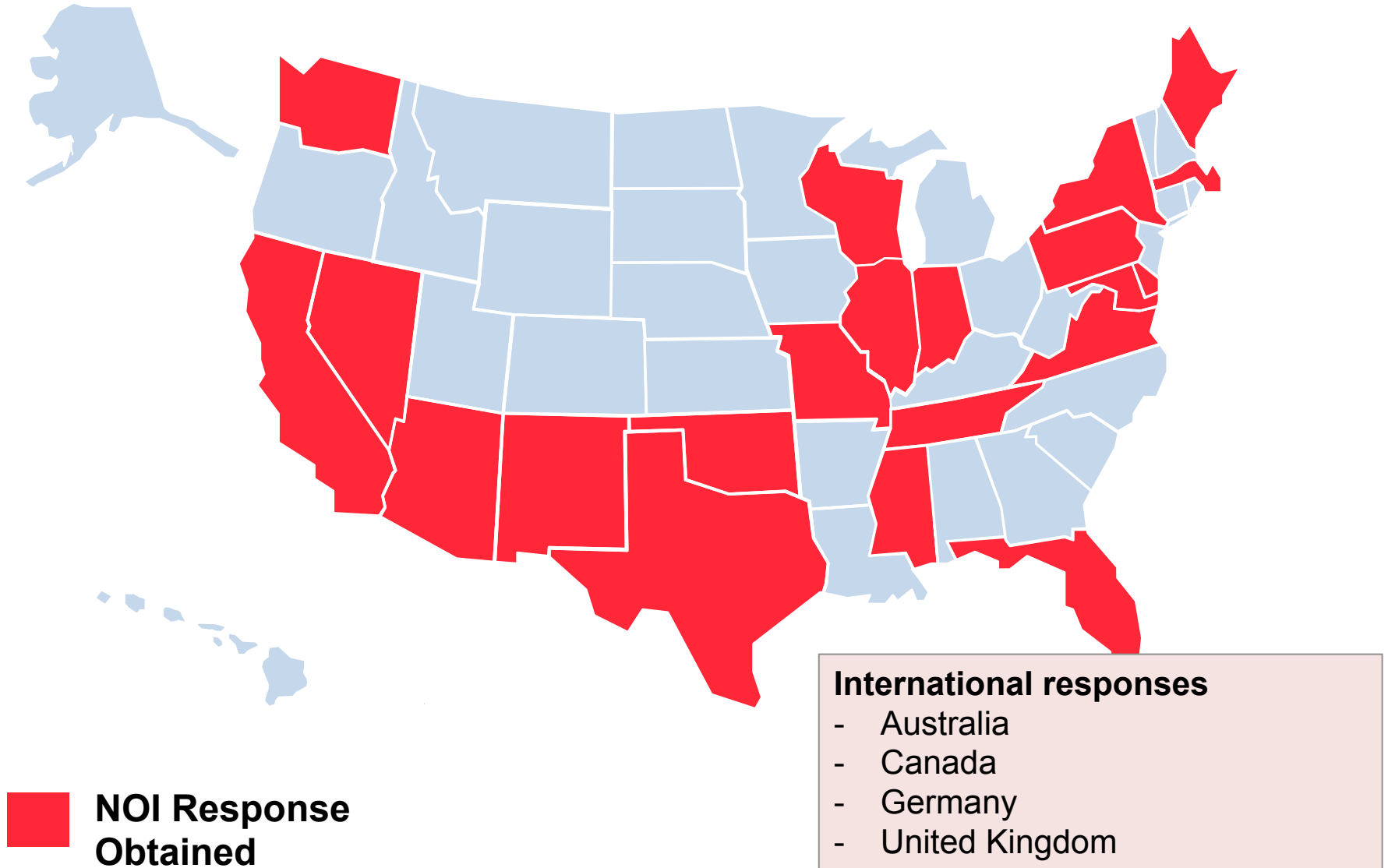
# NOI Responses by Organization





# NOI Responses

were obtained from law enforcement agencies in 20 different states and the District of Columbia.



# NOI Topic Areas

1. Structure of the Guidance Groups
  - 9 sub-topic questions
2. Impact of Guidance Groups
  - 3 sub-topic questions
3. Representation in the Guidance Groups
  - 4 sub-topic questions
4. Scope of the Guidance Groups
  - 4 sub-topic questions

# Topic 1: Structure of “Guidance Groups”

**Sub-topic:** ....elements which make existing forensic scientific working groups (SWGAs) successful? .....

- Responders offered:
  - **Active membership/participation**
  - **Diversity in membership**
  - **Consistent funding**
  - **Strong leadership**
  - **An efficient website**
  - **An enforcement mechanism**

# Topic 1: Structure of “Guidance Groups”

“One thing I have always thought would be useful is to have a sort of overall coordinating committee for all the SWGs, TWGs. This could insure that they all had similar objectives, and could get into questions of standardizing language, report writing, interpretation guidelines, .... things that generally are too big in scope for any given TWG, SWG.” - **R. E. Gaensslen**

# Topic 1: Structure of “Guidance Groups”

**Sub-topic:** ...*partnership with a standards development organization (SDO)...present obstacle for participation... ?*

