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# AMERICAN BOARD OF CRIMINALISTICS

Spring 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Danielle Hankinson

Hello, I just want to take a minute to introduce myself as your new President of the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC). I have worked in the forensic biology field for over 17 years, and I have been certified by ABC for nine years. I am the Membership Director for the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) and a past President of MAFS. I am passionate about our field and I am honored to have served and to serve in many roles with both MAFS and ABC. As a leader of ABC, I strive to incorporate feedback from certificants to improve our overall processes and to continue to provide quality exams and an efficient recertification process. I will remain in the role of Recertification Liaison to provide continuity to the improvement and stabilization of the recertification process.

We had our annual meeting in February via Zoom, and I am excited about the upcoming exams that ABC has just finished field testing - our Biological

## COVID 19 - Statement

The ABC is monitoring the current situation regarding COVID19. We are aware of the hardships that the current situation will create for our certificants. We will continue to work with candidates and certificants to ensure that they are not penalized as a result of shutdowns, work-stoppages, meeting cancellations, etc. As the situation progresses, the Board will be making decisions on how to proceed with regards to recertification deadlines and application extensions.

If you anticipate sitting for an examination or field test, we encourage you to check our website frequently as the situation continues to evolve. The ABC will strive to offer certification and field testing examinations in a manner that complies with the most currently accepted healthy and safety practices.

If you have further questions, please contact the Registrar's Office via e-mail at [abcregistrar@criminalistics.com](mailto:abcregistrar@criminalistics.com).

## President's Message - Continued

Evidence Screening Exam and Forensic DNA Analysis Exam. Our Exam Committee is composed of dedicated individuals who have worked hard and continue to work hard to bring our organization through the ISO/IEC 17024 process for validation with these new exams. Our next steps involve convening a panel of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to develop the cut-score for each new exam.

I would also like to recognize our Registrar's Office and our Accreditation Manager - these personnel are the backbone of ABC. As we continue to develop new exams and recertify our certificants on a yearly basis, the Registrar's Office keeps us organized and our Accreditation Manager is responsible for much of our improved efficiency and technological advances.

Certification is important in our field. The reasons why someone may choose to become certified are certainly varied. Some employers require it. Some employers provide monetary incentives. However, a lot of scientists become certified because of the intrinsic value in achieving a goal that requires specialized knowledge and skills (regardless of mandate or incentive). This not only can provide increased personal value of oneself as a forensic scientist, but also an additional qualification that can be used in testimony, teaching, and other aspects of the field. If you have colleagues interested in certification, please let them know that any Board member would be happy to discuss the process or answer questions.

Also, you can always reach the Registrar's Office at [ABCRegistrar@criminalistics.com](mailto:ABCRegistrar@criminalistics.com) or by phone at 941-729-9050.

Please enjoy a safe and healthy Spring!

Danielle N. Hankinson, MS, ABC-MB  
President

## Thank You Steve Renteria

The ABC was incorporated in 1989. Over the next three decades there have been scores of forensic science professionals who have volunteered their time and energy to make the ABC the preeminent certification body for criminalists. Though several people have served the ABC for many years, I know of no one who has served the ABC behind the scenes as long as Steve Renteria. Not only did Steve volunteer to help the ABC for about three decades, he was one of the first to achieve ABC Certification. His certificate number is 011. He first became a Diplomate and later earned Fellow status by successfully passing the Molecular Biology examination.

In his own words, Steve shares his experiences with the ABC and his next steps in life:

*Wow, I have been associated with the ABC since the early 1990's, definitely before 1994, but I'm not sure of the exact year. I started as the CAC representative to the ABC Board. I remember going to ABC meetings with Dr. Ed Rhodes and how he served as a mentor to me.*

*I was assigned to the Credentials Committee with Carlos Rabren (sp) from Alabama. Carlos was the first Chair of the Credentials Committee. I served on the Credentials Committee for many years until Carlos retired. I was asked to take over as the Chair of the committee and have held that position for the last twenty-five plus years.*

