NIST Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

Mark D. Stolorow
John Paul Jones II
Karen Reczek

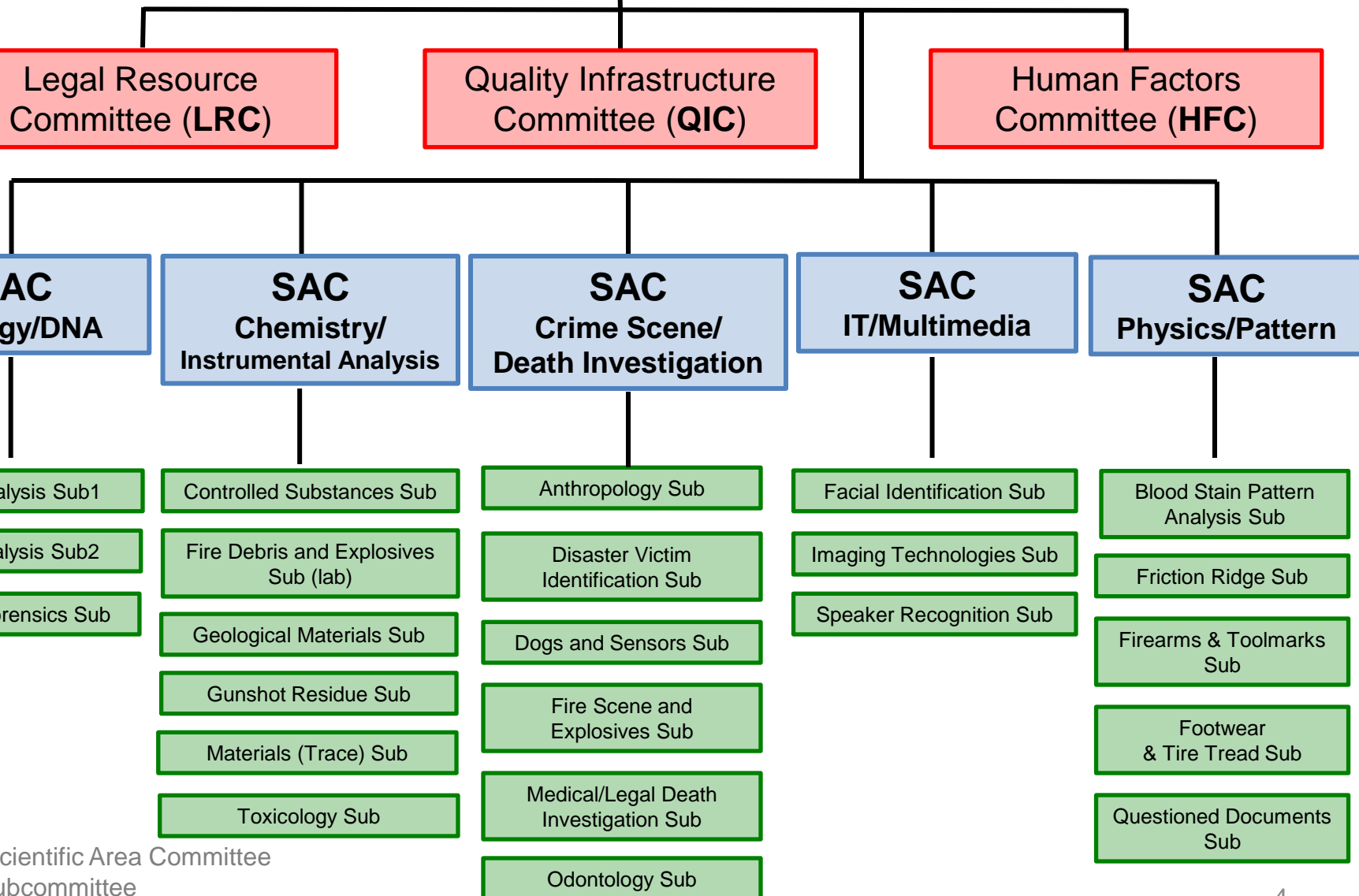**Inaugural FSSB Virtual Meeting**
July 7, 2014

Agenda

- FSSB Introductions
- OSAC Overview, Mission and Vision
- FSSB Roles & Responsibilities
- Anticipated Time Commitments of FSSB Members
- Implementation Timeline
- Pending Contract Actions at NIST
- General Process for Approving Standards
- FSSB Officers Discussion
- Priority Areas for FSSB to Address in the Future

FSSB Introductions - Self

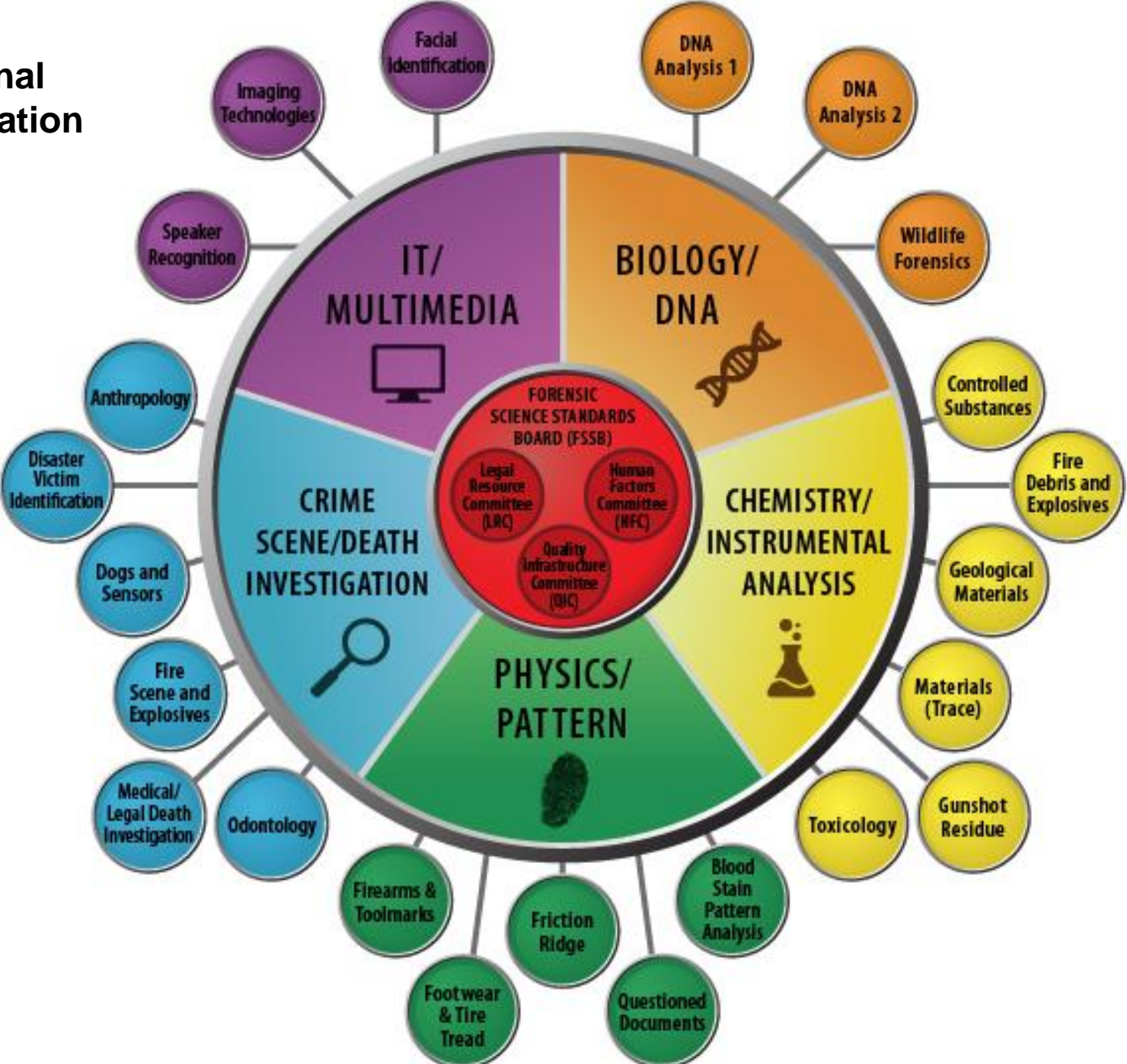|	Title	Name	Affiliation
1	Professional - AAFS	Barry K Logan	NMS Labs/Fredric Reiders Family Renaissance Foundation
2	Professional - AFTE	Mark A. Keisler	Indiana State Police Laboratory
3	Professional - ASCLD	Jeremy Triplett	Kentucky State Police
4	Professional - IAI	Steven Lee Johnson	Ideal Innovations, Inc.
5	Professional - NAME	Andrew Michael Baker	Hennepin County Medical Examiner, Hennepin County, Minnesota
6	Professional - SOFT	Laurel J Farrell	ASCLD/LAB
7	SAC Biology Chair	George Herrin, Jr.	Georgia Bureau of Investigation-Division of Forensic Sciences
8	SAC Chemistry Chair	Scott R. Oulton	US Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration
9	SAC Crime Scene Chair	Gregory George Davis	University of Alabama at Birmingham
10	SAC IT Chair	Richard W. Vorder Bruegge	Federal Bureau of Investigation
11	SAC Physics Chair	R. Austin Hicklin	Noblis
12	z - Researcher 1	Anil K. Jain	Michigan State University
13	z - Researcher 2	Douglas H. Ubelaker	Smithsonian institution
14	z - Researcher 3	Joe Francisco	University of Nebraska Lincoln (American Chemical Society President 2009-10)
15	z - Researcher 4	Karen Kafadar	University of Virginia (after 8/26/2014)
16	z - Researcher 5	Sarah Kerrigan	Sam Houston State University
17	Ex-Officio NIST	Mark Stolorow	NIST