**60% feel it would be an obstacle**

“Not all agencies who work in a given forensic field would be able to pay for the standard. Only when required by accreditation or other oversight would many agencies feel compelled to use, and therefore purchase, the standard. As there are not enough resources to provide accreditation of all entities of the forensic community, the broad adoption of a standard is not possible. Without the funding behind it, there will not be a broad adoption.” – James Darnell

# Topic 1: Structure of “Guidance Groups”

## Sub-topic:

*Would a fee-based membership model...present an obstacle for participation?*

# Topic 1: Structure of “Guidance Groups”

## Fee-based model is not favorable

**90%** of respondents were opposed to a fee-based model of any form

“The fee-based membership would automatically result in the exclusion of lower funded organizations, which in turn will result in bias... create a system of the ‘haves and have nots’”  
– Scott Vajos

“If fees were implemented, they should be done in such a way that large agencies, small agencies, and even individuals were all able to afford them.” – Heidi Eldridge

## Topic 2: Impact of “Guidance Groups”

**Sub-topic:** *Given that the Guidance Groups cannot mandate the adoption of standards, what can they do to best leverage their position and encourage adoption?*



# Incentivizing Adoption by Linking Standards to ...

“While ASCLD certainly supports the idea of accreditation for all crime laboratories, mandating this on the federal level without the proper organization and funding essentially creates an unfunded mandate that makes implementation impossible. Accreditation and certification is necessary and **receipt of federal funds should be contingent on compliance or work towards compliance.**” – Jay Henry

“Without funding or **legislative mandates**, the impact and acceptance of the guidance group products may be limited.” – Laura Hernandez

“There is some concern that the Guidance Groups could put forward recommendations that would result in unfunded mandates. Having said that, the CFSSO organizations are supportive of mandating accreditation and certification and believe that **work with a legislative body** could result in a positive outcome favorable to the forensic practitioner community.” – Pete Marone

## **Topic 2: Key Themes**

**Most respondents expressed a desire to include researchers in the process:**

- Conduct events open to researchers that allow for information exchange**
- Include researchers as members of discipline specific groups**
- Form separate subgroups of researchers**
- Include researchers in oversight board**

# Topic 3: Representation in the “Guidance Groups”

**Sub-topic:** *Who are the stakeholders who should be represented on the Guidance Groups?*

Range of responses included - academicians, attorneys, managers, practitioners, public and private sector, quality assurance managers, researchers, scientists, statisticians, vendors

**31%** - stated the majority composition of the guidance groups should be practitioners actively working in the field...**25%** stated all stakeholders should be represented

# Topic 3: Representation in the “Guidance Groups”

**Sub-topic:** *What does balanced representation mean and how can it be achieved?*

- Allow each guidance group to evaluate its own balance
- Participation percentage of each stakeholder be equated to the needs of the particular discipline

“The balance of interests of stakeholders can be ensured by a proper appeals process in the ‘Guidance Groups’ bylaws.” – Peter Tytell

# Topic 4: Scope of the “Guidance Groups”

**Sub-topic:** *Should all of the current forensic Scientific Working Groups (SWGs) transition to Guidance Groups?*

**Majority Responded – YES**

“All should transition to alleviate confusion/ encourage collaboration.” – Robert Horton

“The current SWGs should “carry the torch” as NIST further refines the process...transition all SWGs under NIST’s umbrella and allow them to keep their name...” – SWGDRUG

# Topic 4: Scope of the “Guidance Groups”

“Each SWG should decide for itself if and how it should/could transition into a GG or whether they might benefit from combining or fragmenting.” – SWGMDI

“NACDL opposes any effort to use existing organizations as the backbone of the Guidance Groups, and specifically opposes the transition of Scientific Working Groups (SWGs) into Guidance Groups...The SWGs are not independent of law enforcement...” – NACDL

# In Brief

Public posting of comments on [nist.gov/forensics](https://www.nist.gov/forensics)

## Highlights:

- Practitioner voice should be a major player
- Strongly urged to include all forensic science disciplines
- Concern about funding (no “pay-to-play” fees)
- Interest in publicly accessible documents posted on the web in a uniform and timely manner
- Interest in face-to-face and virtual meetings
- Encouragement to include existing professional organizations

# **Plan for the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)**

Barbara Guttman

Manager, NIST Computer Forensics Program

John M. Butler

Special Assistant to the Director for Forensic Science





Harry T. Edwards  
U.S. Court of  
Appeals (DC)  
Co-Chair,  
Forensic Science  
Committee