*In 2019 (or early 2020), in preparation for my pending retirement, I asked the Board of Directors to assign someone else to take the Chair spot. Julie Sikorsky was assigned. Since then, I have continued as a committee member to assist Julie in training new members of the Credentials Committee. I am still assisting in that role today and will most likely complete the training of the newest CC member by the summer/fall of 2021.*

*The end of January 2022 should be it for me. I will be retiring from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the ABC. I am looking forward to spending more time with the family and am hoping traveling will soon be safe. We want to start taking trips, both domestic and abroad. Also, I will again have time for fishing local lakes and woodworking.*

*My work with the ABC has been worth all the efforts. The process is so important in our field and I hope more Federal, State and Local labs use this as a tool to improve the credibility of their forensic scientists and support them with funding or time to be able to be a certificate holder of the ABC. I, like many, highlight this achievement during all my court testimonies throughout the years.*

Steve's dedication to the ABC and certification throughout his career has been exemplary. Thank you again for all your hard work.



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## Trace Examinations Announcement

The American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) recognizes the importance of offering a variety of certification paths for criminalists wishing to demonstrate their knowledge and expertise in different specialty areas. Since 1994, specialty certification schemes have been offered in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Drug Analysis and three Trace specialty areas: Fire Debris Analysis, Hairs and Fibers, and Paints and Polymers.

Over the years, ABC has made many updates to its certification schemes to meet the changing needs in the forensic science profession. The ABC currently has over 1100 certificate holders. Of that 1100, thirteen are in Paints and Polymers, fifteen are in Hairs and Fibers and forty are in Fire Debris Analysis. In the last eight years there have been only four people who took the Paints and Polymers examination, three people who took the Hairs and Fibers examination and thirty people who have taken the Fire Debris Analysis examination. As part of an evaluation of the operations and offerings of the ABC, the Board of Directors has determined that the Trace Specialty examinations can no longer be supported after December 31, 2022. **The decision to sunset the offering of Trace Specialty examinations in no way affects any forensic science professional who currently holds a Trace Specialty Certificate.** The current Trace Specialty Certificants will remain an important part of ABC and their certificates will continue to demonstrate their high degree of knowledge and participation in their specialty. The only difference will be that after 2022, the examinations will no longer be offered. Professionals who specialize in Trace Analysis will have alternative ways to achieve certification, through exams like Comprehensive Criminalistics that is currently offered or a Foundational Knowledge Examination that is under development and expected to be offered in the near future.

Developing new examinations and maintaining existing examinations to ensure that they are current and compliant with ABC policies and procedures involves an extremely thorough and lengthy process. New examinations are created through the Developing a Curriculum (DACUM) process with the assistance of a panel of Subject Matter Experts (SME's) to define the job of a Trace Evidence Scientist, identify the duties for a Trace Evidence position, and align Knowledge/Skill categories to create an Examination Blueprint. The challenge with creating and maintaining an examination for a Trace Evidence scientist lies in the diversity of

## Trace Examinations Announcement - Cont.

disciplines that fall under the Trace Evidence umbrella among different laboratory systems (e.g., some analysts may perform Fire Debris Analysis but not Paint examinations, etc.). We recognize that the range of trace evidence analyses is complex and not uniform among all practitioners. Under the umbrella of Trace Evidence there are many sub-specialties that do not fit neatly into the certification programs offered by ABC. This has been demonstrated by the low number of certificate holders in the Trace specialties and the even fewer number of people applying to take the examinations.

A core goal of the ABC is to ensure all examinations that we produce are relevant to the community and maintained at the highest quality. All ABC certification examinations require a comprehensive review every five years, with a minimum of twenty-five test-takers needed to perform performance assessments. Unfortunately, with the limited number of individuals taking the Trace specialty examinations, as well as the impossibility of writing a new examination that covers the wide range of tasks a Trace Evidence scientist may be called upon to perform, the process of maintaining these examinations to current established standards is no longer viable.

The ABC Board of Directors recognizes the value of Trace Evidence analysis and strongly encourages all qualified forensic scientists working in Trace Evidence to take the Fire Debris Analysis, Hairs and Fibers, and Paints and Polymers specialty examinations before the end of 2022. Once certification has been achieved, you will maintain your certification through participation in the forensic community and will continue to demonstrate to the Criminal Justice System your knowledge and expertise in your chosen profession.

