

OSAC RESEARCH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FORM



Title of research need:

Keyword(s):

Submitting subcommittee(s): **Date Approved:**

(If SAC review identifies additional subcommittees, add them to the box above.)

Background Information:

1. Does this research need address a gap(s) in a current or planned standard? (ex.: Field identification system for on scene opioid detection and confirmation)

2. Are you aware of any ongoing research that may address this research need that has not yet been published (e.g., research presented in conference proceedings, studies that you or a colleague have participated in but have yet to be published)?

3. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need: (ex.: Toll, L., Standifer, K. M., Massotte, D., eds. (2019). Current Topics in Opioid Research. Lausanne: Frontiers Media SA. doi: 10.3389/978-2-88963-180-3)

4. Review the annual operational/research needs published by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) at <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/forensic-science-research-and-development-technology-working-group-operational#latest>? Is your research need identified by NIJ?

5. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

6. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

There is currently no data to support standards associated with medicolegal professionals. This study would fill that gap by not only evaluating office-based factors, but the professionals' views on their workplace and workload.

7. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

Medicolegal death investigators perform parallel, yet separate, investigations as law enforcement when a death has occurred. The investigation by medicolegal death investigators, and the eventual certification of death by the forensic pathologist, are an essential function that law enforcement agencies utilize in their evaluation of whether or not a crime has been committed.

8. Status assessment (I, II, III, or IV):

I

| | Major gap in current knowledge | Minor gap in current knowledge |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| No or limited current research is being conducted | I | III |
| Existing current research is being conducted | II | IV |

This research need has been identified by one or more subcommittees of OSAC and is being provided as an informational resource to the community.