International Association for Identification
San Antonio, TX
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Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science (OSAC)

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Disclaimer

Opinions provided in this presentation are mine and not necessarily those of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the US Department of Commerce, nor the US Government.
OSAC Objective and Structure

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.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) devised a multi-level organization, the OSAC, consisting of five Scientific Area Committees (SACs) which report to a Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB).
Agenda

• FY18 and FY19 OSAC Budget Updates
• OSAC 2.0 Update
• OSAC Operations – All Hands Meetings - Nov/Dec 2018 and July 2019
• Federal Alignment of Forensic Science Research Needs
• Staying Informed

565 Experts at OSAC All Hands Meeting in Leesburg, VA
OSAC Budget – FY2018

FY2018 Federal Omnibus Budget signed into law on March 23, 2018 by President Trump

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Scientific and Technical Research Services (STRS) Funds*

Organization of Scientific Area Committees = $3,000,000

*Now NIST STRS Funds, no longer transferred by DOJ
OSAC Budget – FY2019 (Proposed)

“DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2019”
(Senate Report Language, accompanying S.3072)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

“Forensic Sciences.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2018 amount for forensic science research. Additionally, the Committee provides $3,000,000 to support the Organization of 22 [sic] Scientific Area Committees and $1,000,000 to support technical merit evaluations previously funded by transfer from DOJ.”
(p. 21-22)
OSAC Budget – FY2019 (Proposed)

Questions about Support for Congressional Funding of OSAC?

IAI Members Can Contact your CFSO Representative:

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OSAC 2.0 – Update

- OSAC 1.0 was announced in February 2014
- NIST stated plans to administer OSAC on a temporary basis (3-5 years) until transfer to another independent organization (OSAC 2.0)
  - Insure scientific integrity
  - Maintain financial stability
- Request for Information (RFI) – August 2017
OSAC 2.0 – Update

Request for Information on the Development of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science 2.0

A Notice by the National Institute of Standards and Technology on 08/30/2017

AGENCY:
National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION:
Notice; request for information.

SUMMARY:
The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) established the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science in 2013 as part of a larger effort to strengthen forensic science in the United States. NIST has primary responsibility to support

55 responses were received and published in the Federal Register in 2017
OSAC 2.0 – Update

NIST meeting this summer with boards of 6 professional forensic science organizations
OSAC 2.0 – Update

• NIST presented updates to FSSB – June 2018
• Feedback from professional forensic science organization meetings will be compiled
• NIST will share with FSSB again later this year
OSAC Operations – All Hands Meetings

- **November 5-8, 2018 – Houston, TX**
  - Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis SAC + 6 Subcommittees and Crime Scene/Death Investigation SAC + 7 Subcommittees

- **December 11-14, 2018 – Phoenix, AZ**
  - Biology/DNA SAC + 3 Subs, Physics/Pattern Interpretation SAC + 5 Subcommittees, Digital/Multimedia SAC + 4 Subcommittees and Resource Committees

- **July 9-12, 2019 – Charlotte, NC or Orlando, FL or Ft. Lauderdale, FL (Tentative)**
  - Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis SAC + 6 Subcommittees, Crime Scene/Death Investigation SAC + 7 Subcommittees and Resource Committees

- **July 23-26, 2019 – Charlotte, NC or Orlando, FL or Ft. Lauderdale, FL (Tentative)**
  - Biology/DNA SAC + 3 Subcommittees, Physics/Pattern Interpretation SAC + 5 Subcommittees, and Digital/Multimedia SAC + 4 Subcommittees
Federal Alignment of FS Research Needs

- OSAC publishes Forensic Science Research Needs for
  - Each forensic science discipline (25 OSAC Subcommittees)
  - Posted on OSAC website from all 25 Subcommittees
- OSAC currently has listed **103 Research Needs** with links to supporting documentation
  - [https://www.nist.gov/topics/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/osac-research-and-development-needs](https://www.nist.gov/topics/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science/osac-research-and-development-needs)
- NIJ R&D solicitations all point to NIJ FS TWG and to OSAC published Forensic Science Research Needs
A. Program Description

Overview

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks proposals for basic or applied research and development projects. An NIJ forensic science research and development grant supports a discrete, specified, circumscribed project that will: (1) increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice, or (2) lead to the production of useful material(s), device(s), system(s), or method(s) that have the potential for forensic application. The intent of this program is to direct the findings of basic scientific research; research and development in broader scientific fields applicable to forensic science; and ongoing forensic science research toward the development of highly-discriminating, accurate, reliable, cost-effective, and rapid methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes. The forensic science operational needs discussed at NIJ’s FY 2015 Forensic Science TWG meeting may be found on NIJ.gov, and are intended to assist in proposal development. Additional research needs of the forensic science community can be found at the Organization of Scientific Area Committees website.
Staying Informed

OSAC Monthly Standards Bulletin (online)
Staying Informed

OSAC
In Brief
(members)

In Brief... July 2018
Staying Informed

OSAC Quarterly Newsletter (online)
Staying Informed

OSAC Annual Reports (online)
Staying Informed

• Receive the OSAC Quarterly Newsletter & latest announcements
  ➢ www.nist.gov/osac
  ➢ Click “Follow OSAC at NIST”

• View publicly available information
  ➢ OSAC Homepage: http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/index.cfm
  ➢ Apply for OSAC membership:
    • www.nist.gov/osac
    • Click on “Apply to Join OSAC” in the menu at the left
Questions?

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