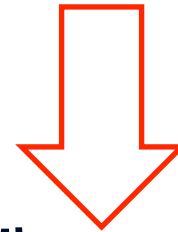
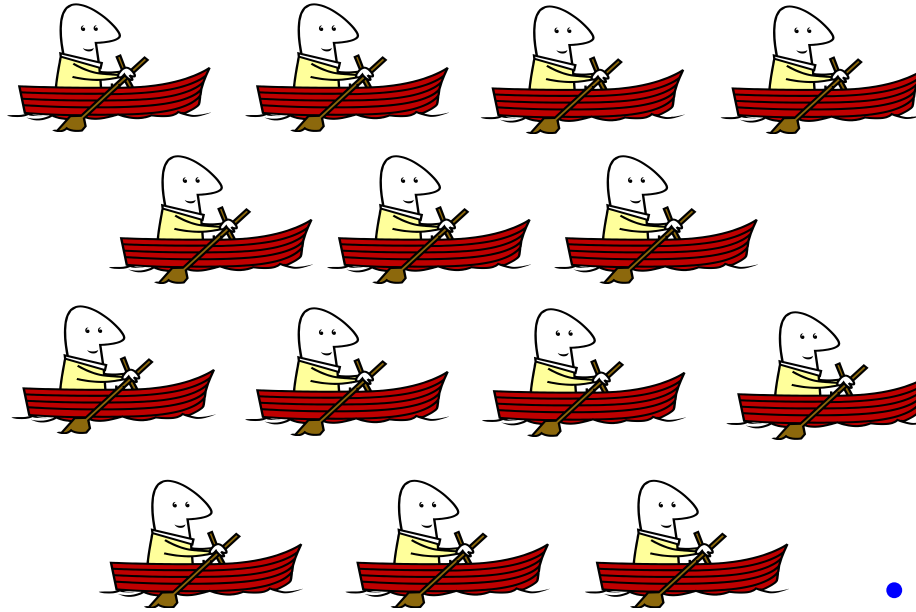
# Some Concerns about Current Scientific Working Groups (SWGs)

from Judge Harry Edwards, co-chair of the 2009 NAS Committee

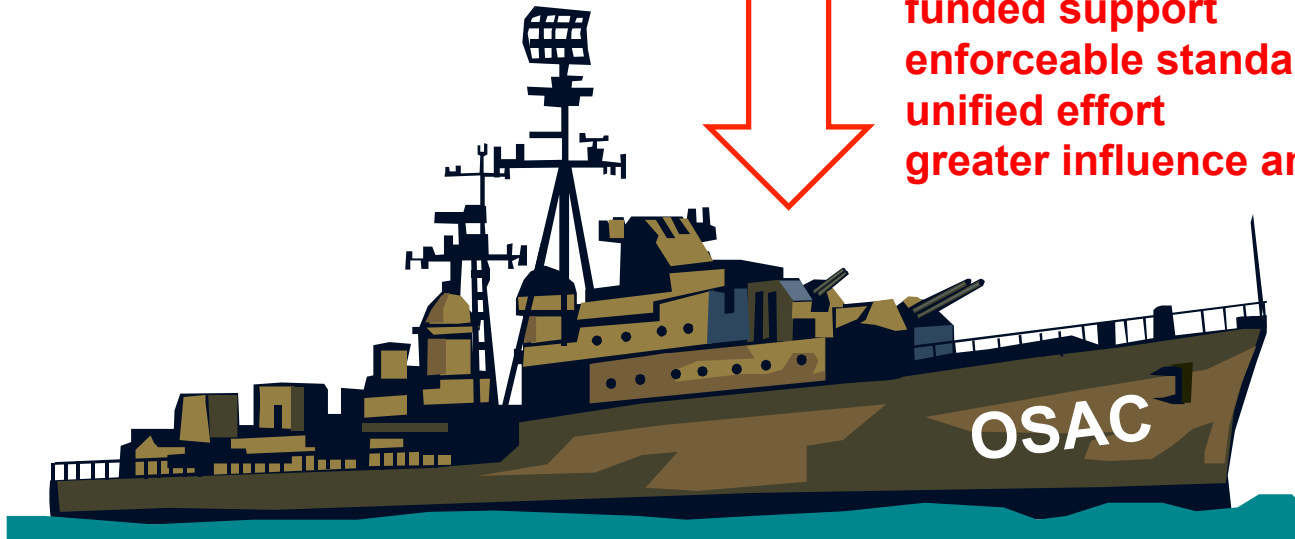
- Need regular source of funding
- Need membership criteria
- Need to produce specific, enforceable standards
- Need mandate for community to follow
- Need follow-up to measure impact of work

*Source:* Honorable Harry T. Edwards, Presentation at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia Conference on The Role of the Court in an Age of Developing Science & Technology: The National Academy of Sciences Report on Forensic Sciences: What it Means for the Bench and Bar (May 6, 2010)

# Individual SWGs vs. Organized Effort



**funded support  
enforceable standards  
unified effort  
greater influence and impact**



## Department of Justice

**Policy focused**

*Limited Term (FACA)*

Attorney General

Recommendations



National Commission  
on Forensic Science  
(**NCFS**)

