

January 2018: Letter from the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) President,

On behalf of the American Board of Criminalistics I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year! For all of our Certificants, we thank you for your continued support of our certification program. As a non-profit organization, our goal is to provide the most relevant and valid examinations to best serve the forensic science community, all while keeping costs low. Many years ago, several members of the community came together to develop a certification process. You can read more about the history of the ABC [here](#). We proudly continue their quest of certifying forensic science professionals and holding them to the highest technical and ethical standards possible.

This year will bring exciting changes to our program. First, we've enabled our website to allow for [electronic submission of recertification forms including proficiency test review forms](#). We've also convened one Subject Matter Expert (SME) panel to go through the job analysis process for forensic scientists who are involved in forensic biology. A second, general SME panel is expected to meet in Seattle at the AAFS Conference. This will enable the ABC to develop current examinations for new applicants. [Please take the opportunity to be a part of these valuable interactions](#); you may end up having a direct impact on the creation of new exams. The continued improvements to these exams keep the ABC relevant in the community and maintain the value of certificates that are currently held. Lastly, our organization is proud to be sponsored by several highly respected companies in the forensic science community. Please check out their links on our [website](#).

These SME panels put us on the path towards ISO accreditation. While we will continue as the first organization to be accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB), we will also be seeking compliance with international standards. However, this means that we cannot continue to conduct business as we have in the past. These improvements to our program also bring additional costs. While we have looked to find ways to save money (notably the ending of the AAFS Ice Cream Social, which will return in 2019 with the help of our new sponsors!), we are still forced to find additional revenue. To that end, the ABC Board of Directors has voted to increase the recertification fees \$10/year over the next 3 years. Additionally, Fellows will bear a surcharge of \$10. This surcharge relates to the costs associated with the increased numbers of proficiency tests that are reviewed each year. The new fee schedule can be found [here](#).

Many facets of the forensic science community have responded in their own ways to various reports on the current state of affairs. We are responding by redoubling our efforts to promote the highest levels of professionalism in our field. Here's to a rewarding and successful 2018!

Christopher Hamburg, D-ABC

President