Traditional Hierarchal Organizational Chart

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

- Legal Resource Committee (**LRC**)
- Quality Infrastructure Committee (**QIC**)
- Human Factors Committee (**HFC**)

SAC Biology/DNA
- DNA Analysis Sub1
- DNA Analysis Sub2
- Wildlife Forensics Sub

SAC Chemistry/ Instrumental Analysis
- Controlled Substances Sub
- Fire Debris and Explosives Sub (lab)
- Geological Materials Sub
- Gunshot Residue Sub
- Materials (Trace) Sub
- Toxicology Sub

SAC Crime Scene/ Death Investigation
- Anthropology Sub
- Disaster Victim Identification Sub
- Dogs and Sensors Sub
- Fire Scene and Explosives Sub
- Medical/Legal Death Investigation Sub
- Odontology Sub

SAC IT/Multimedia
- Facial Identification Sub
- Imaging Technologies Sub
- Speaker Recognition Sub

SAC Physics/Pattern
- Blood Stain Pattern Analysis Sub
- Friction Ridge Sub
- Firearms & Toolmarks Sub
- Footwear & Tire Tread Sub
- Questioned Documents Sub

SAC = Scientific Area Committee
Sub = Subcommittee

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www.nist.gov/forensics/upload/orgchart3-18-14-new.pdf

OSAC Functional Organization Chart

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FORENSIC SCIENCES

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Unique Mission within the Federal Government ...
to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing

measurement science, standards, and technology

in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life

- **Deep research expertise underpins technological innovation** – e.g., new materials, advanced clinical diagnostics and therapies, advanced communications, forensic science etc.

- **Non-regulatory status** enables an important role as a convener that facilitates collaboration between agencies of the Federal Government, industry, private organizations, and state and local governments

NIST as Convener/Facilitator in Standards Development

- **Convened and formed National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM)**
  - In 1905, the National Bureau of Standards called for a meeting of the states to discuss the lack of uniform standards and in many instances, a lack of regulatory oversight. The participants decided to meet again the next year marking the birth of the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM).
  - **Provided standards and guidance for State regulators**
  - **Transitioned NCWM to the private sector**

# NIST as Convener/Facilitator in Standards Development

- **Convened and formed Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP)**
  - The goal of SGIP is to provide a framework for coordinating all Smart Grid stakeholders in an effort to accelerate standards harmonization and advance the interoperability of Smart Grid devices and systems. The public-private partnership, created in November 2009.
  - SGIP was transitioned to a non-profit, public/private funding model in 2013 with the launch of SGIP 2.0.

Background: Scientific Working Groups (SWGs)

- Some forensic disciplines had their own scientific working groups, while others did not
- Some received travel support for their work, some did not
- Very little sharing of best practices between SWGs, and very few common resources
- Documents that were developed were of variable quality and did not share common definitions
- Inconsistent training, standards, protocols, ……

Individual SWGs vs. Organized Effort
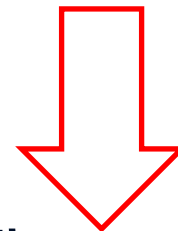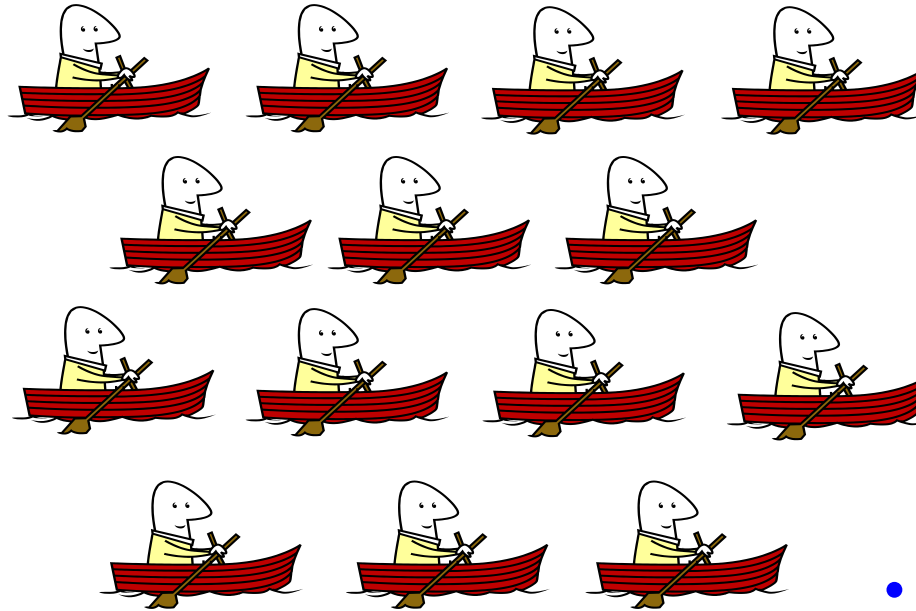
funded support
enforceable standards
unified effort
greater influence and impact

OSAC

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac.cfm
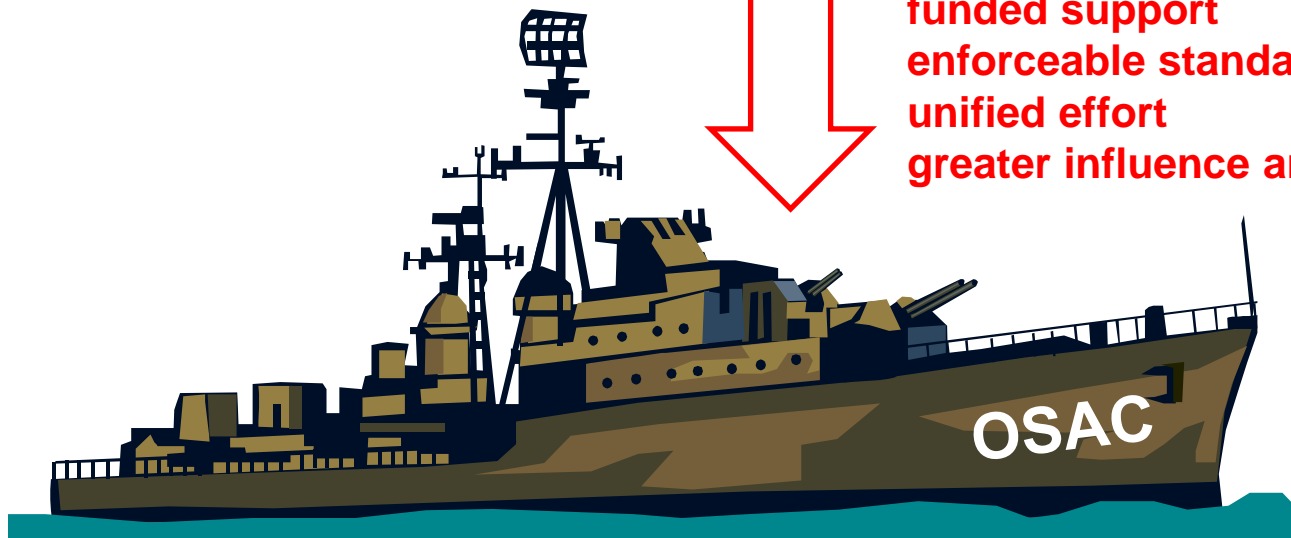
- Formerly called "guidance groups"

