

National Commission on Forensic Science  
Washington, DC  
May 13, 2014

# OSAC Update

**Mark D. Stolorow**

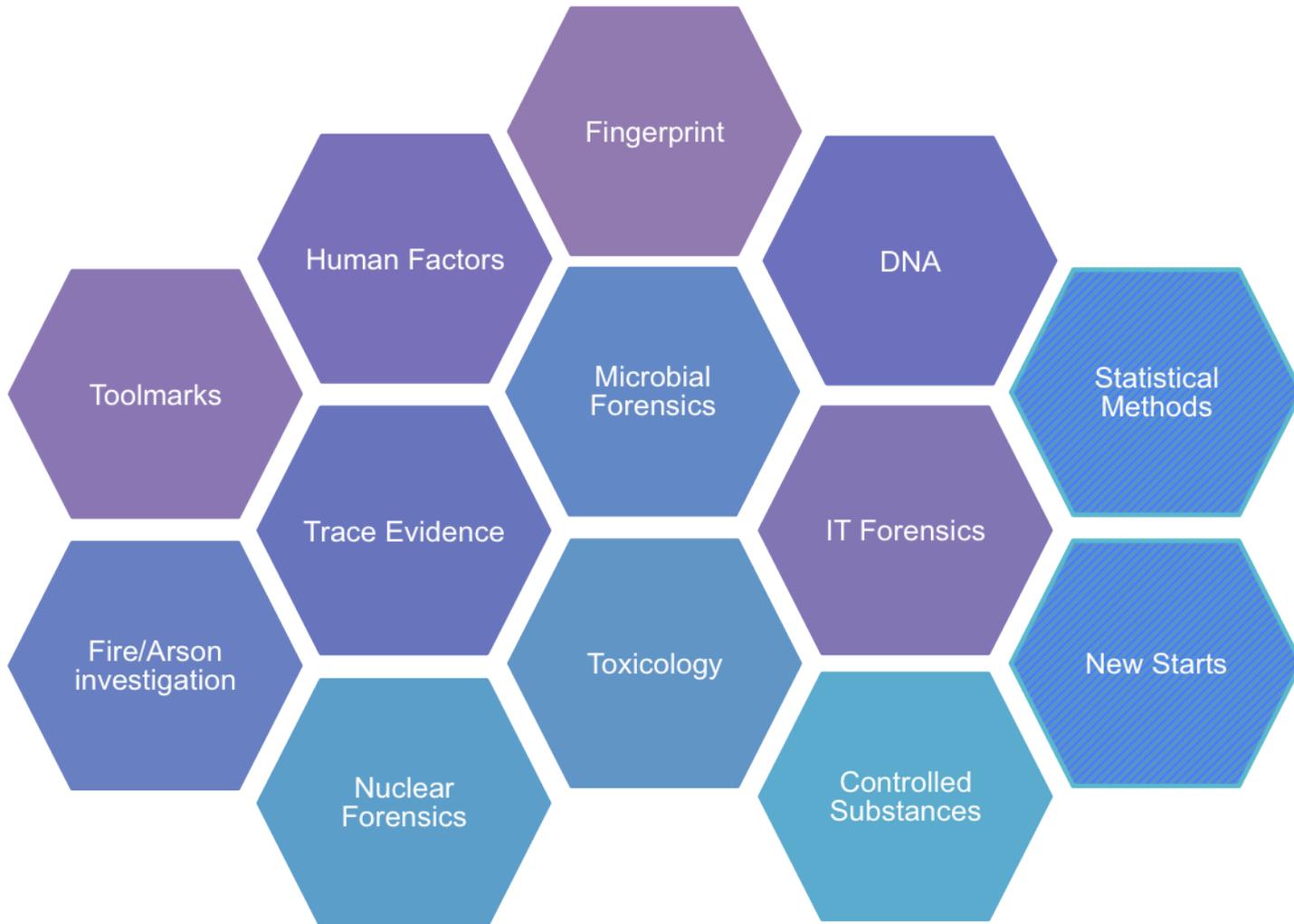
Director for OSAC Affairs

Office of Special Programs

National Institute of Standards and Technology



# Current and Proposed NIST Forensic Science Research Areas



# OSAC Update

- **Outreach** - Conducted open OSAC forums and provided presentations with a dozen stakeholder organizations since last NCFS meeting
- **Infrastructure** - Modified OSAC infrastructure based on stakeholder feedback – (next slide)
- **Membership** - Opened online membership application process, April 11 – May 11, 2014
- **Response** - Received more than 1,300 membership applications