## NIST

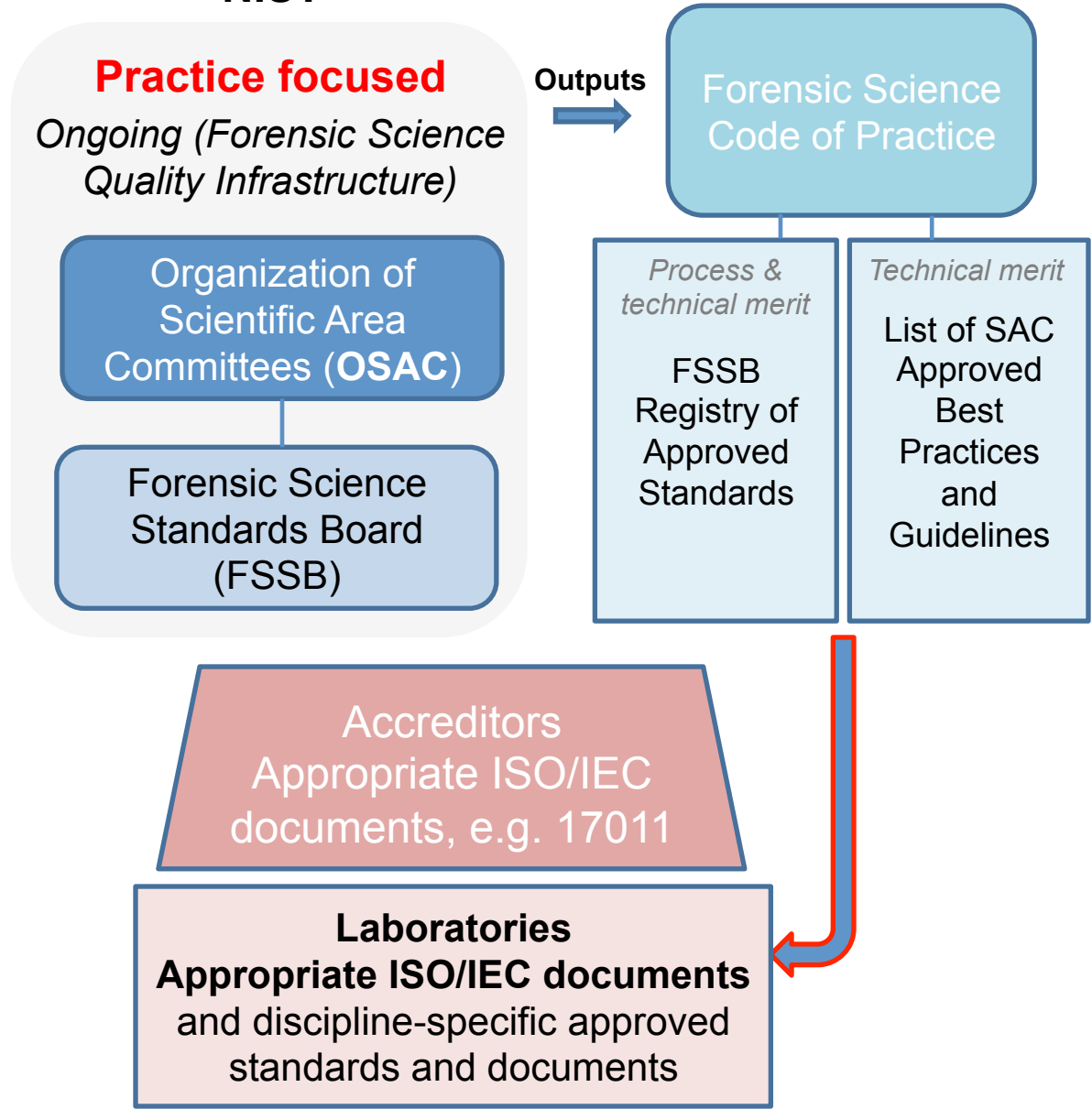
**Practice focused**

*Ongoing (Forensic Science  
Quality Infrastructure)*

Organization of  
Scientific Area  
Committees (**OSAC**)

Forensic Science  
Standards Board  
(**FSSB**)

# NIST



# Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

Legal Resource  
Committee (LRC)

Quality Infrastructure  
Committee (QIC)

Human Factors  
Committee (HFC)

**SAC**  
Biology/DNA

**SAC**  
Chemistry/  
Instrumentation

**SAC**  
Crime Scene/  
Death Investigation

**SAC**  
IT/Multimedia

**SAC**  
Physics/Pattern

DNA Analysis Sub1

DNA Analysis Sub2

Wildlife Forensics Sub

Controlled Substances Sub

Fire Debris and Explosives  
Sub (lab)

Geological Materials Sub

Gunshot Residue Sub

Materials (Trace) Sub

Toxicology Sub

Anthropology Sub

Blood Stain Pattern  
Analysis Sub

Disaster Victim  
Identification Sub

Dogs and Sensors Sub

Fire Scene and  
Explosives Sub

Medical/Legal Death  
Invest Sub

Facial Identification Sub

Imaging Technologies Sub

Speaker Recognition Sub

Friction Ridge Sub

Firearms & Toolmarks  
Sub

Footwear  
& Tire Tread Sub

Questioned Documents  
Sub

SAC = Scientific Area Committee  
Sub = Subcommittee

# SAC Subcommittees

DNA Analysis Sub1

Controlled Substances Sub

Anthropology Sub

Facial Identification Sub

Friction Ridge Sub

DNA Analysis Sub2

Fire Debris and Explosives  
Sub (lab)

Blood Stain Pattern  
Analysis Sub

Imaging Technologies Sub

Firearms & Toolmarks  
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Explosives Sub

Toxicology Sub

Medical/Legal Death  
Invest Sub

Questioned Documents  
Sub

**Where the real work will happen**  
Many aspects and participants  
may map to current SWGs

- **Develops and vets formal documents** to be submitted for approval by SAC (in case of guidelines) or SAC & FSSB (in case of standards)
- Communicates activities and progress to SACs
- Subcommittee deliberations are not public

# Subcommittee Membership

Each subcommittee has a **maximum membership of 20 voting members** (and up to 5 invited guests per meeting)