- Information collected and shared
  - SWG chairs (June 18, 2013)
  - Notice of Inquiry (Sept 27 to Nov 26, 2013)
  - NCFS (Feb 4, 2014)
  - AAFS and webcast (Feb 18, 2014)
  - ASCLD (May 6, 2014)
  - NCFS (May 13, 2014)

Notice of Inquiry (NOI) Responses Received

In general, **the responses support the new structure.**

- **82 responses received**
  - 12 SWGs commented
  - 15 other groups including ASCLD, CAC, CFSO, IAI, Innocence Project, NACDL
  - More than a dozen labs and a half dozen companies
  - Individuals from 21 states and four countries (UK, Canada, Germany, and Australia)
- Public posting of comments on NIST.gov/forensics
- Highlights:
  - *Practitioner voice should be a major player*
  - *Strongly urged to include all forensic science disciplines*
  - *Concern about funding (no "pay-to-play" fees)*
  - *Interest in consistent and open support for web postings*
  - *Interest in face-to-face and virtual meetings*
  - *Encouragement to include existing professional organizations*

OSAC Launch

- February 4, 2014 announcement to NCFS

- The OSAC will be a collaborative body of more than 600 forensic science practitioners and other experts who represent all levels of the government, academia and industry.

- Establishing OSAC to strengthen the nation's use of forensic science by:
  - supporting the development and promulgation of forensic science **consensus documentary standards** and guidelines
  - determining each forensic discipline's **research and measurement standards needs**
  - ensuring that a **sufficient scientific basis** exists for each discipline

OSAC Objective

To create a sustainable uniform organizational infrastructure that produces consensus documentary standards and guidelines to improve quality and consistency of work in the forensic science community.

Department of Justice

NIST

Policy focused

Limited Term (FACA)

Attorney General

Recommendations

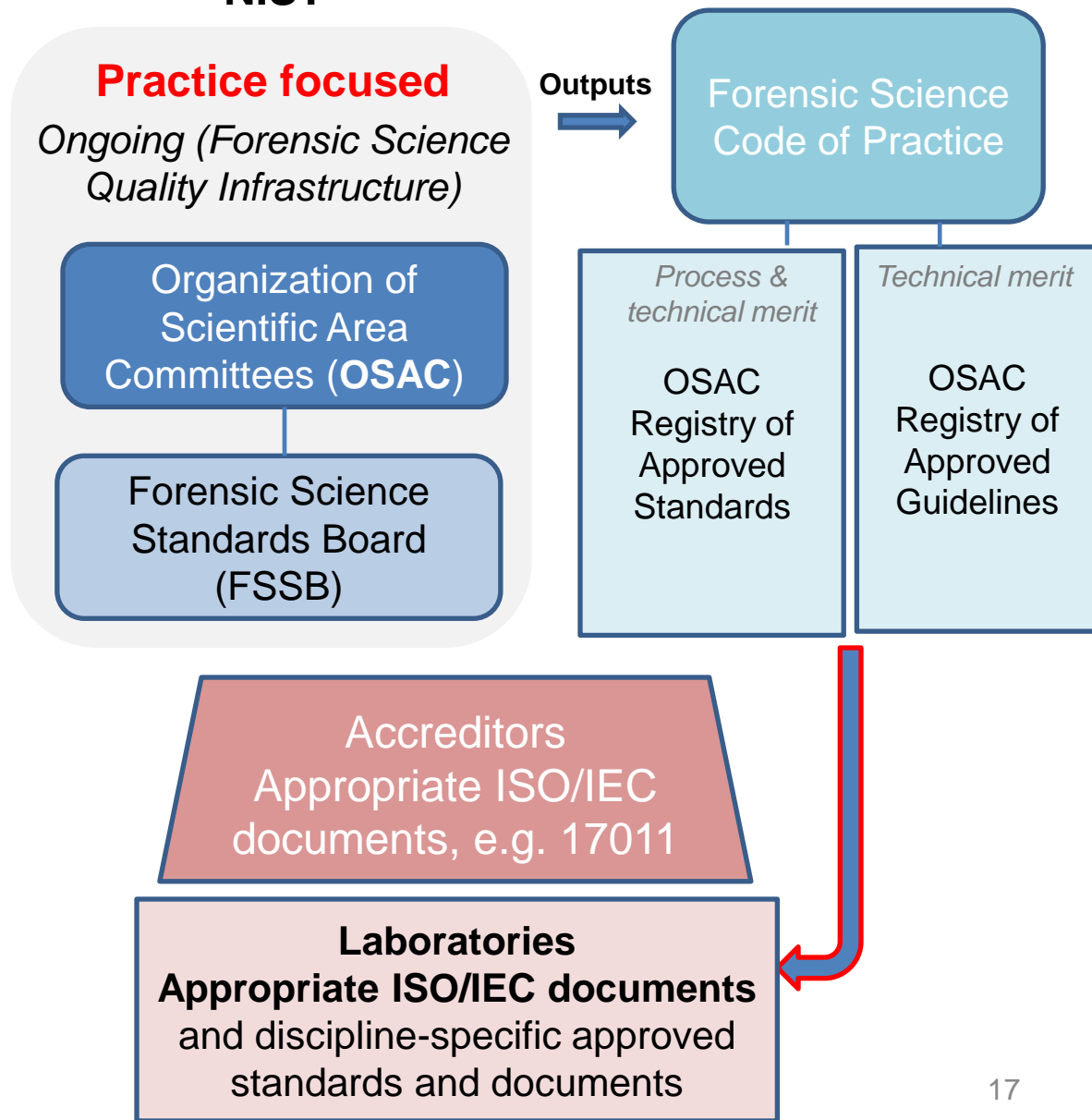National Commission on Forensic Science (**NCFS**)

Practice focused

Ongoing (Forensic Science Quality Infrastructure)

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (**OSAC**)

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

NIST

Practice focused

Ongoing (Forensic Science Quality Infrastructure)

Outputs

Forensic Science Code of Practice

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (**OSAC**)

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

Process & technical merit

OSAC Registry of Approved Standards

Technical merit

OSAC Registry of Approved Guidelines

Accreditors
Appropriate ISO/IEC documents, e.g. 17011

Laboratories
Appropriate ISO/IEC documents
and discipline-specific approved standards and documents

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Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC)

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- Speaker Recognition Sub

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- Friction Ridge Sub
- Firearms & Toolmarks Sub
- Footwear & Tire Tread Sub
- Questioned Documents Sub

SAC = Scientific Area Committee
Sub = Subcommittee

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OSAC FSSB

- **FSSB composed of 17 members** including:
  - **5 SAC Chairs**
  - **6 representatives** of professional forensics organizations (AAFS, AFTE, ASCLD, IAI, NAME, SOFT)
  - **5 Members at large** from the research and measurement science communities
  - **1 NIST ex-officio**

- **Initial** selection of FSSB will be by NIST-DOJ leadership/membership committee