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## Examination Committee Update

### **Audra Curry Yovanovich, Chair**

In December 2020, field testing on our two new exams, Biological Evidence Screening (BIO) and Forensic DNA (DNA) was completed. Thank you to all our field test takers who took the exams! Their participation gave us the information we need to develop valid and reliable exams. We appreciate your patience as we work through this process.

Since completing field testing, the BIO and DNA Examination Coordinator, Ruth Damaso Neely, has been hard at work evaluating the field test data. Ruth along with Stewart Raley, Laura Silva, and Marie Samples reviewed the field test data and this task group made recommendations as to what questions will be retained on the final version of the exam. They reviewed the difficulty data (how many test takers got the answer correct), point biserial (item reliability), and Cronbach's alpha. If you would like to learn more about the difficulty or point biserial, please see my newsletter article from Fall 2020.

Cronbach's alpha is a measure of test reliability. This gives a quantitative value that can tell us if the questions on the exam are testing the same concept. While an imperfect metaphor, one way to look at this is to consider it in terms of precision. Think of the typical dart board and darts example when describing accuracy and precision. If the center of the dart board is the overall concept of Forensic DNA Analysis, we want each of our darts (questions) to be close to the bullseye (accurate) but also very close to one another (precision). Cronbach's alpha tells us how close our darts are to one another. Our other measures of difficulty and point biserial can be used to tell us if our darts are close to the bullseye.

The next stage of the exam development process is developing a cut score or the lowest score a test taker could get and still pass the exam. An email was sent out to all ABC certificate holders and our member organizations requesting people to volunteer to be on the panel. Once our panel is assembled, we will determine the cut score for this examination and then send our new exams for psychometric analysis.

We are also in the process of developing the Foundational Knowledge Examination



## Examination Committee Update - Cont.

(FKE) field test. Amy Duhaime is the Examination Coordinator for the FKE and she, along with the rest of EC, has been working hard to complete the development of this field test. So far, we have completed the job analysis, verification of job analysis, task alignment to Knowledge-Skills (K-S), K-S category alignment to past Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA), and K-S and task assignment to current database questions.

To complete the job analysis, ABC convened a Subject Matter Expert Panel (SME) to define the job of Forensic Scientist. This was conducted through the DACUM process. To learn more about the DACUM process, check out [this description](#) from Eastern Kentucky University. Next, we sent the results of the DACUM to the forensic science community in the form of a survey. We asked our survey takers to determine how important a task is to their job and how frequently they do that task. We compiled all the results from this survey to develop a numerical value called the frequency and importance or FxI. Once the FxI was calculated, the Examination Committee applied a third measure to this value called the criticality score. To determine the criticality score, EC asked the question “how critical is it to know a knowledge-skill to complete this task?” For example, one of the tasks is “determine uncertainty of measurement.” How critical is it to have knowledge of statistics (K-S 1.5) to complete this task? We determined that for this task, statistics was very important and so this task received the highest criticality score possible. However, when reviewing the task “conduct verification checks,” EC determined that statistics was not critical to complete this task. So, the criticality measurement for this task was zero. The criticality score was multiplied by the FxI for a task, and this value was used to determine what percentage of the exam would be made up of a Knowledge-Skill category. The FKE will be ready for field testing in 2021 and, as with our BIO and DNA exams, we will need a minimum number of test takers to conduct the statistical analysis on that exam.

In my next newsletter article, I’ll discuss K-S category alignment to past Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities, as well as the K-S and task assignment to current database questions.