- Distribution goal of **[70% practitioner\*** (20% federal, 30% state & local, 20% civil or other), **20% researchers** (including statisticians, epidemiologists, etc.), and **10% R&D technology partners and providers]** ← **[Under consideration!]**

***\* Practitioner is defined as someone actively doing or managing casework***

# Why is Digital Evidence Excluded from OSAC (and the NCFS charter)?

- Digital evidence is information stored or transmitted in digital form, including emails, the contents of computer memory, Internet browser histories, and many other items.
- **Because of the complexity, diversity, and rapidly evolving technological advances of digital technologies**, digital evidence will not be included in the partnership between DOJ and NIST at this time.
- **The Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence (SWGDE) will continue its work.**



# Will SWGDAM be transitioned to OSAC?

- Due to the unique statutory relationship between SWGDAM and the FBI, **SWGDAM will remain with the FBI at this time.**
- The FBI has no initial objection to the possible transition of SWGDAM or appropriate portions of SWGDAM to OSAC and is open to considering this at some future time.

See <http://swgdam.org/faq.html>

# Why Two DNA Subcommittees?

- **To provide an example** that disciplines may need multiple subcommittees with specific focus (based on SAC input and FSSB decision)
  - **DNA sub1 could be focused on Methods** and have more researchers involved
  - **DNA sub2 could be focused on Interpretation** and have more statisticians involved
- **Materials (Trace) subcommittee could also be subdivided**, for example:
  - Materials (Trace) sub1: Paint and Glass
  - Materials (Trace) sub2: Hairs, Fiber, and Tape

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Human Factors  
Committee (HFC)

**SAC**  
Biology/DNA

**SAC**  
Chemistry/  
Instrumentation

**SAC**  
Crime Scene/  
Death Investigation

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Blood Stain Pattern  
Analysis Sub

Disaster Victim  
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Dogs and Sensors Sub

Fire Scene and  
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Medical/Legal Death  
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Facial Identification Sub

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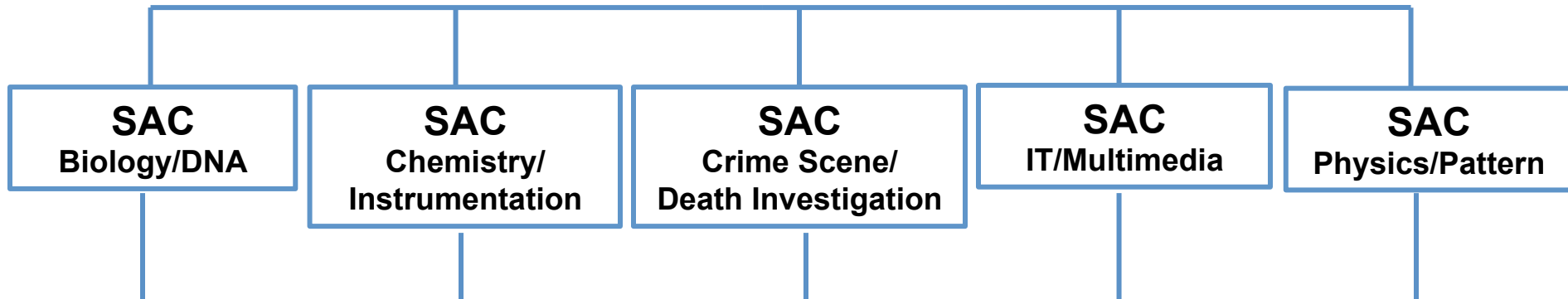
Firearms & Toolmarks  
Sub

Footwear  
& Tire Tread Sub

Questioned Documents  
Sub

SAC = Scientific Area Committee  
Sub = Subcommittee

# Scientific Area Committees (SACs)



- **Sets priorities for subcommittee work** and enables a bigger picture view on topics like report wording and statistical analysis
- Recommends (to FSSB) creating, merging, or abolishing subcommittees
- **SAC meetings will be open to the public** and agendas made available prior to meetings

# SAC Membership

**Each SAC is comprised of up to 15 members including**

- Subcommittee chairs
- Representatives of professional forensic science organizations appropriate to the scientific area (e.g., AAFS, AFTE, IAI, NAME, and SOFT)
- Researchers
- Measurement scientists (including statisticians, epidemiologists, etc.)

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Friction Ridge Sub

Firearms & Toolmarks  
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Footwear  
& Tire Tread Sub

Questioned Documents  
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# OSAC Oversight

Forensic Science Standards Board (**FSSB**)

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graph TD; FSSB[Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)] --- LRC[Legal Resource Committee (LRC)]; FSSB --- QIC[Quality Infrastructure Committee (QIC)]; FSSB --- HFC[Human Factors Committee (HFC)];
```

Legal Resource  
Committee (**LRC**)

Quality Infrastructure  
Committee (**QIC**)

Human Factors  
Committee (**HFC**)

- **FSSB** ensures communication flow among SACs and overall OSAC infrastructure and the forensic science community
- **Approves standards for inclusion in Forensic Science Code of Practice and FSSB Registry of Approved Standards**
- **FSSB composed of 16 members** initially appointed by NIST-DOJ leadership and membership selection committee
  - **5 SAC Chairs**
  - **5 representatives** of professional forensics organizations (e.g., AAFS, AFTE, IAI, NAME, SOFT)
  - **5 Members at large** from the research and measurement science communities
  - **1 NIST ex-officio**

# OSAC Support

Forensic Science Standards Board (**FSSB**)

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graph TD; FSSB[Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)] --- LRC[Legal Resource Committee (LRC)]; FSSB --- QIC[Quality Infrastructure Committee (QIC)]; FSSB --- HFC[Human Factors Committee (HFC)];
```