# Understanding the OSAC Levels

## Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

- Set policy, rules, priorities for OSAC
- Manage OSAC Registry of Standards

## Legal Resource, Quality Infrastructure, Human Factors Committees

- Provide advice across all forensic science and discipline committees

## Scientific Area Committees

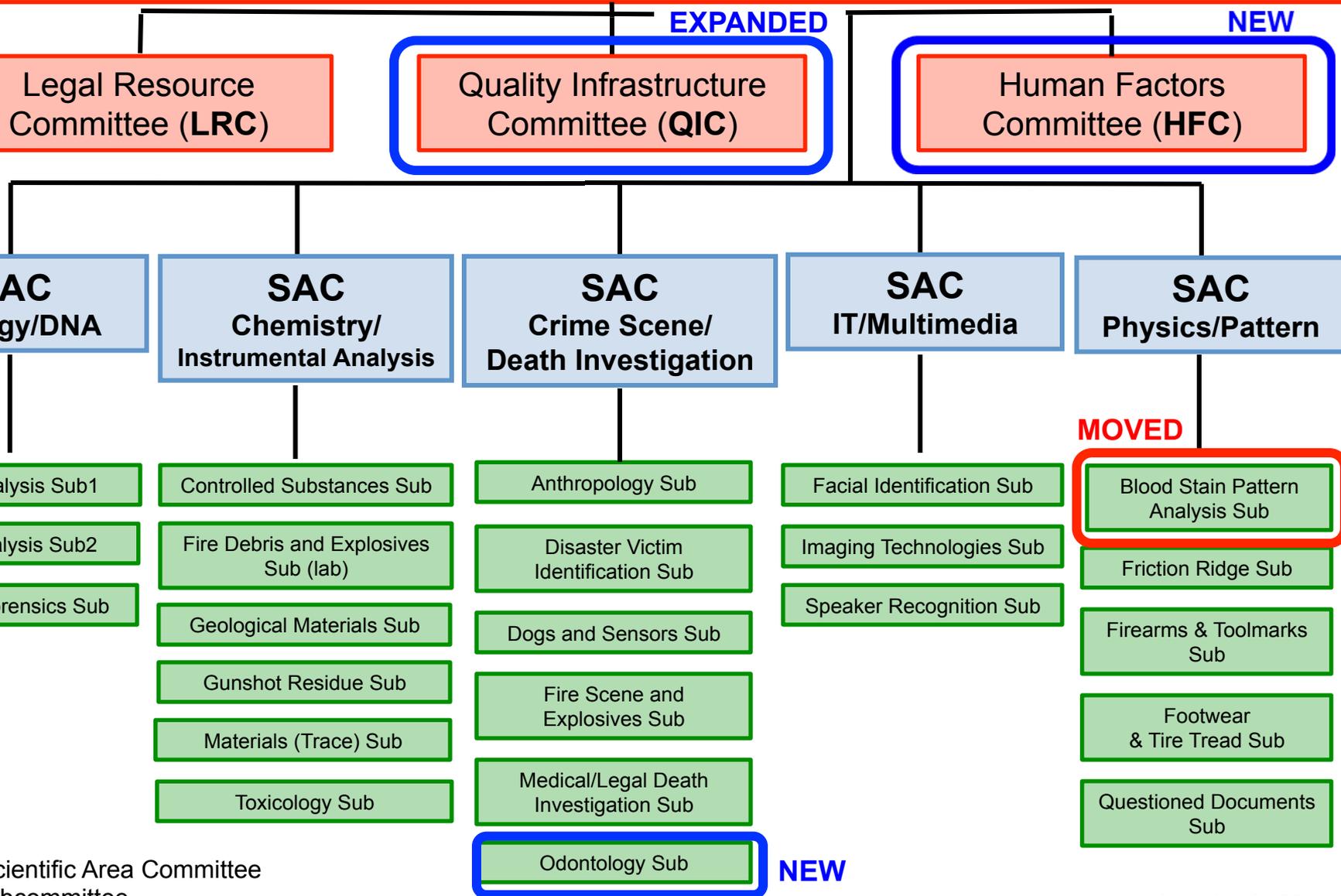
- Manage work within a scientific area (harmonize/leverage across related disciplines)
- Develop scientific area standards, (e.g., terminology, reporting requirements, conclusion statements)

