

Inside This Issue:

President's Message

Root Cause Analysis Identifies a Need For Significant Recertification Process Changes

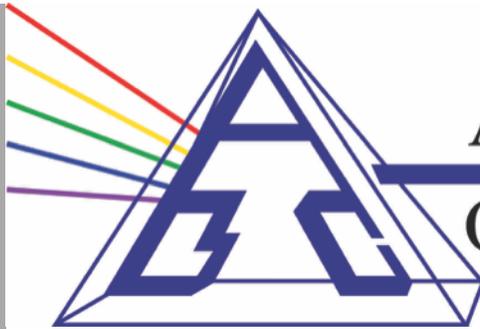
Contractor's Reports

Committee Reports

New Members of the ABC Board of Directors and Examination Committee

Thank You to our outgoing President

The Ice Cream Social was back at the February AAFS meeting



AMERICAN BOARD OF CRIMINALISTICS

Spring 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you recent Board of Director activities. The board had our in person meeting the weekend before the AAFS Scientific Meeting in Baltimore, MD last month. During our two day meeting, we tackled some topics that have created challenges for you, our certificate holders.

First and foremost, I want you to know that the Board recognizes that our recertification process has become too burdensome. As someone put it, it is easier to do my taxes than to complete my recertification paperwork. The Board has taken action to clarify the contact hours challenge and extended the deadline to submit your paperwork to April 1st, 2019. The Board recognizes that we have been putting Band-Aids on the recertification process for too long. A recertification task force has been convened to rebuild the process from the ground up and to make it simpler for you. This process will take time and I believe it is critical that any changes be made available to you prior to the start of a recertification year! I hope you will stick with us while we turn this ship. The challenges aside, I'm excited that our new online submission process is working great. I anticipate that this process will continue to be refined to help you!

I would like to give a special shout out to the Examination Committee. The EC has been hard at work developing three new exams. Two of the exams are new. The first one is a Foundational Knowledge exam designed for those new to the field of forensic science or who do not have a specialty exam for their area of expertise. The second is a Biology Screener exam designed for scientists who screen biological evidence. The third exam is a new version of the Molecular Biology exam. Thanks to the hard work of the EC, we have anticipate field testing these new exams starting in 2020 at the AAFS meeting in Anaheim, CA. This will be a great opportunity for your colleagues who have not yet sought out certification!

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact the ABC Registrar at ABCRegistrar@criminalistics.com or by phone at 941-729-9050.

Jason L. Linder, F-ABC - President

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ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS IDENTIFIES A NEED FOR SIGNIFICANT RECERTIFICATION PROCESS CHANGES

Dear ABC Certificants:

In early 2018, ABC implemented new policies that changed the documentation required for claiming points for recertification credit attained in 2017. Many of you are aware that these changes resulted in confusion, frustration, and many changes to the points claimed by certificants. There was an unusually large number of point reductions which triggered almost 200 appeals. The ABC's Quality Assurance Committee has conducted a root cause analysis and is actively working to address the recertification process. The ABC recognizes that the significant number of point changes should have triggered an investigation prior to the point changes being finalized and communicated to the certificants. This should have been addressed by us, before it ever affected you. We also recognize that the main causes of this system failure were the ABC's own operation and execution of the recertification process. ABC does not want our recertification process to be any more burdensome than necessary. The changes we have implemented have been made in an attempt to ensure fairness and consistency in claiming points and required documentation and also to streamline our recertification packet review process. However, we recognize that this has created a bloated, cumbersome and confusing process for our certificants and the organizations that provide continuing education opportunities for you.

The ABC is attentive to the issues and has reviewed the correspondence and complaints filed. We promise we are addressing your concerns. Those that filed appeals had their packets re-reviewed and points restored or adjusted accordingly. Those that did not appeal and had point changes were emailed and had the opportunity to request to have your packets reexamined. The ABC is currently re-review these packets using the same criteria used for those who did file an appeal. This may take several teams of individuals several months to review and we have a goal to complete them by mid to late summer. Those affected will be informed of all point readjustments.

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS IDENTIFIES A NEED FOR SIGNIFICANT RECERTIFICATION PROCESS CHANGES - Continued

The next major step is to review and revise the entire recertification process. A recertification task group is actively working on this process. We anticipate that the work of this group will improve the review of packets received this year and will address the entire recertification system. As part of this review, a questionnaire will be provided to all certificants to get your feedback on how to improve the recertification submission, documentation needs, forms, etc. Your feedback is critical in understanding where our shortcomings are in supporting you and your personal certification. Due to time constraints, we were not able to make significant changes to our process for submission of your packet this year. We were able to improve our online submission process and we significantly expanded our instructions. We value your input and want to make your certification with the ABC a better experience while maintaining an accredited and world-class, recognized certification partner in the forensic sciences field.