## Examination Committee Update - Cont.

### **Meet the Examination Committee**

#### **Amy Duhaime – Fire Debris Exam Coordinator, Foundational Knowledge Exam Coordinator, Quality Assurance Committee**

Hello everyone! My name is Amy Duhaime. My history with the ABC started over 20 years ago, when I took the old GKE examination and became certified as an ABC diplomate. In 2010, I joined the ABC Examination Committee (EC) as the representative from the Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists and was appointed the Coordinator for the Fire Debris Examination. After serving on the EC for several years, I became the EC representative to the ABC Quality Assurance Committee, which maintains the ABC's quality system and is working towards ISO accreditation. Last year, I was chosen to lead the development of our latest examination, Foundational Knowledge. The EC has worked diligently to ensure that this exam will be reflective of our field and constructed in a way that will allow it to be continually reviewed and improved. For my day job, I work at the Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory, which is located on the campus of the University of Rhode Island (Go Rams!). I am the technical lead for the Trace Evidence section and serve as the Quality Manager for the laboratory. I live in beautiful Kingston, RI with my husband and son.

#### **Ruth Damaso Neely – Biological Evidence Screening Exam Coordinator, Forensic DNA Exam Coordinator**

Hi, All! I joined the Examination Committee (EC) in July of 2019, where I represent the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS). I received the MAAFS Ed Rhodes Scholarship to take the Molecular Biology (MB) certification exam. I initially served on the EC as a member of the MB Certification Examination Management Group (CEMG) then officially became the Biological Evidence Screening (BIO) and Forensic DNA (DNA) Field Testing/ Examination Coordinator in August of 2020. Very quickly, I am learning to manage field test development for both certification exams while also taking over as the EC's designated Secretary since August of 2020. My forensic science career began in 1998, and the entirety of it has been with the Virginia Department of Forensic Science (VA DFS). During graduate school, I started at the Central

## Examination Committee Update - Cont.

Laboratory in Richmond where I worked as a Laboratory Technician Senior in the DNA Data Bank. Afterwards, while training to become a DNA examiner, I was a Research Analytical Chemist Assistant in the Forensic Biology Section. In 2000, I moved to the Eastern Laboratory in Norfolk as a Forensic Scientist, and currently I am the Forensic Scientist Group Supervisor and Local CODIS Administrator. One of the most fascinating aspects of serving on the EC is seeing firsthand the transformation from the current MB exam to the evolution of the BIO and DNA field tests into certification exams through the Developing a Curriculum (DACUM) process, field testing, and evaluation. I have spent numerous hours assessing data to help develop the field tests and countless more poring over post-field test data to produce certification exams that aim to represent real occupations in biological evidence screening and forensic DNA analysis. I have the pleasure of working with intelligent and conscientious members of the CEMG and EC along with the invaluable ABC Database Manager, and I look forward to the same with the Subject Matter Expert (SME) panels in the future. I live in Virginia Beach with my husband, Sean, and our two Llewelin Setters, Calamity Jayne and Jessi James (both 13+). Though we reside close to an ocean, one of our favorite vacation spots is Hawai'i. We visited Kaua'i (again) last March during a trip that ended with the global pandemic taking hold of the country. Aloha!

## Accreditation Manager's Update

**Gretchen Lajoie**

The ABC continues working to improve our recertification process to benefit our certificants and our organization. This year we received over 750 recertification packets electronically. Additionally, we received over 1000 Rules of Professional Conduct electronically. This resulted in a tremendous reduction in paper not being mailed to or stored by the Registrar's Office. The Registrar retains the recertification paperwork and signed Rules of Professional Conduct for an entire 5-year recertification cycle for each certificant. We have approximately 1100 certificants in any given year. That is a significant amount of paper and physical space consumed by annual reporting forms. We appreciate our certificants'

## Accreditation Manager's Update - Cont.

willingness to submit their paperwork digitally.

This spring we offered the opportunity for certificants to test out a new submission process. We had 162 certificants participate in this test. The survey responses were overwhelmingly positive. There were themes to the comments that were received. Some things we are not able to implement due to limitations of our technology, our processes, or our accreditation requirements. We will do what we can to address as many of the comments as possible. One of the predominant comments was a desire to be able to save the form and return to it as needed. Thankfully, this feature has been implemented for the test form. We continue to work on your suggestions and will keep you posted as we progress.