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OSAC Support

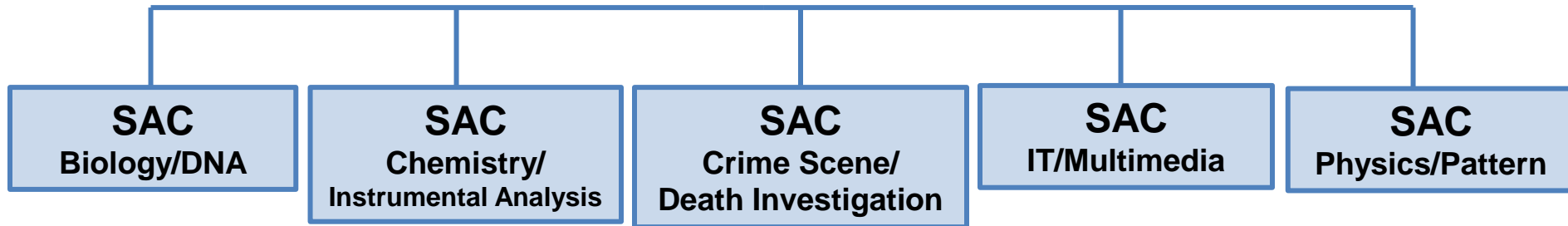| Forensic Science Standards Board (**FSSB**)		
Legal Resource Committee (**LRC**)	Quality Infrastructure Committee (**QIC**)	Human Factors Committee (**HFC**)

- **LRC** composed of up to **10 judges, lawyers, and legal experts who provide guidance about the legal ramifications** of forensic standards under development and input on presentation of forensic results to the legal system

- **QIC** composed of up to 15 standards experts, quality systems managers, laboratory managers, and accreditation and certification specialists who are **responsible for writing and updating the Forensic Science Code of Practice**

- **HFC** composed of up to 10 psychologists, quality systems managers, and usability experts who provide guidance on the influence of systems design on human performance and on ways to mitigate errors in complex tasks

- **Initial selection by NIST-DOJ leadership/membership committee**

Scientific Area Committees (SACs)

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SAC **Biology/DNA**	**SAC** **Chemistry/** **Instrumental Analysis**	**SAC** **Crime Scene/** **Death Investigation**	**SAC** **IT/Multimedia**	**SAC** **Physics/Pattern**

SAC = Scientific Area Committee

- **Sets priorities for subcommittee work** and enables a bigger picture view on topics like report wording and statistical analysis

- Recommends (to FSSB) creating, merging or abolishing subcommittees

- **SAC meetings will be open to the public** and agendas made available prior to meetings

SAC Membership

- **Each SAC is comprised of up to 15 members** including:
  - Subcommittee chairs
  - Representatives of professional forensic science organizations appropriate to the scientific area, examples include:
    - American Academy of Forensic Sciences - AAFS,
    - Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners - AFTE,
    - International Association for Identification - IAI,
    - National Association of Medical Examiners - NAME,
    - Society of Forensics Toxicologists - SOFT
  - Researchers
  - Measurement scientists (including statisticians, epidemiologists, etc.)
- Note: The Chair of the SAC cannot be a Subcommittee Chair.

- **Initial selection of SACs by NIST-DOJ leadership/ membership committee**

SAC Subcommittees

DNA Analysis Sub1	Controlled Substances Sub	Anthropology Sub	Facial Identification Sub	Blood Stain Pattern Analysis Sub
DNA Analysis Sub2	Fire Debris and Explosives Sub (lab)	Disaster Victim Identification Sub	Imaging Technologies Sub	Friction Ridge Sub
Wildlife Forensics Sub	Geological Materials Sub	Dogs and Sensors Sub	Speaker Recognition Sub	Firearms & Toolmarks Sub
	Gunshot Residue Sub	Fire Scene and Explosives Sub		Footwear & Tire Tread Sub
	Materials (Trace) Sub	Medical/Legal Death Investigation Sub		Questioned Documents Sub
	Toxicology Sub	Odontology Sub		

Where the real work will happen
Many aspects and participants may map to current SWGs

- **Develops and vets formal documents** to be submitted for approval by SAC (in case of guidelines) or SAC & FSSB (in case of standards)

- Communicates activities and progress to SACs

- Subcommittee deliberations are not public

Subcommittee Membership

- Each subcommittee has a **maximum membership of 20 voting members** (and up to 5 invited guests per meeting) - Distribution goal of:
  - **70% practitioner***
    - 20% federal,
    - 30% state & local,
    - 20% civil or other,
  - **20% researchers** (statisticians, certification specialists, epidemiologists, etc.), and
  - **10% R&D technology partners and providers**

- Initial Subcommittee members selected by SAC and FSSB then reviewed by DOJ/NIST

* Practitioner is defined as someone actively doing or managing casework

FSSB will Address Subcommittee Waiting List

- Forensic Art
- Polygraph
- Forensic Psychiatry
- Forensic Engineering
- Forensic Entomology
- Linguistics Evidence

OSAC Infrastructure

- Web-based infrastructure to manage all documents & online balloting/voting
- Enterprise Account to support virtual meetings – enabling all entities in OSAC to conduct virtual business.
- Funding for in-person meetings
- Concept to spin OSAC out of NIST in 3-5 years
  - May initially be with funding from NIST to the outside entity.
  - Must ensure good science and stability

NCFS & OSAC Differences

NCFS

- Federal Advisory Committee that advises the Attorney General

- Reports to Attorney General

- Develops policy

- Limited Duration

OSAC

- Not a Federal Advisory Committee

- Administered by NIST

- Develops discipline-specific practice standards and guidelines

- Indefinite Duration

Next NCFS Meeting: August 26-27, 2014 in Washington DC

What a NCFS Meeting Looks Like

37 Commissioners + DOJ/NIST Leadership Team
(Feb 3-4, 2014 with ~100 public attendees)

OSAC Highlights

Creating a quality infrastructure for forensic science with a connection to accreditation bodies

- Practitioner generated (forensic scientists)
- Catalog existing SWG documents for continued access – must not lose legacy value
- Courtroom connected (legal input)
- Scientifically valid (researchers)
- Standards enforcement (by accrediting bodies)

OSAC Vision

What Will OSAC "Success" look like in 5-10 years? *

- Forensic Science practitioners embrace change
- OSAC Forensic Registries of Standards and Guidelines become implemented in the practice of forensic science across all forensic disciplines in addition to DNA
- Prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges begin to use the Registries of Standards and Guidelines in direct and cross examinations of expert witnesses
- Judges and Juries routinely hear witnesses testify about how their analysis met current standards and scientific validity and openly describe the limitations of the tests in general and their interpretations in the specific case
- Significant forensic science research is finally well organized and well funded with influence from OSAC to define research priorities
- Standards enforcement by accrediting bodies finally becomes the rule rather than the exception

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FORENSIC SCIENCES
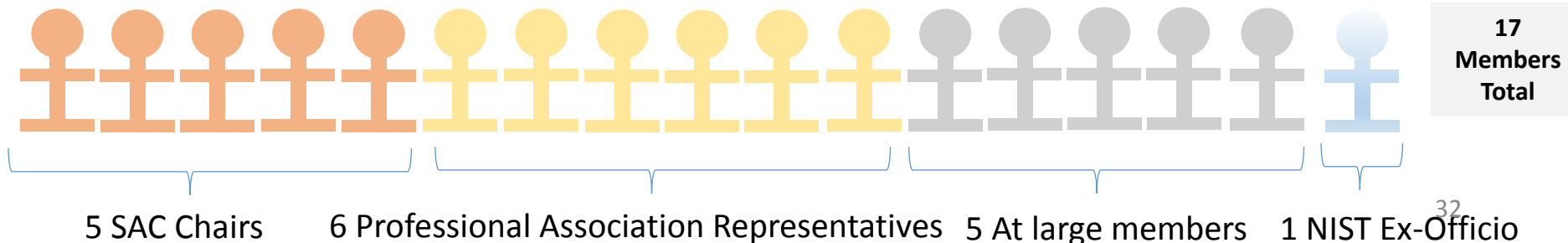
FSSB Roles & Responsibilities (1)

AUTHORITY

Oversees **SAC**, **Subcommittee** and **Resource Committee** Operations

MAJOR DUTIES

1. Approves of standards for inclusion in the *OSAC Registry of Approved Standards*
2. Maintains OSAC Bylaws and Operations Manual
3. Manages the appeals process for unresolved comment adjudication and membership matters
4. Ensures communication flow among SACs, the Forensic Science Standards Board and the forensic science community
5. Develops and updates balance requirements and other membership rules and processes, including the length of membership terms and possible creation of term limits
6. Liaise with Human Factors, Legal and Quality Infrastructure Committees