## Discipline specific Subcommittees (Working Groups)

- Identify and develop standards & best practices for discipline

# Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

## Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)



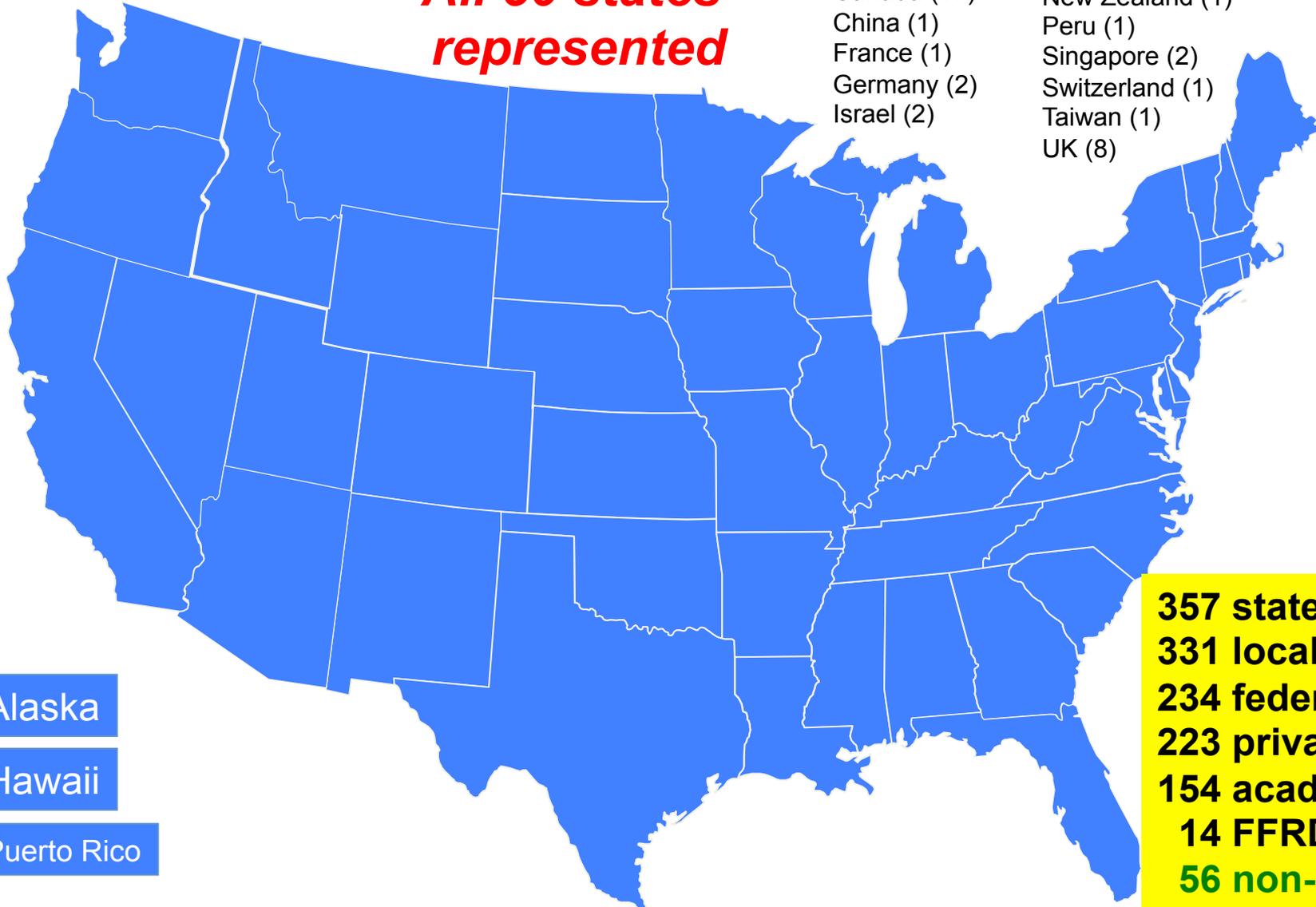
SAC = Scientific Area Committee  
Sub = Subcommittee