We are still diligently working towards ISO/IEC 17024 accreditation and are hopeful that we will be ready to apply for accreditation this year or early next year. This will be a significant accomplishment for ABC and has been years in the making. Seeking accreditation is a very costly endeavor and we are progressing as economically as possible (refer to my note in the spring 2020 newsletter for a summary of costs). We are currently in the process of contracting psychometricians to analyze the two recently offered field tests, a necessary step in accreditation. Due to the cost of offering accredited examinations, the Board recently approved an Application Fee increase from \$50 to \$75 per application effective July 1, 2021. Also, please note that an application fee must be submitted for each certification examination an applicant wishes to sit for. This is a change from previous years.

Finally, we implemented a customer satisfaction survey this year. We have received 82 responses to date. We intend to maintain some form of customer survey, though the content may change annually. We will use this tool to ask about your interactions with certain aspects of the organization and to ask for input on some processes or potential changes to our programs. If you have not completed the survey this year, we encourage you to do so. The link is: [Customer Survey](#).

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## Questions Database Manager Update

### **Dave Stockwell**

In my last Newsletter column, I wrote about the most common critique the ABC receives from our test takers – study guides. In this column I would like to share insight into our testing process that may help answer some other common critiques, such as “why are calculators not allowed for the examination?” and “there were too many questions for the time allotted.”

The simplest answer to these types of questions is the ABC must maintain a *Standardized Test* administration. Generally speaking, the design of the test must be maintained across test takers to maintain *Fairness*, *Validity*, and *Reliability*, the three primary standards that govern a certifying body’s assessment process. Fairness requires an ‘equal opportunity for success provided to each candidate’; Validity provides ‘evidence that the assessment measures what it is intended to measure’; Reliability is an ‘indicator of the extent to which examination scores are consistent across different examination times and locations, different examination forms and different examiners.’ (Quotes are taken from ISO/IEC 17024:2012(E) terms and definitions.)

The creation of a given certification examination is a long and arduous process in large part because of the need to develop and document these three standards. (The current set of ABC Certification Examinations took three years to develop and implement.) Once established, the only means to ‘reset’ most standard conditions for an exam is to go back to the proverbial drawing board and start over.

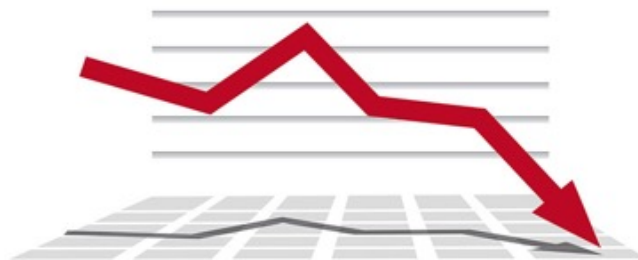
The good news is the ABC has been working to incorporate suggestions raised in critiques with the newest battery of examinations. We are nearing completion of the field testing and evaluation of the Biological Evidence Screening and Forensic DNA examinations, and we should be able to start Field Testing of the Foundational Knowledge examination later this year. Test takers of these three examinations will see substantial differences in the ‘standard conditions’ for these examinations.

## Appeals Committee Update

### **Chris Taylor - Chair**

The goal of the appeals committee is to carefully review each and every certificant's appeal and make a determination as to whether or not the appeal shall be granted based on the information provided and by applying the established policies and procedures of the American Board of Criminalistics. A 3-member panel comprised of ABC Board of Directors is assembled to review all documentation prior to making a determination. Appeals are most commonly associated with the submission of documentation for recertification and the request for points that may have been denied. I am happy to report that most appeals typically result in favor of the certificant when a good faith effort is made to provide appropriate information and documentation. When appeals situations are more ambiguous or subjective, the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) will be notified for process improvements.

I have been Chair of the Appeal Committee or served as a committee member for over seven years. During this tenure, I have witnessed dramatic improvements in the appeals process and witnessed a dramatic reduction in the number of appeals submitted. In 2017, hundreds of appeals were received as the result of miscommunication on the part of ABC and aspects of the recertification process. This issue has been resolved and was addressed to our certificants in previous emails and newsletters. In 2018, appeals dropped to under 100 cases as some of the new processes were still being implemented. The Board, QAC, and Recertification Committee have made significant improvements in clarifying and simplifying the ABC recertification processes to include training of our volunteer recertification reviewers.