MEMBERSHIP

17 Members Total

5 SAC Chairs — 6 Professional Association Representatives — 5 At large members — 1 NIST Ex-Officio

FSSB Roles & Responsibilities (2)

- Website:
  http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osacroles.cfm#F

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NIST FORENSIC SCIENCES

Time Commitment of FSSB Board Members

- Quarterly meetings – may be virtual (1-2 days)
- Periodic virtual meetings to address pending issues (hours)
- Time commitment to review standards & other documents that require FSSB vote

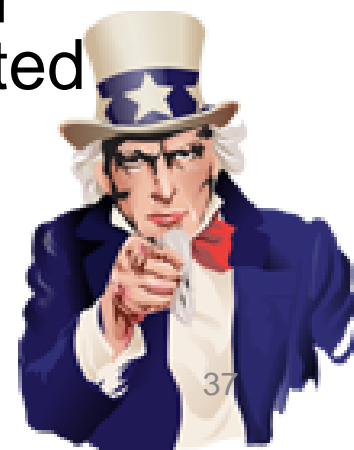# Time Commitment of SAC Chairs

- FSSB Board time commitments
- Two in-person SAC meetings
- Periodic virtual meetings to conduct SAC business
- Option to attend subcommittee meetings
- Time commitments to review guidelines, standards and other documents that require SAC vote

of Volunteers & Terms

- Self-nomination process:
  - **3 Committees** (approximately 35 people)
  - **5 SACs** – (approximately 75 people)
  - **23 Subcommittees** (approximately 400+ people)

- **OSAC needs between 500 and 600 subject matter experts representing a balance of experience and perspectives to serve on OSAC.**

- OSAC terms are for three years, although the initial appointees will serve terms of two, three or four years so that subsequent members are appointed on a staggered basis.

http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osacroles.cfm
https://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac-application.cfm

OSAC Applicants
as of 12 May 2014

All 50 states represented

Other countries (21 total; 56 individuals)

Australia (10)
Bangladesh (1)
Belarus (1)
Bosnia (1)
Brazil (1)
Canada (17)
China (1)
France (1)
Germany (2)
Israel (2)
Italy (1)
Korea (1)
Malaysia (1)
Nepal (1)
The Netherlands (1)
New Zealand (1)
Peru (1)
Singapore (2)
Switzerland (1)
Taiwan (1)
UK (8)
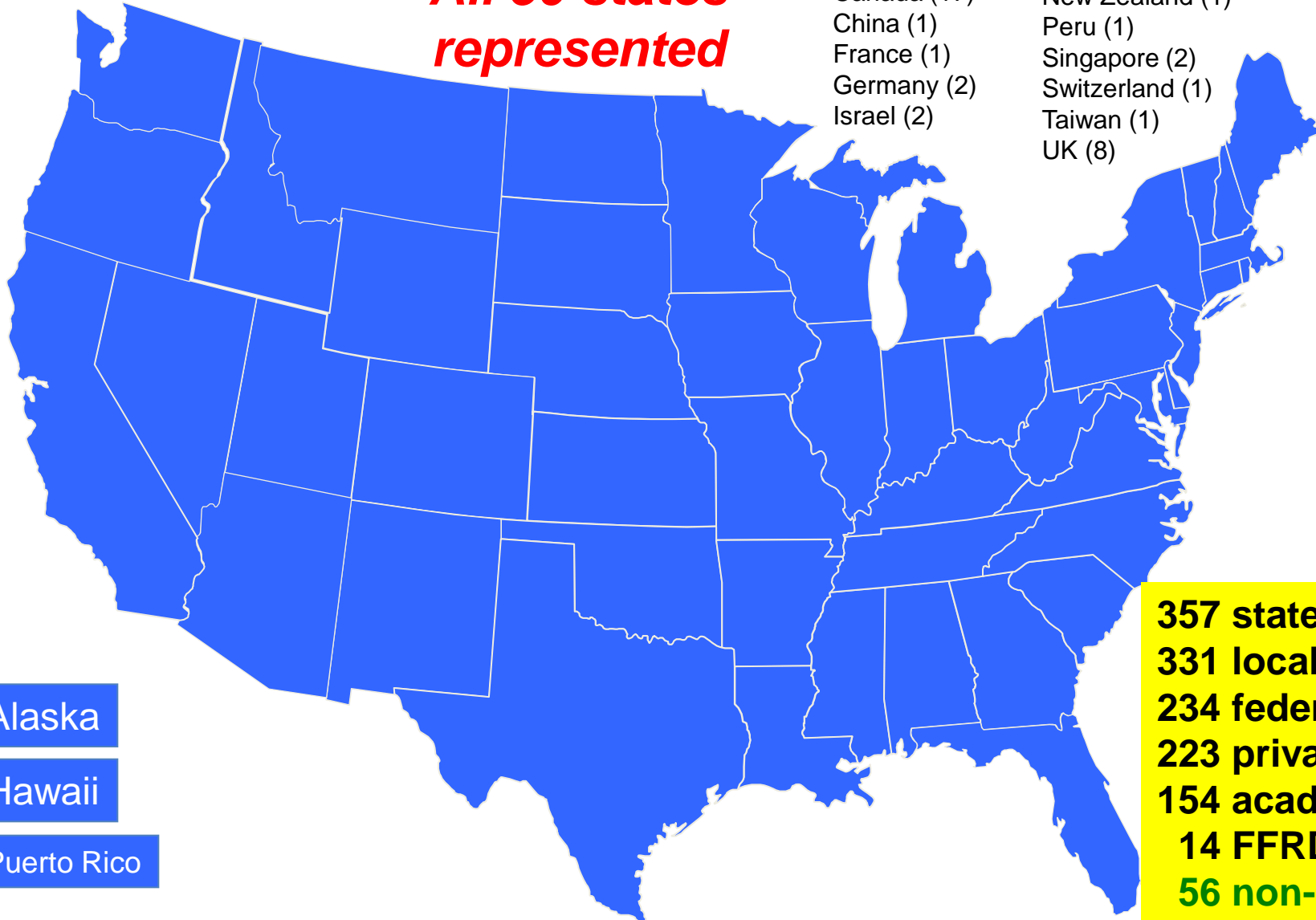
Alaska

