<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OSAC Membership</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>550+ Members</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expertise</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Science Landscape in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>409 Federal State Local Crime Laboratories</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88% accredited (as of December 31, 2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14,300 full time personnel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18,000+ Law Enforcement Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,400+ Medical Examiner/Coroners Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,300+ Prosecutor Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000+ Public Defenders Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population of 327M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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**ALL VOLUNTEERS**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 Resource Committees</th>
<th>OSAC Committees</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>3 Resource Committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Factors</td>
<td>OSAC Committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Infrastructure</td>
<td>OSAC Committees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statistics**

**Task Group**

Statistician and/or Measurement Scientist appointed from each relevant OSAC unit
## OSAC Committees

### 5 Scientific Area Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Area</th>
<th>SAC Committees</th>
<th>Subcommittees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology/DNA</td>
<td>25 SAC</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime Scene/Death Investigation</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital/Multimedia</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics/Pattern Interpretation</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Composition

10/31/2018 Status
550+ members
325 affiliates
2600+ Applications

Employer Classification
Federal: 24%
State: 19%
Local: 18%
Academic: 19%
Private: 19%
FFRDC: 14%

Job Classification
Practitioner: 56%
Researcher: 17%
Educator: 10%
Other: 10%
Attorney: 2%
QA Manager: 2%
R&D Tech: 2%
Judge: 1%
What Does the FSSB Do?

- Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB) oversees the Scientific Area Committees and Subcommittees
- Establishes governance rules and policies to ensure the development of quality standards
- Encourages standards use in the provision of forensic science services
- Administers overall operation of the organization
- Approves standards for inclusion on the OSAC Registry
- Engages in all efforts related to forensic science standards
- Informs the forensic science community of research needs and gaps
• OSAC Registry serves as a trusted repository of high-quality, science-based standards and guidelines for forensic practice.

  • Criteria: standards and guidelines must have been developed using a **consensus-based process** and must pass the OSAC review of **technical merit** by forensic practitioners, academic researchers, statisticians and measurement scientists.

  • Elevating a standard to the official OSAC Registry is an endorsement of the high quality of the document and encourages its adoption by all relevant agencies and practitioners.

  • At this time, OSAC does not have authority to enforce standards.

  • The ultimate goal of OSAC and its 550-plus members is to facilitate the development of science-based standards for each of 25 distinct forensic science disciplines and to promote their widespread adoption.
Standards on the Registry and in Progress

- OSAC Registry (15+)
  - Approved by OSAC – highest level of vetting
- OSAC drafted standards published by an SDO (20+)
  - Drafted by OSAC, completed SDO consensus process – may have changed since being released by OSAC, but is a published standard
- OSAC drafted standards sent to an SDO (73)
  - Drafted by OSAC with input from resource committees, approved by SAC and send to SDO
- Under Development: OSAC drafted standards working through OSAC development process (250+)
  - Working draft document inside the OSAC development process (not publicly available)
OSAC Standards Implementation Pathways
OSAC Standards Implementation Pathways

- Self Adoption
- Professional Associations
- Criminal Justice (Courts)
- Accrediting Bodies
- Funding Bodies (Carrot)
- Funding Bodies (Stick)
- Others
EVERY committee has identified a research need in their discipline.

OSAC-identified R&D needs were referenced and supported through NIJ Forensic Science R&D Solicitations.

Enriching Interdisciplinary Projects across the disciplines.

Identify particular strengths and weaknesses - of all disciplines - so that we may chart an effective path forward.
Roadmaps
Reminder of Project Objectives

• Recognized that OSAC should have a plan before starting work
• Obtain a high-level view of work underway
  • Standards in development
  • Standards to be developed
• Goals
  • See if there is duplication of topics across disciplines
  • Identify areas where interdisciplinary standards should be developed
  • Ascertain progress on Organizational Priorities by Subcommittees
  • Possibly halt work on certain topics
  • Redirect Subcommittees priorities as appropriate
Analysis – # of Standards by SAC
Challenges

- Conclusion Scales in the Pattern Disciplines
- Terminology
  - not all disciplines agree on same definition for many terms
- Why the OSAC preferred terms are important
- Quantifying “Significant Differences” in Trace Disciplines
- Bringing more rigorous validation to many forensic disciplines
- Addressing for whom the Standards should be written
- Good Enough vs. Perfect
  - “living documents”
- Uncertainty in Qualitative Identifications
We still have work to do

**Within OSAC**

- Registry Approvals
- Improved the Registry Approval Process within OSAC
- Promote the adoption of OSAC Standards
- Revamping the Organizational Priorities

**Outside OSAC**

- Continue to work alongside our partners, e.g., Federal offices, SDOs, practitioners, and other stakeholders
- Outreach for the Implementation of OSAC Standards to forensic service providers, associations, criminal justice system, and Federal, state, and local offices
What are OSAC’s Highest Priorities?

- Short-term and/or Long-Term Strategic Plans or Roadmaps for the FSSB and SACs
- Reprioritize the mission of the member subcommittees
- Engage with our OSAC members, stakeholders, forensic science industry for amplified impact
- Increase the standards approved for the OSAC Registry
Email: forensics@nist.gov

www.nist.gov/osac
Thank you