## Appeals Committee Update - Cont.

Harmonizing recertification packet assessments among reviewers and appeals decisions is important for equality of the review and fair treatment of our members. ABC is dedicated to continuous improvement. The Appeals Committee now shares its findings and decisions with the Recertification Committee to ensure a consistent feedback mechanism. ABC values our certificate holders and their efforts to recertify. I am proud to announce that with the additional recertification improvements, there have been only nine recertification appeals in 2019. Thank you to our certificate holders for their patience, and please keep in mind that if you have an appeal situation, please refer to the ABC website for instructions on how to proceed.

### Erin Tracy New ABC Board Member

I was born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. I earned my Bachelor's of Science in Biochemistry from North Carolina State University and my Master's of Science in Forensic Science from Virginia Commonwealth University. In 2012, I began working as a drug chemist with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and I could not have asked for better colleagues with which to begin my career in forensic science. I became ABC certified in Drug Analysis in 2014 and am a member of SAFS, MAAFS, and CLIC. In 2017 I moved back to North Carolina to work at the Raleigh/Wake City-County Bureau of Identification. I am grateful to represent SAFS as Membership Director for the ABC Board of Directors and excited to meet and collaborate with new people in the field of forensic science.





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## Message from the ABC Registrar

### Mike and Deabbie Healy, ABC Registrars

Our office would like to take this opportunity to remind and/or inform everyone about several important topics.

- Update contact information on members side of ABC website when necessary. Current email address assists our office to get important information out to you.
- ABC Registrar's Office has a limited printing budget. If a document cannot or should not be submitted electronically via ABC website, please mail it to our PO Box.
- The 10 additional recertification points awarded by ABC for reporting year 2020 default to the new Section II unless Declaration Form, 09-0612F, submitted indicates allocation of points to Section I and/or Specialty Section.
- On Recertification Profile for each certificant, the 10 additional recertification points will be posted in ***Points In Category III*** box for applicable year unless otherwise indicated on Declaration Form.
- Starting with reporting year 2020 this is how your recertification points awarded after review by Recertification Committee will be posted: Section I-Points in Category I, Section II-Points in Category II, and Specialty Section -applicable certification .
- Any Recertification Reporting Forms and supporting documentation will not be reviewed if received after June 1.
- To avoid **suspension** of your certification or Affiliate status, submit Rules of Professional Conduct and applicable fees by **June 1**.
- To avoid **revocation** of your certification or Affiliate status, submit Rules of Professional Conduct and applicable fees by **September 1**.
- Please do not staple any documents. Our office must scan many documents and staples will interfere with operation of scanner.
- Notify our office when you want to resign your certification. If you are retiring from the forensic field, you might be eligible for Emeritus status. Visit ABC website for information regarding this status.
- Certification exam application deadline is 75 days prior to exam date. This means our office **must receive** your application by application deadline.
- If your agency is interested in hosting a certification exam offering, contact

## Message from the ABC Registrar - Cont.

our office. If there are less than 5 exam candidates, there may be additional expenses.

Although, this office works for ABC, we are here to help **You** as best we can. Stay healthy and be safe.

### Missing in Action

The ABC has lost contact with the following individuals:

Allen, Marcus	Garrison, Benjamin
Batangan, Maria	Ogan, Chelsea
Boileau, Michelle	Pung, Kathy
Broderick, Robert	Redmond, Nikia
Buszka, Jeffrey	Speir, Jacqueline
DellaRocco, Rana	Thompson, Jeffrey
Duffy, Linda	Verdino, Paul
Eckert, Kevin	Young, Olina

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!