Legal Resource  
Committee (**LRC**)

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Committee (**HFC**)

- **LRC** composed of up to 10 judges, lawyers, and legal experts who **provide guidance about the legal ramifications** of forensic standards under development and input on presentation of forensic results to the legal system
- **QIC** composed of up to 10 standards experts, quality systems managers, and accreditation and certification specialists who are **responsible for writing and updating the Forensic Science Code of Practice**
- **HFC** composed of up to 10 psychologists, quality systems managers, and usability experts who provide guidance on the influence of systems design on human performance and on ways to mitigate errors in complex tasks



# FSSB Registry of Approved Standards

- Forensic science methods and protocols used shall be on the FSSB Registry of Approved Standards
- Exceptions:
  - If a method is not on the approved list, then the method most fit-for-purpose should be utilized and a justification for use shall be provided
  - If an applicable test method is on the approved list, but an alternative method is utilized, a justification for use shall be provided
  - If an approved method is used for an alternative use than specified in the method, a justification for use shall be provided

# Standards Development Process

- Review and approval shall consist of the following:
  - Technical merit
    - Detailed scope
    - Examination of fitness-for-purpose
    - Consideration of uncertainty of measurement and potential bias
    - Method validation, as appropriate
  - Reasonable standards development process
    - Due process
    - Consensus
    - Openness
    - Transparency
    - Freedom from undue influence
    - Balance of interests
- Approved standards may come from sources such as:
  - An existing SDO (must meet Code of Practice requirements)
  - Developed by an OSAC Subcommittee using a process that meets the above requirements

# Administering Organization

- **Funds travel for OSAC participants**
- Handles logistics of in-person and virtual meetings
- **Ensures communication support** including regularly updating OSAC external website
- Responsible for rendering a decision in event of an appeal or dispute
- **NIST will serve in this role** with a goal to transition OSAC support to an independent professional organization with a target of 3 to 5 years, maintaining:
  - Quality and integrity
  - A participative role to ensure science and technology excellence

# Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

**Creating a quality infrastructure for forensic science with a connection to accreditation bodies**

- Practitioner generated (forensic scientists)
- Catalog existing SWG documents for continued access
- Courtroom connected (legal input)
- Scientifically valid (researchers)
- Standards enforcement



[www.nist.gov/forensics](http://www.nist.gov/forensics)

# OSAC Membership

**How can each of you participate?**

John Paul Jones II

NIST Forensic Science Program,  
Office of Special Programs



Many Positions to Fill on this Ship. . .



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Friction Ridge Sub

Firearms & Toolmarks  
Sub

Footwear  
& Tire Tread Sub

Questioned Documents  
Sub

SAC = Scientific Area Committee  
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# Time Commitment of Members (1)

- Length of membership – staggered 3-year terms
- LRC, QIC, and HFC will conduct business using both in-person and virtual meetings
- SAC Committees & Subcommittees will conduct business using both in-person and virtual meetings
- SAC Committees & Subcommittees will conduct at least **one in-person meeting** per year
- Travel, lodging and per diem expenses for members will be paid by NIST





# Time Commitment of Members (2)

- Virtual meetings will occur periodically to accomplish the objectives of Committees and Subcommittees
- Virtual meetings are expected to require a total of 5 days or less throughout the year
- Other time commitments include reviewing/editing documents on a periodic basis



# How Do I Apply?

- ***Online Application*** will be posted upon approval – must submit through website
- [www.nist.gov/forensics](http://www.nist.gov/forensics) - Click “**OSAC**” (top banner)
- Application period **will be open for 30 days**
- Self-nomination process
  - 3 Committees (seeking approximately 30 people)
  - 5 SACs – (seeking approximately 75 people)
  - 22 Subcommittees (seeking approximately 400+ people)



# What Do I Need to Submit?

- Online membership application
- Current CV
- Letter of support from employer if required by agency

# Application Form Questions (1)

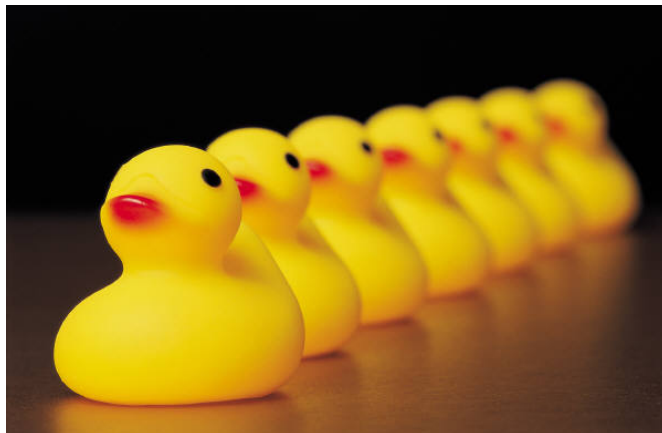
- Classification of Employer
  - Federal Government, State Government, Local Government, Tribal Government, FFRDC, Academic, Private Sector
- Education
  - BS, MS, MSFS, PhD, JD, etc.
- Relevant Professional Organization Affiliation
  - AAFS, ABA, ACS, AFTE, ASA, ASCLD, IAI, NACDL, NAME, NDAA, Regional Associations, SOFT, etc.
- Primary Job Classification
  - Forensic Practitioner, Researcher, R&D Technology Partner, Educator/Trainer, Quality Assurance Administrator, Attorney, Judge, Other