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

Employer Classification

- Academic
- Federal Government
- FFRDC
- Local Government
- Private Sector
- State Government
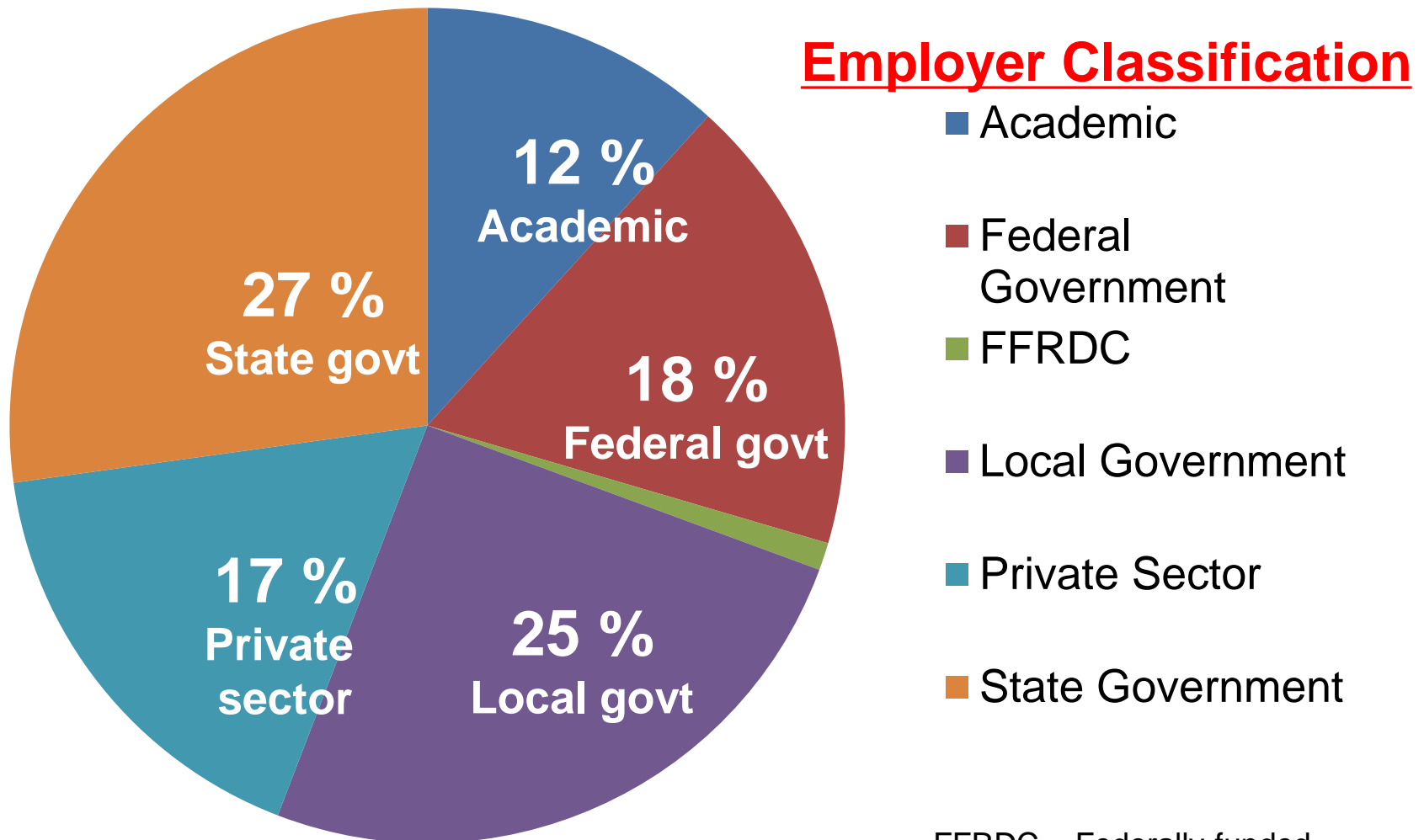
FFRDC = Federally-funded research and development center

Background of OSAC Applicants
(as of 12 May 2014)

1313 total

Job Classification

2 %

8 %

8 %

4 %

11 % "researcher"

65 % "practitioner"

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

statisticians (ASA) = 25

OSAC Application Count by Primary Selection

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

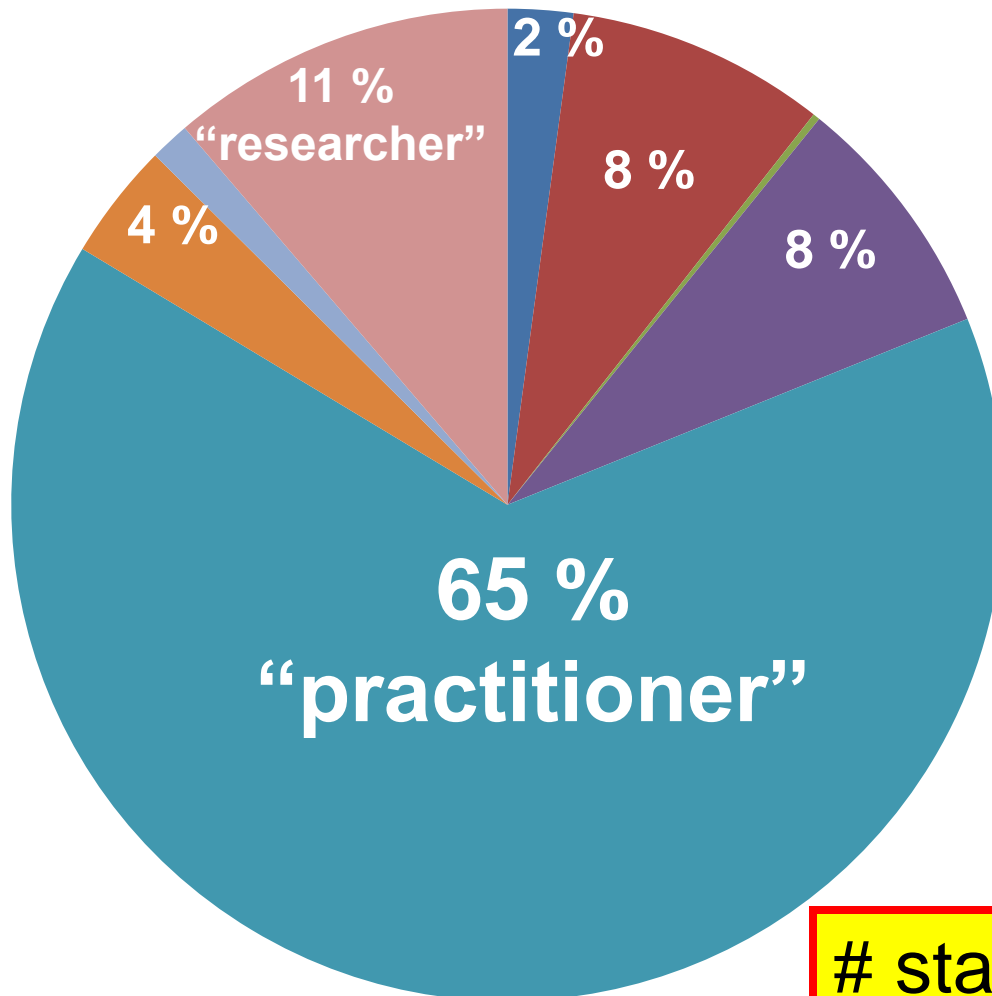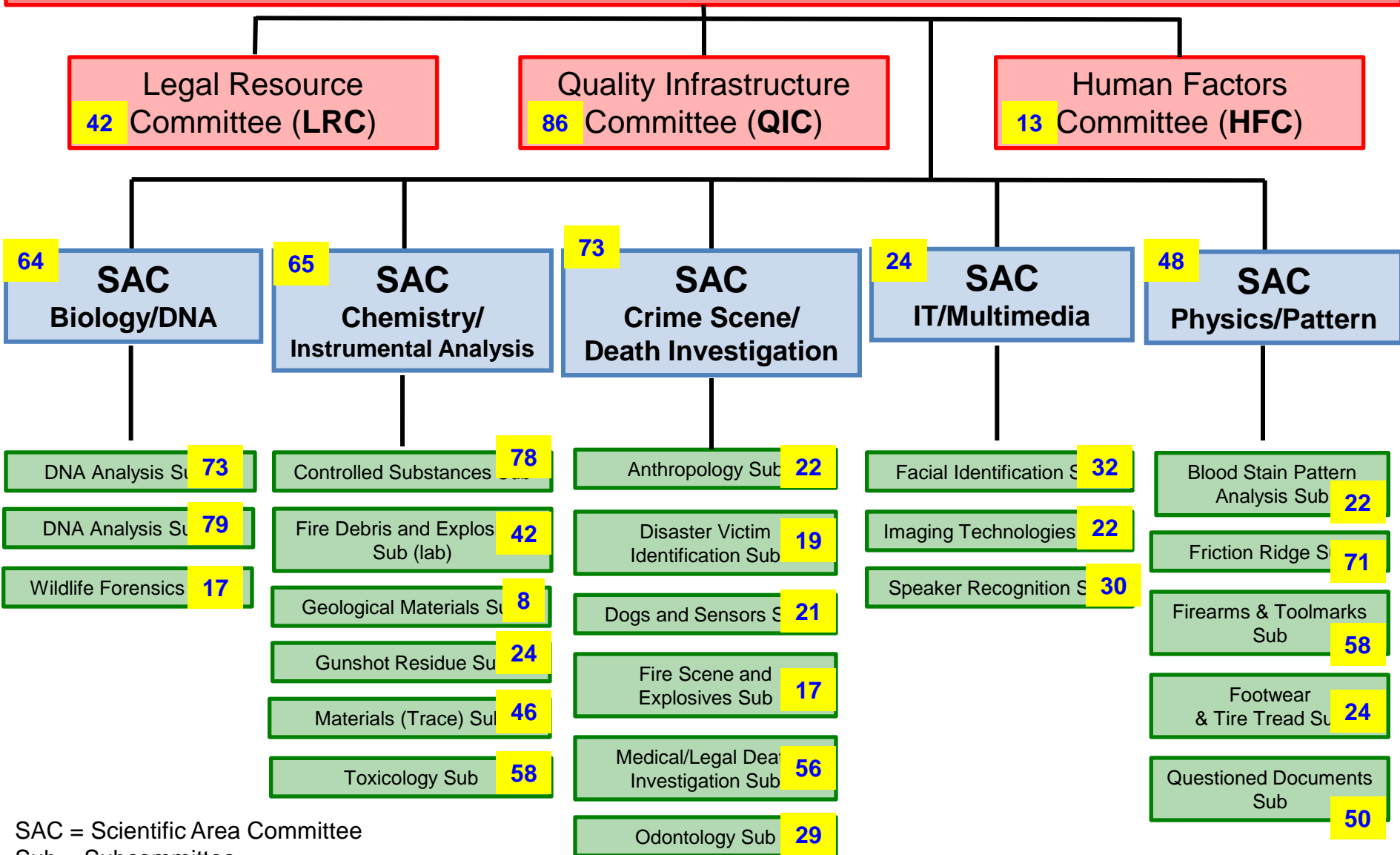|		
42 Legal Resource Committee (**LRC**)	**86** Quality Infrastructure Committee (**QIC**)	**13** Human Factors Committee (**HFC**)