ABC Registrar

[abcregistrar@criminalistics.com](mailto:abcregistrar@criminalistics.com)

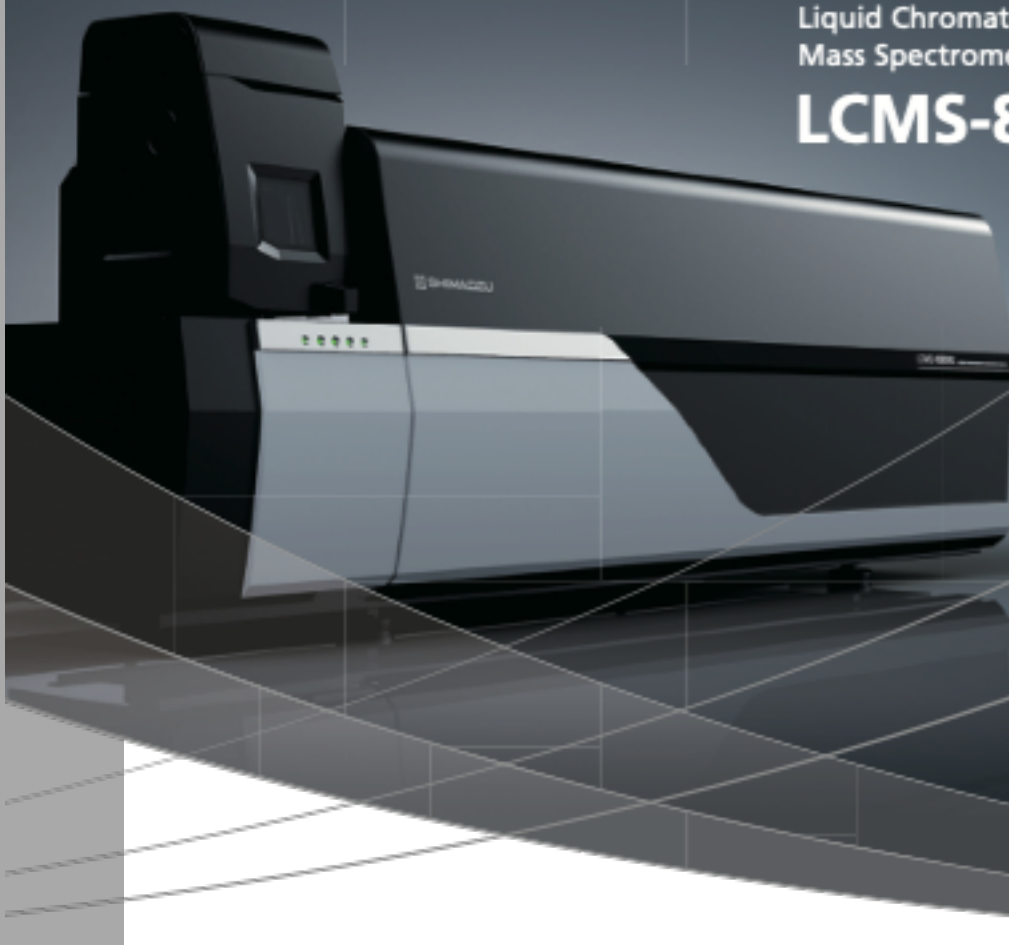
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## Study Guide Update

### **Audra Curry Yovanovich, Examination Committee Chair**

As part of our testing process, we provide each test taker with a critique form. This critique form asks, among other things, questions about the exam, the testing process, and about the study guide. When a test taker submits the critique form, the Examination Coordinator for that exam reviews each response and acts as needed. For example, if a test taker comments that they think a question has two correct answers, the Exam Coordinator will go to the exam and review that specific question to ensure that there is only one correct answer. We take all feedback seriously and do our best to meet the needs of our test takers.

Over the years, a frequent comment seen on the critique form is that our study guides are too broad and not helpful. Many of you have commented that you felt the study guide directed you to “know everything about everything” and did not give you proper focus to prepare for the examination. As a result of these comments, the Examination Committee has decided to radically change the format of the study guides to provide more direction in what content should be studied for the exam. This new format will be used for the exams that we are developing for ISO 17024 accreditation. Currently this includes the new Biological Evidence Screener (BIO) examination, the Forensic DNA (DNA) examination, and the Foundational Knowledge examination (FKE).

When we begin field testing for the FKE, you will be able to see the new study guide format on our website. This new study guide will include a breakdown of examination content, including what percentage of the exam is comprised of certain categories. We have also included knowledge statements which outlines what kind of information a test taker should know for a particular category. These knowledge statements were developed by reviewing the tasks associated with each Knowledge-Skill category (K-S) and what types of questions are being asked in those specific categories. To learn more about K-S categories, see the Question Database Manager’s Update from the Fall 2020 newsletter.