# OSAC Applicants

as of 12 May 2014

**All 50 states  
represented**

- Other countries (21 total; 56 individuals)**
- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Australia (10) | Italy (1)           |
| Bangladesh (1) | Korea (1)           |
| Belarus (1)    | Malaysia (1)        |
| Bosnia (1)     | Nepal (1)           |
| Brazil (1)     | The Netherlands (1) |
| Canada (17)    | New Zealand (1)     |
| China (1)      | Peru (1)            |
| France (1)     | Singapore (2)       |
| Germany (2)    | Switzerland (1)     |
| Israel (2)     | Taiwan (1)          |
|                | UK (8)              |



Alaska

Hawaii

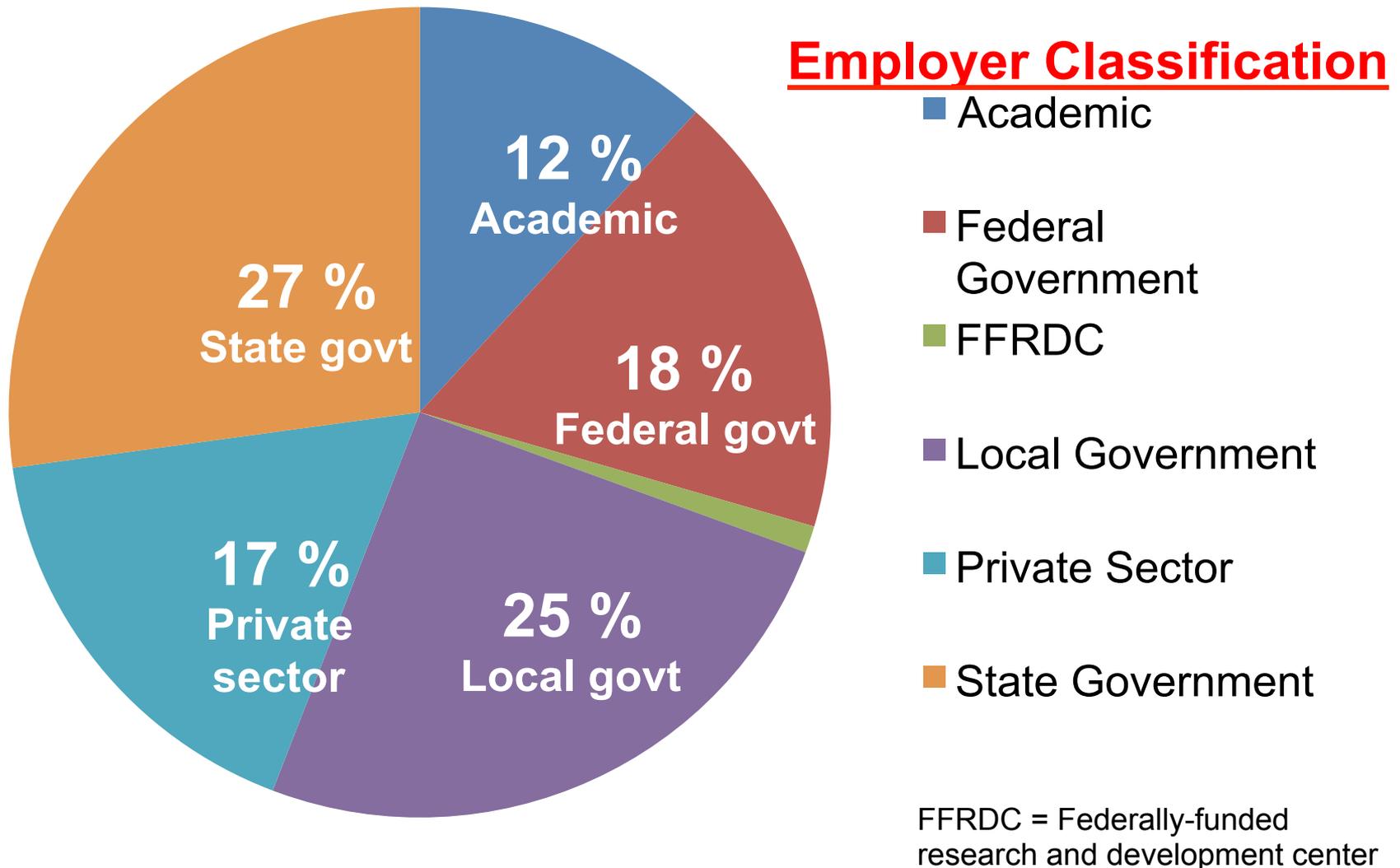
Puerto Rico

**357 state govt**  
**331 local govt**  
**234 federal govt**  
**223 private**  
**154 academic**  
**14 FFRDC**  
**56 non-U.S.**

# Background of OSAC Applicants

(as of 12 May 2014)

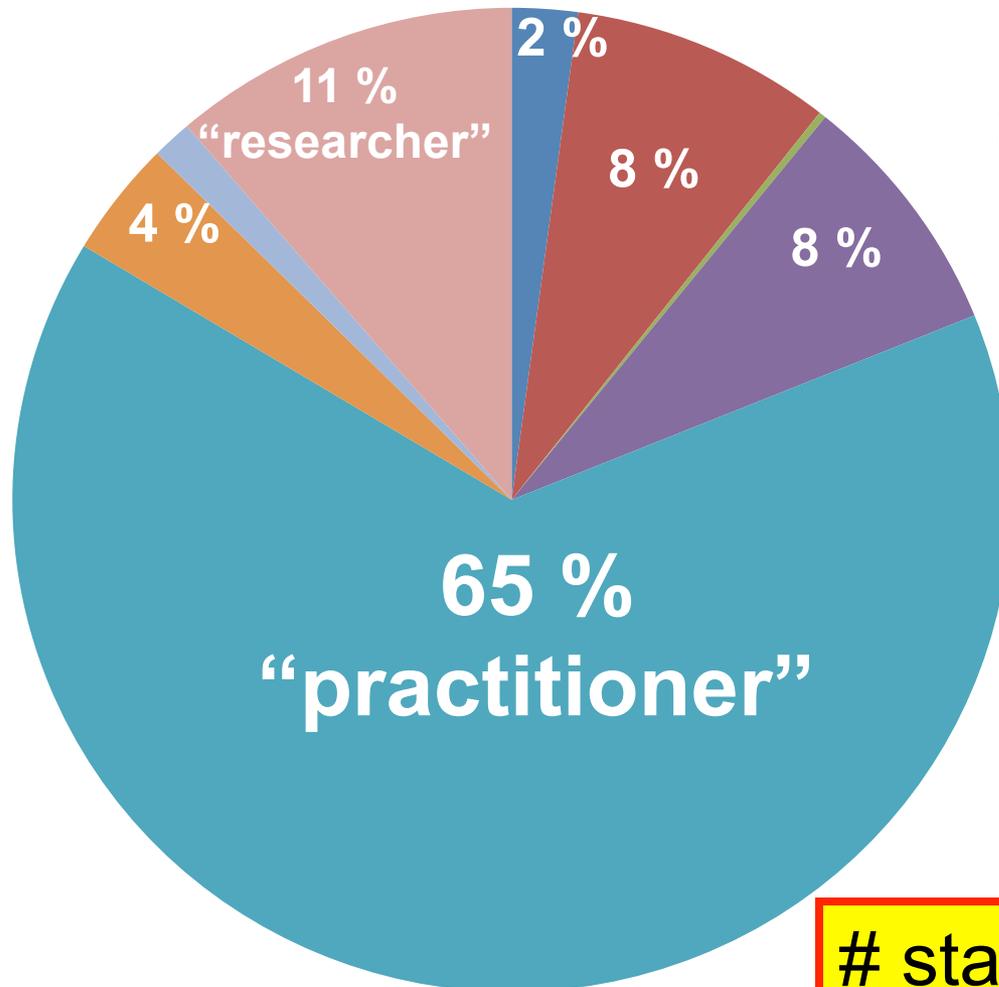
**1313 total**



# Background of OSAC Applicants

(as of 12 May 2014)

