

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON BLOODSTAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS
(SWGSTAIN)

**Fall Meeting
November 12- 14, 2002
Quantico, VA**

November 12, 2002

The following minutes document the biannual SWGSTAIN meeting which took place in Quantico, Virginia November 12- 14, 2002. SWGSTAIN members in attendance were:

Tom Bevel, TBI
Rhonda Craig, FBI Laboratory
Richard Eikelenboom, Netherlands Forensic Institute
Rod Englert, Englert Forensic Consultants
Bart Epstein, Laber & Epstein
Martin Eversdijk, Institute for Criminal Investigation & Crime Scene
Neil Fraser, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Ross Gardner, Lake City Police Dept.
Tom Griffin, CBI
Jeff Gurvis, N. Illinois Police Crime Lab
Stuart James, James & Assoc. Forensic Consultants Inc.
Paul Kish, Forensic Consultant & Assoc.
Terry Laber, MDPS-BCA Crime Lab
Pat Laturnus, Ontario Police College
Jennifer Luttmann, FBI Laboratory
Kenneth Martin, MA State Police
Jon Nordby, Final Analysis Forensics
Tony Onorato, FBI Laboratory
Kelly Robbins, KBI
Phyllis Rollan, AL Dept. of Forensic Science
Heather Seubert, FBI Laboratory
Bob Spalding, Spalding Forensics
LeeAnn Singley, Pennsylvania State Police
Mike Van Stratton, KBI
Toby Wolson, Miami-Dade PD Crime Lab

Onorato briefly reviewed the meeting agenda. Onorato announced to members that he has been named the Chair of SWGSTAIN by the Assistant Director of the FBI Laboratory. Onorato opened floor to comments regarding his SWGSTAIN presentation at the International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts (IABPA) conference in Harrisburg, PA. A lively discussion followed.

The ratified bylaws were reviewed. A discussion by the membership regarding the FBI's role in the formation of SWGSTAIN followed. Onorato will consider rewording the

statement within his introductory presentation. (Original statement reads, “The FBI Laboratory through its case working units and Forensic Science Training Unit (FSTU) has developed a Scientific Working Group (SWG) program for assembling such contemplative groups.”)

The members divided into their respective subcommittees. They were organized as follows:

Terminology Subcommittee: Bob Spalding, Kelly Robbins, Ross Gardner, and Stuart James

Quality Assurance Subcommittee: Jennifer Luttmann, LeeAnn Singley, Bart Epstein, Tom Bevel, Neil Fraser, and Martin Eversdijk

Education & Training Subcommittee: Heather Seubert, Toby Wolson, Paul Kish, Kenneth Martin, Pat Laturus, and Richard Eikelenboom

Research Subcommittee: Terry Laber, Mike Van Stratton, Chris Price, and Vincent Hawkes

Legal Subcommittee: Rhonda Craig, Rod Englert, Jeff Gurvis, Phyllis Rollan, and Jon Nordby

Onorato asked the members of each subcommittee to recommend a Subcommittee Chair within each of their groups. According to the bylaws, this is a simple Chair appointment with no ratification necessary. The individuals recommend and subsequently appointed by Onorato as Subcommittee Chairs were as follows:

Terminology Subcommittee: Ross Gardner

Quality Assurance Subcommittee: LeeAnn Singley

Education & Training Subcommittee: Not appointed at this time

Research Subcommittee: Terry Laber

Legal Subcommittee: Rhonda Craig

Onorato nominated Tom Griffin for appointment as the SWGSTAIN Vice-Chair. Ross Gardner seconded the nomination. The membership unanimously approved the nomination. The members then divided into their respective subcommittees for the morning.

The members reconvened to discuss the status of their subcommittee work:

Terminology Subcommittee: Ross Gardner discussed the direction that his subcommittee will take, which is building a hierarchical taxonomy first.

Quality Assurance Subcommittee: LeeAnn Singley reported on the progress of her subcommittee. They discussed the pros and cons of SOPs.