As always, we will be providing sample questions on the study guide, but we will also include the answers to those study guide questions. These questions and answers allow the test taker to see how our questions are structured, what depth of

## Study Guide Update - Cont.

knowledge is expected, and if they answered the question correctly.

We hope this new format to the study guide will provide better direction for our test takers and a more focused approach to studying.

# ABC - About Us

## Officers of the Board of Directors

President  
Danielle Hankinson

Vice President  
Shawn West

Secretary  
Jason Linder

Treasurer  
Angelica Noyola

## Membership Directors (10)

AAFS Criminalistics Section  
Shawn West (Vice President)

ASCLD  
Jason Linder (Secretary)

ASTM-E30  
Chris Taylor  
Appeals Committee Chair

CAC  
Greg Matheson  
Newsletter Editor

MAFS  
Danielle Hankinson (President)  
Recertification Committee Liaison

MAAFS  
Catherine Savage

NEAFS  
Peter Diaczuk  
Marketing Coordinator  
FSAT Task Force Leader

NWAFS  
Stacy Guess  
Ethics Committee Chair

SAFS  
Erin Tracy

SWAFS  
Angelica Noyola (Treasurer)

## At-Large Directors (3)

Christine Pinto - Supported by CAC  
Term Expires - Feb. 2023  
Quality Assurance Committee Chair  
Ed Rhodes Scholarship Coordinator  
Credentials Committee Liaison

David Koppenhaver - Supported by  
MAFS  
Term Expires - Feb 2024  
Exam Committee Liaison

Sandra Koch - Supported by AAFS Criminalistics Section  
Term Expires - Feb. 2022

**Public Member - Open**

## ABC - About Us Continued

### Individuals Assisting the ABC

Jenna Crawford  
Recertification Committee Co-Chair

Crystal Kissel  
Proficiency Review Co-Chair

Julie Conover Sikorsky  
Credentials Committee Chair

Sara Roper  
Webmaster of the ABC Website

Amy Winters  
Recertification Committee Co-Chair

### Task Groups - Leads

Recertification - Gretchen Lajoie

### Member Organizations (10)

American Academy of Forensic Sciences - Criminalistics Section (AAFS)  
ASTM Committee E-30 (Forensic Science)  
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (AAFS)  
California Association of Criminalists (CAC)  
Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists (MAAFS)  
Midwestern Association of Forensic Sciences (MAFS)  
Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS)  
Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists (NWAFS)  
Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS)  
Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (SWAFS)



# ABC - About Us Continued

## Committees

### *Examination Committee*

AAFS Criminalistics Section  
Amy Reynolds  
Comprehensive Criminalistics Coordinator  
Hairs & Fibers Coordinator

ASCLD  
Stewart Raley  
Molecular Biology Coordinator

ASTM-E30  
Stephanie Lambert

CAC  
Esmeraldo Gorecho III

MAFS  
Audra Curry Yovanovich (Chair)

MAAFS  
Ruth Damaso Neely  
FT: BIO and DNA Coordinator

NEAFS  
Amy Duhaime  
Fire Debris Coordinator  
FT: FKE coordinator

NWAFS  
Tanna Brown (Vice-Chair)  
Drug Analysis Coordinator

SAFS  
Tammy Jergovich  
Paints and Polymers Coordinator

SWAFS  
Charles Cline

*Quality Assurance Committee* - Chair Christine Pinto  
*Credentials Committee* - Liaison Christine Pinto  
*Recertification Committee* - Liaison Danielle Hankinson  
*Appeals Committee* - Chair Chris Taylor  
*Ed Rhodes Scholarship* - Coordinator Christine Pinto  
*Ethics Committee* - Chair Stacey Guess  
*Newsletter* - Editor Greg Matheson

## Contractors

Registrar - Mike Healy (Certificate Preparer)

Accreditation Manager - Gretchen Lajoie

Question Database Master - David Stockwell