

Committee on Identifying the Needs of the Forensic Sciences Community
The National Academies
Lecture Hall
2100 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC
April 23-24, 2007
Agenda

OPEN SESSION

Monday, April 23, 2007

7:45 **Continental Breakfast**

8:00 **Welcome and Introductions**

Harry T. Edwards and Constantine Gatsonis
Committee Co-chairs

8:10 **Essential Elements of Science: Hypotheses, Falsifiability, Replication, Peer Review**

Alan I. Leshner, Chief Executive Officer, American Association for the Advancement of
Science

The Science of Statistics: Error Testing, Probabilities, Observer Bias

Jay Kadane, Senior Statistician, Department of Statistics, Carnegie Mellon University

9:00 **Discussion with Committee**

9:20 **Forensic DNA**

Science
Robin Cotton, Director, Biomedical Forensic Sciences Program, Boston University School of
Medicine

Policy and Politics
Chris Asplen, Vice President, Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell, former Executive Director, U.S.
Attorney General's National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence

10:10 **Discussion with Committee**

10:30 Break

10:45 **The Science of Forensic Disciplines**

What is the state of the art? Where is research conducted? Where is it published? What is the
scientific basis that informs the interpretation of the evidence? Where are new developments
coming from? What are the major problems in the scientific foundation or methods and in the
practice? What research questions would you like to have answered?

Moderator: Constantine Gatsonis, Committee co-chair

10:50 **Drug Identification**

Joseph P. Bono, Laboratory Director, Forensic Services Division, United States Secret Service

11:15 **Discussion with Committee**

11:45 **Lunch**

12:30 **Pattern Evidence with Fingerprints and Tool Marks as Illustrations**

Fingerprints: Ed German, Latent Print Examiner, US Army, retired

Tool Marks: Peter Striupaitis, Chair, IAI Firearm/Toolmark Committee, and member, SWGGUN

1:30 **Discussion with Committee**

2:00 **Trace Evidence with Arson and Hair as Illustrations**

Arson: John Lentini, Scientific Fire Analysis, LLC

Hair: Max M. Houck, Director, Forensic Science Initiative, Forensic Research and Business Development, College of Business and Economics, West Virginia University

3:00 **Discussion with Committee**

3:30 Break

3:45 **Forensic Odontology - Bite Marks**

David R. Senn, Director of Center for Education and Research in Forensics (CERF), Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Dental Diagnostic Science, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Dental School

4:10 **Discussion with Committee**

4:30 **Commentators**

Robert E. Gaensslen, Director, Graduate Studies, Program in Forensics Science, University of Illinois at Chicago

Jennifer Mnookin, Professor of Law, UCLA Law School

David Kaye, Regents' Professor of Law and Professor of Life Sciences, Arizona State University

5:15 **Comments from the Floor**

5:45 **Open Session Ends**

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OPEN SESSION

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

7:45 **Continental Breakfast**

8:00 **Welcome and Introductions**

Harry T. Edwards and Constantine Gatsonis
Committee Co-chairs

8:10 **From Crime Scene to Courtroom: The Collection and Flow of Evidence**

Barry A. J. Fisher, Director, Scientific Services Bureau, Los Angeles County Sheriff's
Department, former President, AAFS

8:45 **Discussion with the Committee**

9:15 **Practice and Standards – Scientific Working Groups**

What is the process for establishing the guidelines and standards? What are the
guidelines/standards for each of these disciplines? How is quality control/quality assurance
monitored and enforced? What recommendations have these organizations made and have they
been implemented? What is needed?

Moderator: Harry T. Edwards, Committee Co-chair

9:20 **Drug Identification**

Nelson A. Santos, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Chair, SWGDRUG

9:40 **Discussion with the Committee**

10:00 **Pattern Evidence - Latent Prints**

Stephen B. Meagher, Fingerprint Specialist, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Vice-Chair
SWGFAST

10:30 **Discussion with the Committee**

11:00 **Trace Evidence - Hair Analysis**

Richard E. Bisbing, Executive Vice President, McCrone Associates, Inc., and member
SWGMAAT

11:20 **Discussion with the Committee**

11:45

Commentators

Paul C. Gianelli, Weatherhead Professor, Case Western Reserve University School of Law
Carol Henderson, Director, National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law
Professor of Law, Stetson University

Michael J. Saks, Professor of Law & Psychology, and Faculty Fellow, Center for the Study of
Law, Science, & Technology, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University

12:30

Comments from the Floor

1:00

Open Session Ends