**1313 total**



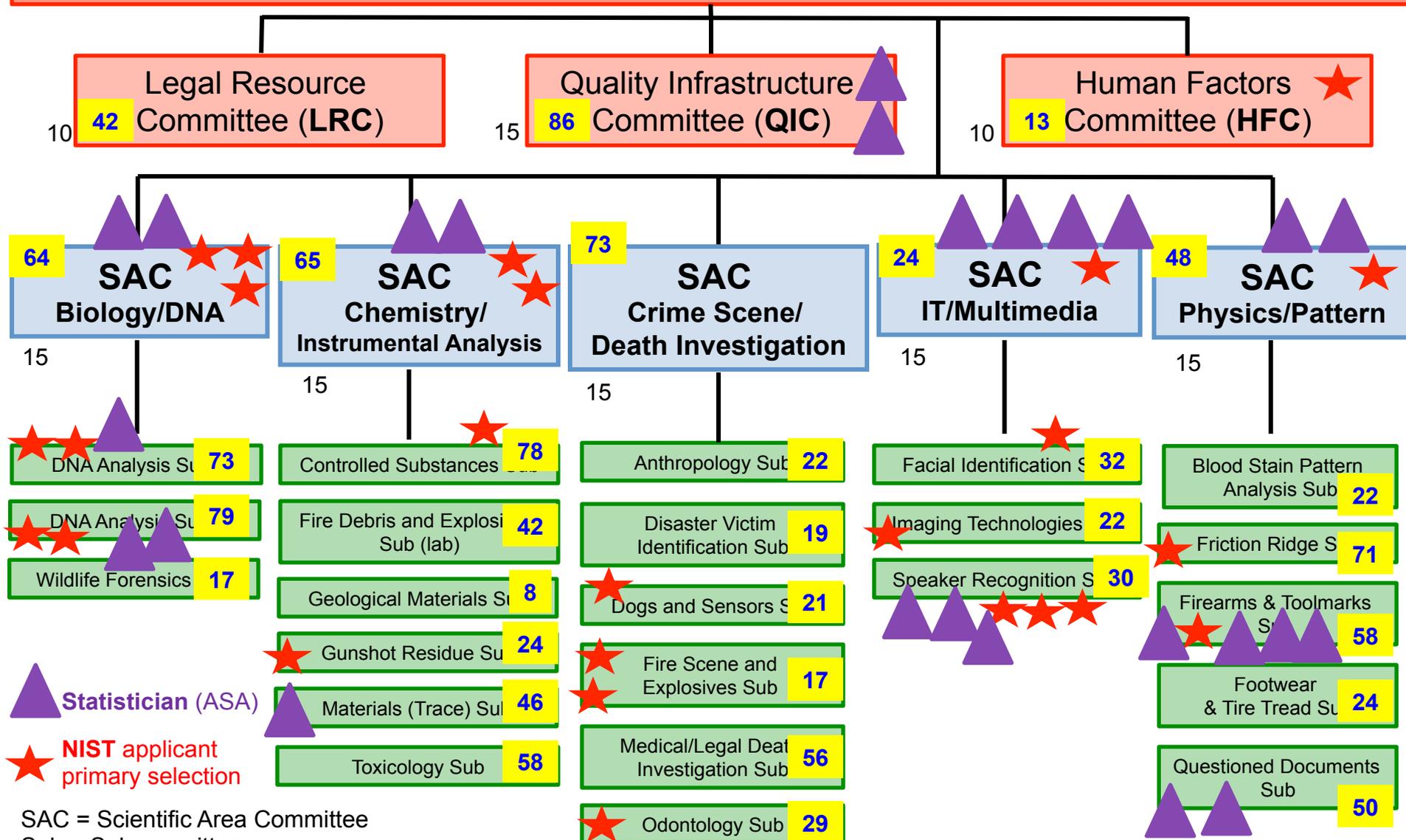
## Job Classification

- Attorney
- Educator/Trainer
- Judge
- Other
- Practitioner
- Quality Assurance Manager
- R&D Technology Partner
- Researcher