64 SAC Biology/DNA

65 SAC Chemistry/ Instrumental Analysis

73 SAC Crime Scene/ Death Investigation

24 SAC IT/Multimedia

48 SAC Physics/Pattern

SAC Biology/DNA	SAC Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis	SAC Crime Scene/Death Investigation	SAC IT/Multimedia	SAC Physics/Pattern
DNA Analysis Sub **73**	Controlled Substances Sub **78**	Anthropology Sub **22**	Facial Identification S **32**	Blood Stain Pattern Analysis Sub **22**
DNA Analysis Su **79**	Fire Debris and Explos Sub (lab) **42**	Disaster Victim Identification Sub **19**	Imaging Technologies **22**	Friction Ridge S **71**
Wildlife Forensics **17**	Geological Materials Su **8**	Dogs and Sensors S **21**	Speaker Recognition S **30**	Firearms & Toolmarks Sub **58**
	Gunshot Residue Su **24**	Fire Scene and Explosives Sub **17**		Footwear & Tire Tread Su **24**
	Materials (Trace) Su **46**	Medical/Legal Dea Investigation Sub **56**		Questioned Documents Sub **50**
	Toxicology Sub **58**	Odontology Sub **29**		

SAC = Scientific Area Committee
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1,313 Applicants and their primary selections as of May 12, 2014

OSAC Applicants: Professional Associations

Association	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
AAFS	494	76	13	583
ACS	26	22	14	62
AFQAM	19	21	4	44
AFTE	55	8	5	68
APS	5	3	0	8
ASA	20	4	1	25
ASCLD	50	56	21	127
ASTEE	27	34	17	78
CAC	15	22	8	45
IAC&ME	10	11	6	27
IACP	8	4	4	16
IAI	151	72	22	245
IAI Regional	13	86	21	120
IFSG	20	19	3	42
MAAFS	12	11	8	31
MAFS	33	55	22	110
NAME	33	27	3	63
NEAFS	12	16	13	41
NFPA	5	4	1	10
NWAFS	2	8	6	16
Other	149	262	329	740
SAFS	9	11	14	34
SOFT	25	28	7	60
SWAFS	12	17	8	37

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Implementation Timeline

- Online application form launched April 11, 2014 – **closed May 11, 2014**
- FSSB appointed – **June 26, 2014**
- FSSB virtual meeting – July 7, 2014
- Appoint HFC, LRC & QIC - July 15, 2014
- FSSB in-person meeting – August 7, 2014
- Appoint SAC membership - August 2014
- First SAC meetings to select subcommittee membership - mid-late September 2014
- FSSB virtual meeting to vote on subcommittee rosters – early October 2014
- Appoint Subcommittee Members - October 2014
- Hold in-person subcommittee meetings - January 2015
- Hold Public SAC Meetings at AAFS - Feb 16 -17, 2015

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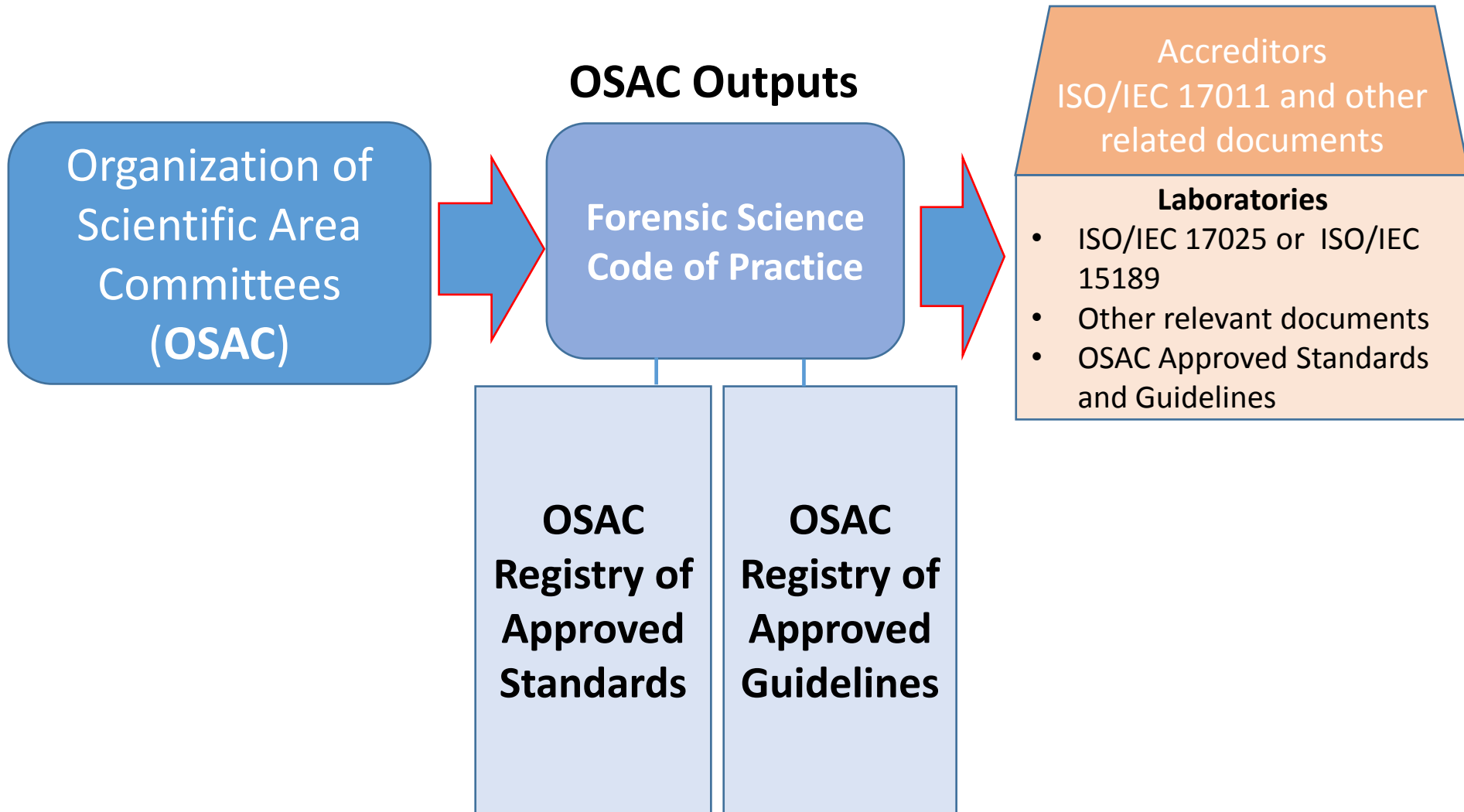- Priority Areas for FSSB to Address in the Future

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Key OSAC Outputs

OSAC Outputs

Organization of Scientific Area Committees (**OSAC**)