Thank you for your patience and continued support of certification.
Kind Regards,

Chris E. Taylor, D-ABC
Vice President

Gretchen Lajoie
Accreditation Manager

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Contractor's Updates

ABC Question Database Manager

Dave Stockwell

What does the QDM do for the ABC?

- One of 3 contract positions (yes, I'm paid for this work!)
- Security of Question Database materials (database questions, examinations, answer keys, etc.), referred to by some as the 'family jewels.'
- Maintenance of the Question Database: introduction of new questions, tracking performance and validation of questions, modifications to existing questions, retention of historical question information, and production of revised examinations and answer keys.
- Provide support to the Examination Committee: as directed by the Exam Committee Chair, compile data on demographics and question performance metrics, provide Examination Coordinators with assistance in examination maintenance, and produce requested reports for the Examination Committee and the Board of Directors.

I'm a Jack of all Trades for the ABC

- Coordinate with the ABC Registrar in revisions to the Forensic Science Assessment Test (FSAT)
- Participate on the ABC Quality Assurance Committee, and assist in internal audits of the ABC.

What's happening with the ABC Question Database?

For Spring 2019, I just produced the latest revisions to the FSAT and three Certification Examinations.

I continue to work with Exam Committee representatives in establishing two new biology examinations and a new fundamental knowledge examination that will meet ISO 17024 standards. (Yes, we are experiencing the wonderful complexities of meeting additional accreditation requirements, too! A personal 'shout out' to all those who have participated in our DACUM – Developing A CurricuLUM – workshops, and our frequent surveys to move these projects forward.)

Contractor's Updates - Continued

Accreditation Manager

Gretchen Lajoie

The past 6 months, or so, have been busy for the Accreditation Manager. Each year, in November, I travel to the Registrar's Office with two other individuals from ABC to perform an internal audit. This year, instead of an internal audit, we had our first onsite assessment. The Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB) sent two assessors to the Registrar's Office to perform this assessment. I was present as well. Assessment activities included a video conference with the Question Database Manager to review the question database and examination security. The onsite assessment followed a desk audit of the organization's policies and procedures. The results of the full assessment were very positive. The team left the ABC with two recommendations for improvement and one finding. The finding was resolved prior to the FSAB meeting in Baltimore, where FSAB voted to grant our reaccreditation.

Over the years, ABC has attempted to be available for critique or input from our certificants, applicants and general public. We provide an examination critique form as part of the application process. The contact information of the Registrar's office is readily available on most communications you receive and is also on the ABC website. In the past few years we have added additional means of communication on our website, with contact links for the Board of Directors. We have tried to be responsive to complaints and criticism as we receive them. We do want to hear from you so we can improve our processes. We recognize that we need to do more to reach out to our certificants.

ISO/IEC 17024: General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons requires ABC to be more diligent in seeking and obtaining certificant and industry input into our certification program. Additionally, the standard requires that we review our recertification process every 3-5 years. Last fall we formed a Recertification Task Group to review our recertification program and to make improvements. We were in the process of developing a survey when we recognized that we had

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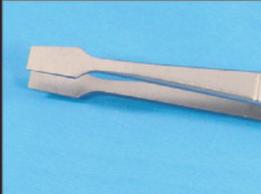
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Committee Updates

Appeals - Chair Danielle Hankinson

A total of 210 appeals were received in 2018 with 206 for recertification.

An additional 2 recertification appeals (for 2017 points) have been received in 2019 and are currently being evaluated.

The Appeals Committee will continue to evaluate any new appeals in a timely manner and note any significant issues that may be remedied by new recommendations to the Board.

Editor's Note: Danielle Hankinson is a new member of the ABC Board of Directors. She has over 15 years of experience in forensic biology and is currently employed by the Michigan State Police. She is the MAFS Membership Director and is a past President of MAFS. Danielle is also a Technical Assessor for ANAB and teaches classes for law enforcement.

Credentials - Chair Julie Conniver Sikorsky

The Credentials Committee is tasked with reviewing all ABC Examination Applications for eligibility and making the initial determination if the applicant qualifies for Fellow/Diplomat or Affiliate status. Each application is reviewed to ensure it meets the eligibility requirements for certification to include: work experience, education, and completion of training. In addition, a reference is contacted to verify the applicant's qualifications and character. The Credential Committee also evaluates requests for promotion from Affiliate to ABC Certified.