# Application Form Questions (2)

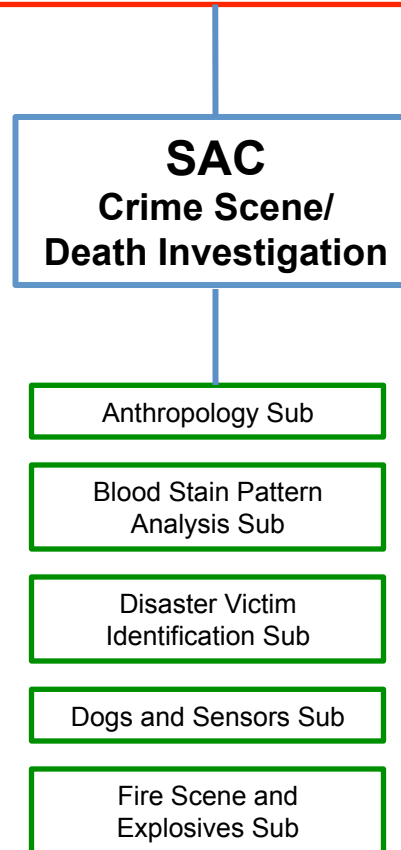
- Years and type of relevant work experience in discipline/subject area
- Standards development experience, including positions held (e.g., SWGs, ASTM, ISO, NFPA)
- Relevant research experience related to subject matter
- Relevant publications authored or co-authored
- Other relevant experience (e.g., industry leadership)
- Key interests (e.g., terminology, conclusion scales, analytical techniques)

# OSAC Position Connections to Note

- SAC Chairs will sit on FSSB
- Subcommittee Chairs sit on relevant SAC
- SAC Chair cannot be a Subcommittee Chair



Forensic Science Standards Board (**FSSB**)

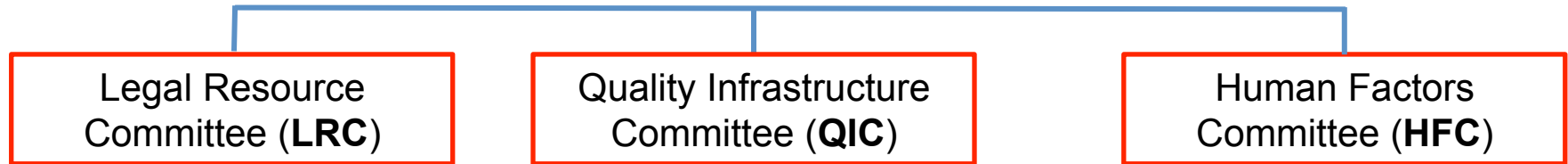


# OSAC FSSB

## Forensic Science Standards Board (**FSSB**)

- **FSSB composed of 16 members**
  - **5 SAC Chairs**
  - **5 representatives** of professional forensics organizations (e.g., AAFS, AFTE, IAI, NAME, SOFT)
  - **5 Members at large** from the research and measurement science communities
  - **1 NIST ex-officio**
- **Initial selection of FSSB will be by NIST-DOJ leadership/membership committee**

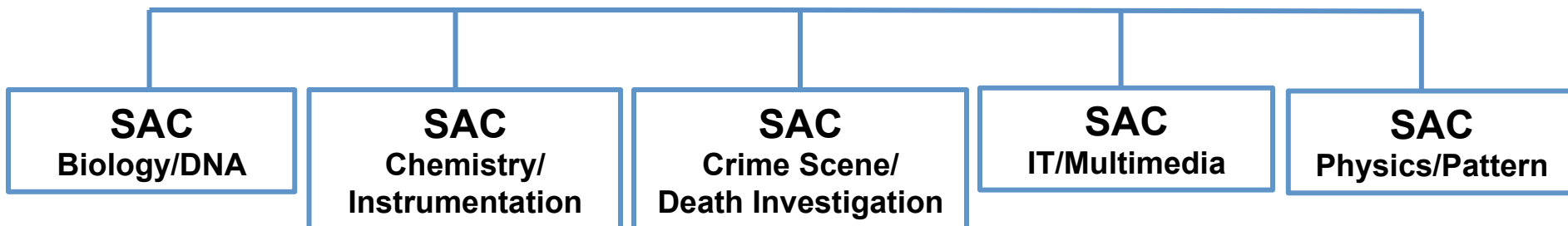
# OSAC Support Committees



- **LRC** composed of up to 10 judges, lawyers, and legal experts
- **QIC** composed of up to 10 standards experts, quality systems managers, and accreditation and certification specialists
- **HFC** composed of up to 10 psychologists, quality systems managers, and usability experts
- **Initial selection of LRC, QIC, and HFC by NIST-DOJ leadership/membership committee**



