HFC ‘Mission’

To serve as a resource to OSAC Members on issues related to human factors.
Most important instrument in Forensic Science

- The human mind!
The Rise of “Cognitive Forensics”

...cognitive research is ... making important contributions to [forensic science] The challenge for our profession is to encourage cognitive scientists to assist us...

Human Factors
Committee Members

William C. Thompson, Ph.D., J.D., Professor emeritus of Criminology, Psychological Science, and Law, University of California Irvine, Committee Chair

Thomas David Albright, Ph.D., Professor, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies

Hal R. Arkes, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, emeritus, Ohio State University

Deborah Davis, Ph.D., Professor, University of Nevada, Reno

John F. Holloway, Associate Dean and Exec. Dir., Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice, University of Pennsylvania
Human Factors Committee Members

Richard Lempert, Ph.D., J.D., Distinguished University Professor of Law, and Sociology, emeritus, University of Michigan

Erin Morris, Ph.D., Behavioral Sciences Research Analyst, Los Angeles County Public Defender

D. Michael Risinger, J.D., Professor of Law, emeritus, Seton Hall University School of Law

Dan Simon, J.D. Professor of Law and Psychology, University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, and Department of Psychology

Affiliates
HFC Activities

- Review and comment on proposed standards
- Work with Subcommittees on standards development
- Provide background; briefing on issues
  -- Presentations; discussions
  -- Bibliographies
  -- Academic Publications
  -- Possible OSAC Technical Publication
Special Concerns

--Reducing the potential for bias
--Assessing and improving examiner performance
--Improving communication with lay audiences
Bias

• Identifying risks
• Analyzing “task-relevance”
• Proposing mitigation procedures
• Sharing examples of good practices
• Engaging with labs on research
Publications by HFC Members and Affiliates on Management of Bias


• Gardner, Kelley, Murrie & Blaisdell, Do evidence submission forms expose latent print examiners to task-irrelevant information? Forensic Science International (April 2019).

Assessing Examiner Performance

• Why do it?
  • Validation, quality assurance, training

• HFC Activities
  • Standards development; background briefings
  • Engaging with labs on research

Proposed Technical Publication: Validation and Performance Testing in Forensic Science

• Don’t Panic (NOT A STANDARD!!!!!!)

• Merely tips and suggestions
  • Design, methods, analysis and reporting of research;
  • Data gathering within labs

• Why do it?
  • Validation; quality assurance; training

• Engagement: OSAC-wide

• What if we don’t want to do it?
Developing Standards for Reporting: HFC Activities

• Sharing Information
• Promoting Research & Publication
  • Interactions with CSAFE, labs, research community
  • Academic publications
• Developing Principles for Reporting
  • Justifiability
  • Transparency
  • Understandability


Other Issues for HFC?

• Vicarious trauma
• Negative evidence
• Informed consent
• Personnel selection
• Stress, fatigue and performance
• Forensic ergonomics
• You tell us...

HFC, Annotated Bibliography on Secondary Trauma (HFC OSAC Website)
We’re here to help...
Thank you

https://www.nist.gov/topics/organization-scientific-area-committees-forensic-science