In 2018 the three member Credentials Committee evaluated over 70 applications and approved 13 promotions. Additionally, the Committee has worked on a training check list for potential new members in addition to developing a guidance document to help standardize investigations.

Committee Reports - Continued

Examination - Chair Laura Silva

The Examination Committee oversees the development, maintenance and performance reviews of all ABC Examinations offered. The Committee works closely with the Board of Directors and provides recommendations for new and revised exams based on community survey results related to the evolution of forensic science disciplines. All members are volunteers and are nominated by each ABC Member Organization.

Quality Assurance - Chair Christine Pinto

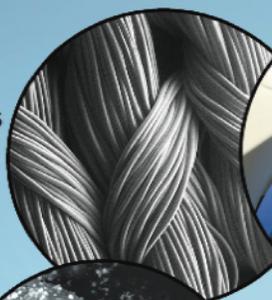
In 2014, the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) was officially established as a standing committee of the ABC. The QAC's primary goal continues to be preparing the ABC for ISO 17024 accreditation. Currently, the members of the QAC are Christine Pinto (Chair), Chris Taylor, Susan Blankenship, Shawn West, David Stockwell, Amy Duhaime, and Accreditation Manager Gretchen Lajoie.

The QAC holds monthly video conferences to identify and discuss quality-related issues throughout the organization. Detailed quality reports and corrective action plans are generated as a result of issues identified and opportunities to improve. The Committee is constantly reviewing, discussing, and approving policy documents for subsequent Board approval and vote. The QAC works hand-in-hand with the Registrar and Board of Directors; as well as the Examination, Credentials, Recertification, and Proficiency Testing Committees to strategize and facilitate the entire certification and recertification processes. The QAC is also responsible for performing internal audits, and coordinating and facilitating external audits. The QAC strives to represent interests of both the ABC Board and Examination Committee while improving the certification process for current and future certificants.

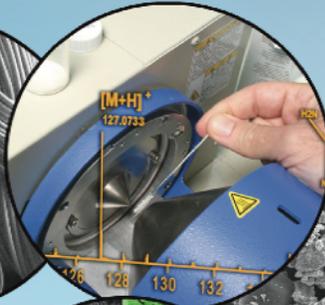
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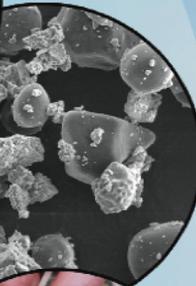
Hair, fibers, inks



Accident reconstruction



Duct tapes



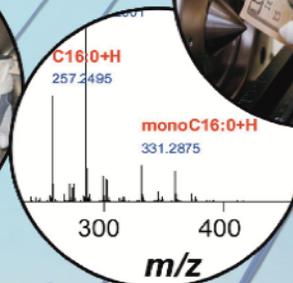
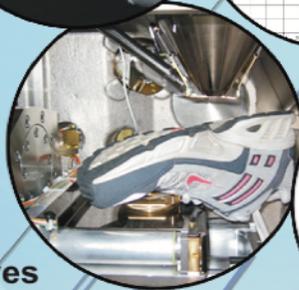
Drugs

Gunshot residue



Trace evidence

Powders, explosives



Plant materials

Preserve the Evidence

High-resolution SEM with large sample chamber

Direct analysis time-of-flight Mass Spectrometer



New Members of the Board of Directors and Examination Committee

The ABC would not exist and could not function without dedicated volunteers who keep the organization moving by volunteering and being selected to sit on the Board of Directors and the Examination Committee.

The Board of Directors consists of one representative from each of the member organizations, plus two Members at Large. There is also a place for a Public REPRESENTATIVE, selected and filled by the Board of Directors as deemed necessary.

The following are new members of the Board of Directors and Examination Committee. Thank you for your interest and dedication.

Mariam Kane. I was born and raised in Libreville Gabon Central Africa. I moved to Houston Texas after my high school diploma in January 2000. I received a bachelor of science in biology and chemistry from Houston Baptist University in December 2008. I have been employed with Houston Police Department Crime Laboratory/Houston Forensic Science Center as a forensic analyst in Seized Drugs since March 2009. I became ABC certified in 2017. I am honored to be a member of ABC exam committee and can not wait to start learning and sharing my knowledge.