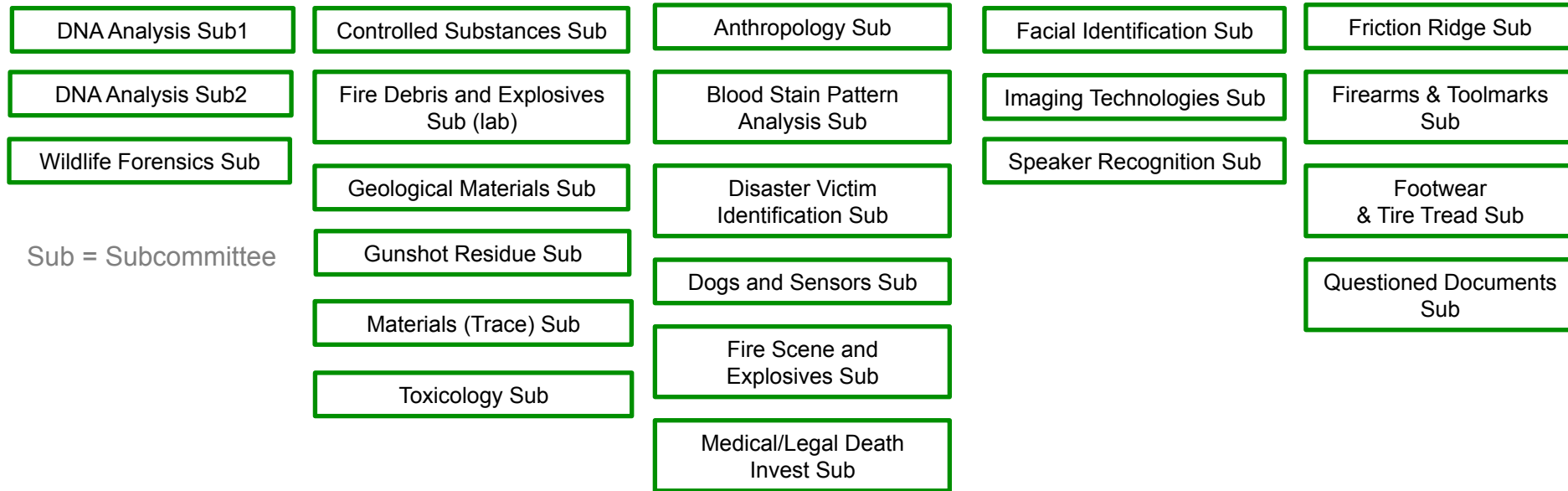
# Scientific Area Committees (SACs)



SAC = Scientific Area Committee

- **Each SAC is comprised of up to 15 members** including
  - Subcommittee chairs
  - Representatives of professional forensic science organizations appropriate to the scientific area (**e.g.**, AAFS, AFTE, IAI, NAME, and SOFT)
  - Researchers
  - Measurement scientists (including statisticians, epidemiologists, etc.)
- Note: The Chair of the SAC cannot be a Subcommittee Chair.
- **Initial** selection of SACs by NIST-DOJ leadership/membership committee

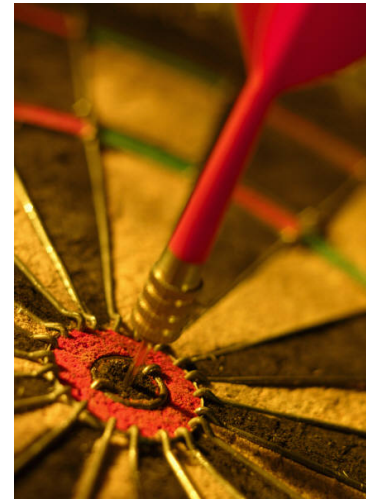
# OSAC Subcommittees



- Each Subcommittee has a **maximum of 20 voting members** (and up to 5 invited guests per meeting) – *see breakdown on next slide*
- Subcommittee members selected by FSSB and SACs then reviewed by DOJ/NIST

# Membership Targets for Subcommittees

- Membership balance goals may differ based on the specific Subcommittee – however general target is as follows: (Under consideration)
- 70% practitioner:
  - 20% federal
  - 30% state & local
  - 20% civil or other
- 20% researchers (including statisticians, epidemiologists, etc.)
- 10% R&D technology partners and providers



# Subcommittee Selection Process

- Applications will be binned into specific Subcommittees as identified by applicant
- SAC will review and select a roster for each Subcommittee that best meets individual Subcommittee requirements
- SAC will present rosters for their respective Subcommittees as a package to the FSSB for approval
- FSSB approved inaugural roster will be submitted to NIST/DOJ for review/concurrence



# Time Frame for Application Process

- **Planned Timeline**
  - **Solicit applications and recruit potential OSAC members starting soon**
  - Appoint FSSB and meet in April
  - Appoint LRC, QIC, HFC and SAC membership in May
  - First SAC meetings to select Subcommittee membership in June (with NIST-DOJ review)
  - Conduct OSAC training virtually over the summer via webinar
  - **Hold in-person meeting in September 2014**
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome at the conclusion of the selection process





# Question & Answer Time

[www.nist.gov/forensics](http://www.nist.gov/forensics)

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