Forensic Science Code of Practice

Accreditors
ISO/IEC 17011 and other related documents

Laboratories
- ISO/IEC 17025 or ISO/IEC 15189
- Other relevant documents
- OSAC Approved Standards and Guidelines

OSAC Registry of Approved Standards

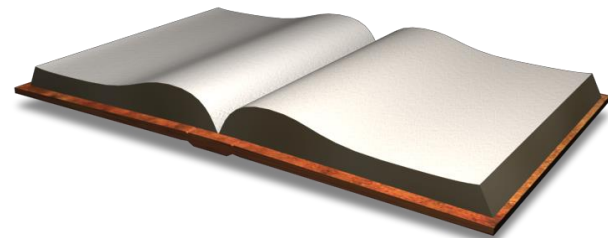**OSAC Registry of Approved Guidelines**

Forensic Science Code of Practice

Documents the minimum requirements for:

1. Standards and guidelines used in forensic science

2. Accreditation of laboratories and investigative units supplying forensic science services

   Discipline specific requirements to supplement international standards developed in a consensus

3. Competencies of forensic science practitioners

   Implemented in forensic science service organizations' management systems

OSAC Registries of Approved Standards and Guidelines

Documentary standards and guidelines that have demonstrated:

1. Technical merit

- Detailed Scope
- Examination of fitness for purpose
- Consideration of uncertainty measurement and potential bias
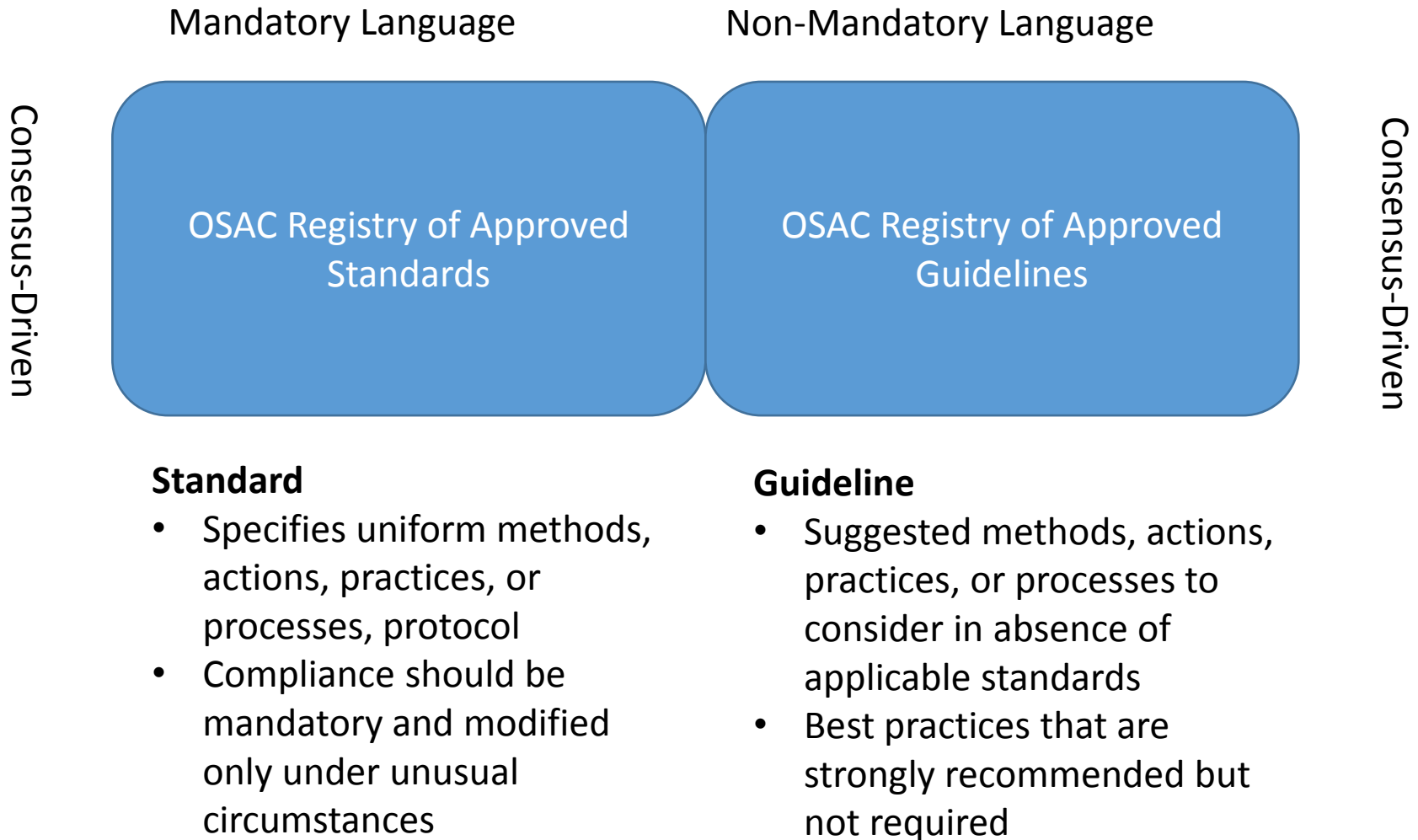- Method validation, as appropriate

2. Reasonable standards development process

- Due Process
- Consensus
- Openness
- Transparency
- Freedom from undue influence
- Balance of interests

Registry Sources:
1. **An existing standard developed using approved processes**
2. **Catalyzed with an existing SDOs**
3. **Developed by OSAC using canvass method**

50

Approved Standards vs Guidelines

Mandatory Language

Non-Mandatory Language

Consensus-Driven

OSAC Registry of Approved Standards

OSAC Registry of Approved Guidelines

Consensus-Driven

Standard
- Specifies uniform methods, actions, practices, or processes, protocol
- Compliance should be mandatory and modified only under unusual circumstances

Guideline
- Suggested methods, actions, practices, or processes to consider in absence of applicable standards
- Best practices that are strongly recommended but not required

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Agenda

- FSSB Introductions
- OSAC Overview, Mission and Vision
- FSSB Roles & Responsibilities
- Anticipated Time Commitments of FSSB Members
- Implementation Timeline
- Pending Contract Actions at NIST
- General Process for Approving Standards
- FSSB Officers Discussion
- Priority Areas for FSSB to Address in the Future

FSSB Officers Discussion

- Will appoint FSSB Officers during August 7th Meeting.
  - Chair
  - Vice Chair
  - Executive Secretary
- Please email us if you are interested in or wish to recommend other FSSB members for any of these positions.

Agenda

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Future Priority Areas for FSSB to Address

- New Subcommittees (forensic disciplines)
- Expanding Current Subcommittees – should Materials (Trace) Subcommittee be broken into two subcommittees (20 members each)
- Term Limits for OSAC Members
- Need Picture & 100 word bios for OSAC website

Questions?

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www.nist.gov/forensics

Creating a Standard or Guideline

Forensic Science Standards Board (FSSB)

| Legal Resource Committee (**LRC**) | Quality Infrastructure Committee (**QIC**) | Human Factors Committee (**HFC**) |

SAC Biology/DNA
- DNA Analysis Sub1
- DNA Analysis Sub2
- Wildlife Forensics Sub

SAC Chemistry/ Instrumental Analysis
- Controlled Substances Sub
- Fire Debris and Explosives Sub (lab)
- Geological Materials Sub
- Gunshot Residue Sub
- Materials (Trace) Sub
- Toxicology Sub

SAC Crime Scene/ Death Investigation
- Anthropology Sub
- Disaster Victim Identification Sub
- Dogs and Sensors Sub
- Fire Scene and Explosives Sub
- Medical/Legal Death Investigation Sub
- Odontology Sub

SAC IT/Multimedia
- Facial Identification Sub
- Imaging Technologies Sub
- Speaker Recognition Sub

SAC Physics/Pattern
- Blood Stain Pattern Analysis Sub
- Friction Ridge Sub
- Firearms & Toolmarks Sub
- Footwear & Tire Tread Sub
- Questioned Documents Sub

SAC = Scientific Area Committee
Sub = Subcommittee

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www.nist.gov/forensics/upload/orgchart3-18-14-new.pdf