David Koppenhaver. David has 23 year experience in seized drug analysis from three different laboratory systems. He started his forensic science career with the Indiana State Police laboratory system in Fort Wayne. During the early years of the meth epidemic, while working for ISP, he helped establish the Northern Meth Response Team. He has processed 200 meth labs and trained over 3000 police, fire and EMS personnel on the dangers of clan labs and scene response. He speaks fondly about his eight years with the Indiana State Police and regards many of his colleagues and MAFS members as some of the best trained scientists he has had the pleasure to work with.

During an Indiana snowstorm in 2004 he had a revelation that he

New Members of the Board of Directors and Examination Committee - Continued

could do his job in a warmer climate and within couple weeks he interviewed and obtained a job with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) in Tallahassee. While with FDLE he established the Meth Response Team in North Florida and processed 50 clandestine laboratories. During his time in Florida, he enjoyed training new chemists, doing casework, and working on the synthetic cannabinoid and cathinone analog legislation and analysis methodology.

As luck would have it, after seven years with Florida he travelled back to colder climates to Norfolk Virginia where he currently works for the Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS). In Virginia, he continues to expand his knowledge in seized drug analysis and undertakes special projects to make his department better.

He was a MAFS member during his employment with the Indiana State Police and is back as a member since he has been with Virginia. He is a Past President of CLIC, past member of OSAC, and current member of NIJ Forensic Technology Working Group.

David is honored to represent MAFS as their Member-At-Large Director for the ABC Board of Directors and looks forward to meeting and working with new people through his new position.

Tanna Brown: Has been working at the Montana State Crime Lab as a forensic chemist for four years. I started out in the headquarters for a year in Missoula and then helped open the satellite lab in Billings, which we ended up moving locations after two years. Prior to working as a forensic scientist, I worked for a short period at the Montana Department of Agriculture as a pesticide chemist. I earned my Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry and Anthropology, both with forensic options, from the University of Montana in Missoula. While in school, I worked in the Crime Lab as an intern and work study student. Although I am young, I have been around the Montana State Crime Lab for quite a while in all the locations! I was born and raised in Montana and I am so lucky to have been given the



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New Members of the Board of Directors and Examination Committee - Continued

opportunity to work in the forensics without having to leave the Big Sky State. In 2017, I was chosen as the NWAFS Edward Rhodes Scholarship Recipient for the ABC Exam, and I did earn my certification as a Fellow in Drug Analysis after that exam. Last year, I was given the opportunity to train a new forensic scientist and I am currently rewriting our drug analysis training program. I am looking forward to my new position on the examination committee and I love representing my northwestern roots!

ABC President Leaves the Board

Editor's Note: The President of the ABC Board of Directors must stay committed and seriously involved to guide the ABC through completing its mission year after year. The ABC has been guided by many excellent and qualified volunteers over the years. Chris lived up to the job and kept the Board on task. Thank you Chris for your hard work and dedication.

Chris Hamburg represented the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists on the ABC Board of Directors from July, 2013 - February, 2019.

He served as Secretary from February, 2015 - February, 2017 and President from February, 2017 to February, 2019.

After working as a forensic scientist for the last 16 years with the Washington State Patrol and Oregon State Police, Chris has moved on to be an Accreditation Manager for the ANSI National Accreditation Board.

ABC Ice Cream Social - February AAFS Meeting 2019

The ABC Ice Cream Social tradition was revitalized at the 2019 AAFS Meeting in Baltimore. A special shout out to our sponsors who made this possible. As always, it was a great time catching up with old friends and making new connections. A variety of ice cream sandwiches and ice cream cones were available along with soft drinks.

Thanks to all who braved the snowy weather to come join us.



MISSING IN ACTION

The ABC has lost contact with the following individuals:

Bailey, Jodi	Kamb, Valerie
Baumgartner, Chase	LaBonne, Stephen G.
Cooper, Morgan S.	Luft, Brian
Culmone, John Joseph Albert	Marbaker, William E.
Dieu, Waliana	McFarland, Lisa
Dougherty, James L.	Meyer, Kristin
Elwell, Jennifer	Scaduto, Diane I.
Freeman, Robin E.	Traugott, Martha M.
Gross, Timothy P.	Tucker, Sharonda
Hamlin, Ann Capizzi	Vassalotti, Angie
Hayes, Jr., David	Vowels, Neil K.
Hebert, Thomas	Wadsworth, James Lawrence
Jacobson, LaMonte	

If you know anyone on this list, please help them get in touch
with the ABC Registrar as soon as possible!
If they have retired, remind them of the ability to seek Emeritus status!

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