



## OSAC Research Needs Assessment Form

**Title of research need:** Interaction of Blood and Fabrics

**Keywords:** Blood, bloodstain pattern analysis, textiles, fabrics, clothing

**Submitting subcommittee(s):** Bloodstain Pattern Analysis **Date Approved:** 01/29/16

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

### Background information:

1. Description of research need:

SEE ALSO ATTACHED ADDENDUM for additional details.  
Current limited research indicates variability in the way blood interacts with textiles in particular fabrics, affecting resultant bloodstain appearance. This has implications for interpreting bloodstains on clothing. Past research indicates the appearance of bloodstains can be affected by fabric features such as type (synthetic or natural), absorbency, laundering, chemical treatments and construction (knitted or woven). Further research is needed to better understand how blood interacts with these fabric properties in order to relate the visual appearance of a bloodstain to its

2. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need:

- Cho Y et al. Quantitative bloodstain analysis: Differentiation of contact transfer patterns versus spatter patterns on fabric via microscopic inspection. Forensic Science International. 2015;249:233-40.
- de Castro TC et al. Systematic investigation of drip stains on apparel fabrics: The effects of prior-laundering, fibre content and fabric structure on final stain appearance. Forensic Science International. 2015;250:98-109.
- de Castro TC et al. Interpreting the formation of bloodstains on selected apparel fabrics. Int J Legal Med. 2013 Jan;127(1):251-8
- Miles HF et al. The influence of fabric surface characteristics on satellite bloodstain morphology. Science & Justice. 2014;54(4):262-6.

3a. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

Research would allow the analyst to understand and consider the limitations associated with bloodstains on textiles examined at the scene or in the laboratory. This would assist in the classification of the most probative patterns or bloodstains. For example, the ability to successfully distinguish transfer from spatter bloodstains can have serious implications in case work.

3b. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

The research would provide underpinning scientific data that will further the understanding of bloodstain and bloodstain pattern formation on textiles such as clothing, upholstery and other fabrics. The majority of accepted interpretation practices are based on blood interacting with non-porous surfaces. These practices do not necessarily apply to certain porous surfaces such as textiles. Great variability exists in the properties of textiles, such as weave, knit, wettability, wicking properties, texture, and pigment. These properties influence the appearance of the resulting bloodstains. Other fabric conditions such as extent of wear (age of clothing), influence of washing, and surface treatments also influence resulting bloodstains.

3c. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

A better understanding of the limitations and implications of interactions between textiles and blood would provide the criminal justice system a more empirical and accurate and less subjective interpretation of a commonly encountered class of evidence.

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

I	<b>Major gap</b> in current knowledge	<b>Minor gap</b> in current knowledge
<b>No or limited</b> current research is being conducted	<b>I</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>Existing</b> current research is being conducted	<b>II</b>	<b>IV</b>

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

Subcommittee

Approval date:

January 29, 2016

*(Approval is by majority vote of subcommittee. Once approved, forward to SAC.)*

SAC

1. Does the SAC agree with the research need? Yes

2. Does the SAC agree with the status assessment? Yes

*If no, what is the status assessment of the SAC:*

Approval date:

17-Mar-2016

*(Approval is by majority vote of SAC. Once approved, forward to NIST for posting.)*