Education & Training Subcommittee: Paul Kish reported on the progress of his subcommittee. They have developed segments (Segment A: Subject Matter, Segment B: Qualifications, Segment C: References, Segment D: Final Assessment, Segment E: Continuing Education/ Follow-Up Training) to prioritize.

Research Subcommittee: Terry Laber reported on the progress of his subcommittee. They evaluated and discussed each category.

Legal Subcommittee: Rhonda Craig reported on the progress of her subcommittee. Her group viewed her moot Daubert hearing training video. The subcommittee will compose a list of possible Daubert hearing questions and answers, which will be used as a reference.

A general discussion by the membership followed.

November 13, 2002

Onorato appointed Heather Seubert as the Education & Training Subcommittee Chair after her recommendation by the members of this subcommittee.

The members divided into their respective subcommittees for the day.

The members reconvened to discuss the status of their subcommittee work:

Terminology Subcommittee: Ross Gardner reported that the name of the subcommittee has changed to Taxonomy and Terminology, and should be referred to as such in future. They are working on building a taxonomy classification. A discussion regarding classification followed.

Quality Assurance Subcommittee: LeeAnn Singley reported that they are developing the guidelines to discover blood patterns. They briefed on the pros and cons of certification and proficiency testing. A discussion by the membership regarding proficiency testing followed.

Education & Training Subcommittee: Heather Seubert reported that they developed subcategories in order to manage all of the topics within the subcommittee. They discussed minimum standards which would be flexible enough for instructors to utilize. A membership discussion ensued regarding standards and guidelines.

Research Subcommittee: Terry Laber reported on the need of journal articles. A discussion by the membership followed regarding the pros and cons of maintaining court transcripts in a central repository.

Legal Subcommittee: Rhonda Craig reported the status of the qualifying questions as still a work in progress. A general discussion by the membership followed.

Onorato concluded the meeting by asking each member to furnish five (5) names for consideration as Executive Board Regular Members.

November 14, 2002

The members divided into their respective subcommittees for the morning.

The members reconvened for ratification of the Executive Board Regular Members seats. The following people were nominated for appointment by Onorato:

Tom Bevel
Bart Epstein
Paul Kish
Pat Laturus
Kelly Robbins

The membership ratified the appointment by simple majority for each of the five (5) nominees.

The members divided into their respective subcommittees for the day.

The members reconvened for closing remarks and to discuss the status of their subcommittee work.

Onorato nominated Mike Van Stratton for appointment to serve as the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) representative. The membership ratified the appointment by simple majority.

Onorato indicated that it may be possible to distribute continuing education certificates to participants at the Spring SWGSTAIN meeting.

Research Subcommittee: Terry Laber reported that his subcommittee needs articles to compile a resourceful bibliography. Mike Van Stratton plans to report on CTS proficiency results as well as investigate international proficiency tests at the next meeting.

Quality Assurance Subcommittee: LeeAnn Singley reported that her subcommittee will continue to work on SOP appendices. They would like to have a work product ready for SWGSTAIN peer review at the Fall Meeting, 2003. Singley encouraged members to email their quality assurance manuals to her.

Taxonomy and Terminology Subcommittee: Ross Gardner reported that his subcommittee was working on a process of redefining terms. He plans to create a worksheet (stating size, shape, orientation) in which he will provide to members via email in hopes of receiving feedback. He will use this feedback to assist in the redefining

of terms.

Education & Training Subcommittee: Heather Seubert emphasized that they were establishing best practices for the discipline. Seubert asked members to provide resources and/or manuals that the subcommittee may utilize for ideas. They assigned 'homework' within the subcommittee in order to prepare for the Spring Meeting.

Legal Subcommittee: Rhonda Craig reported that her subcommittee generated thirteen (13) rough qualifying questions for Daubert hearings. They will continue to work on answers to those questions as well as provide articles to support each answer for the Spring meeting.