**# statisticians (ASA) = 25**

# Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

## Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

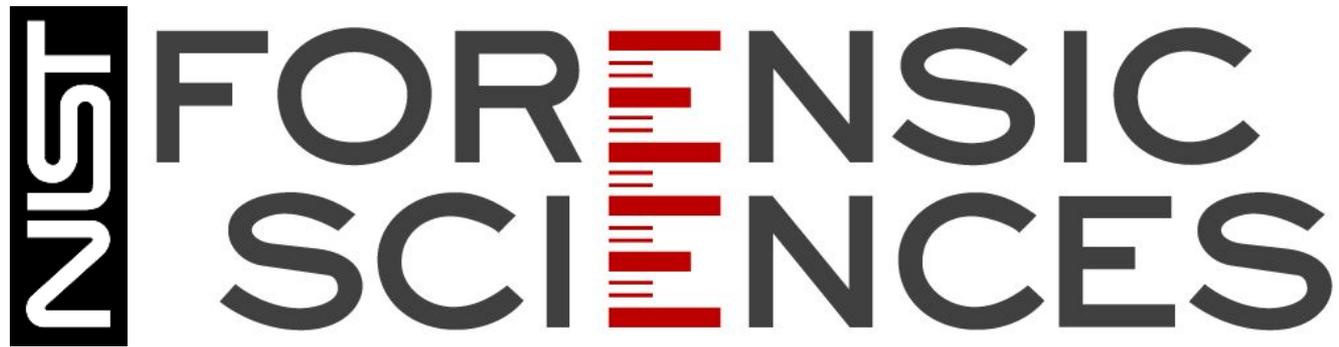


**1,313 Applicants** and their primary selections as of May 12, 2014

# Next Steps - Timeline for 2014

- Appoint FSSB in **May**
- Appoint LRC, QIC, HFC membership and SAC leadership in **June**
- First SAC meetings to select Subcommittee leadership in **August**
- Conduct OSAC training virtually via webinar in **Sept/Oct**
- Hold in-person meeting between **mid-November and January**





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

# NIST Centers of Excellence Program

**This Program will assist NIST in building new capacity and competencies to carryout our mission**

- In 2013 Congress provided NIST with the authority and the funds to establish a new tool for very rapidly augmenting existing and/or acquiring new competencies needed to address emerging areas of national priority



**Broadly defined, the objectives of the Centers are to:**

- Provide an interdisciplinary environment in which NIST, academia, and industry can collaborate in pursuing research focused on innovations in measurement science and development of new technology focused on emerging areas of national need
- Foster expanded development of expertise in measurement science and its role in innovation through the education and training of scientists and engineers
- Enhance technical innovation through earlier alignment of measurement science with emerging and innovative new fields of research
- Further expand NIST's Laboratory Program's footprint beyond our Gaithersburg and Boulder campuses

# NIST Centers of Excellence

- **First of these new “Centers of Excellence” is focused on Advanced Materials**
  - Center for Hierarchical Materials Design (CHiMaD)
    - NIST, Northwestern, University of Chicago, Argonne
- **Later this year, NIST plans to issue RFPs for establishment of two additional CoEs**
  - One to be focused on Forensic Science
  - Press Release signaling this intention and soliciting proposals is imminent
- **We would welcome the Commission’s input with respect to specific areas of focus for the Forensic Center**

# NIST Forensic Center of Excellence

## Possible Focus Areas

- **Cognitive Bias:** Establish the limits and measures of performance and address the impact of sources of variability and potential bias. The Center would address the forensic disciplines that rely on subjective assessments of matching characteristics.
- **Pattern Evidence:** Development of objective comparison methods that would ultimately provide a measurement of similarity and confidence limits in; firearm/toolmark evidence, fingerprint/latent prints, shoe/tire tread impressions, and in the future blood spatter patterns, and shooting trajectory/reconstruction.
- **Other?**

# 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/  
Instrumental Analysis

**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

Disaster Victim  
Identification Sub

Dogs and Sensors Sub

Fire Scene and  
Explosives Sub

Medical/Legal Death  
Investigation Sub

Odontology Sub

Facial Identification Sub

Imaging Technologies Sub

Speaker Recognition Sub

Blood Stain Pattern  
Analysis Sub

Friction Ridge Sub

Firearms & Toolmarks  
Sub

Footwear  
& Tire Tread Sub

Questioned Documents  
Sub

SAC = Scientific Area Committee  
Sub = Subcommittee

March 18, 2014