

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON BLOODSTAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS  
(SWGSTAIN)

**Fall Meeting**  
**November 11-13, 2003**  
**Quantico, VA**

November 11, 2003

The following minutes document the biannual meeting which took place in Quantico, Virginia November 11-13, 2003. Those in attendance were:

Tony Onorato, *Chairperson*, FBI Laboratory  
Tom Griffin, *Vice-Chairperson*, CBI  
Tom Bevel, *Executive Board Member*, TBI  
Bart Epstein, *Executive Board Member*, Laber & Epstein  
Paul Kish, *Executive Board Member*, Forensic Consultant & Associates  
Pat Laturnus, *Executive Board Member*, Ontario Police College  
Kelly Robbins, *Executive Board Member*, Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
Rhonda Craig, *Legal Subcommittee Chair*, FBI Laboratory  
Ross Gardner, *Taxonomy and Terminology Subcommittee Chair*, Gardner Forensic Consulting  
Heather Seubert, *Education and Training Subcommittee Chair*, FBI Laboratory  
LeeAnn Singley, *Quality Assurance Subcommittee Chair*, Pennsylvania State Police  
Mike Van Stratton, *ASCLD Representative*, Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
Richard Eikelenboom, Netherlands Forensic Institute  
Rod Englert, Englert Forensic Consultants  
Martin Eversdijk, Institute for Criminal Investigation and Crime Science  
Victor Gorman, Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Ros Hammond, Forensic Alliance  
Stuart James, James & Assoc. Forensic Consultants Inc.  
Jennifer Luttmann, FBI Laboratory  
Kenneth Martin, MA State Police  
Jon Nordby, Final Analysis Forensics  
Toby Wolson, Miami-Dade PD Crime Lab

Invited Guests:

William Basso, Lethbridge Police Service  
Kim Duddy, Washington State Police Crime Laboratory  
Carolyn Gannett, San Diego County Sheriff's Office

A brief Subcommittee Chair meeting was held by Tony Onorato and Tom Griffin to review the progress made by each subcommittee and plan for the current meeting.

The meeting began with opening remarks by Onorato. New members and invited guests were introduced.

Conference presentation update

International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts (IABPA) conference- Onorato provided an overview of the presentation for SWGSTAIN members who did not attend the IABPA conference. Onorato stated that the feedback on the survey provided at the end of the presentation was, for the most part, positive. Resistance was shown toward FBI, not SWGSTAIN as an organization.

Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction (ACSR) conference- Griffin gave the same presentation at ACSR; however, without the survey. Though less responsive than IABPA, Griffin believed SWGSTAIN was well received at the ACSR meeting. A lively discussion regarding the need for SWGs in other forensic disciplines, such as crime scene reconstruction, ensued.

Publishing a narrative of the presentation and the survey in other organizations' newsletters to inform the forensic science community of the progress of SWGSTAIN was discussed.

#### American Society of Crime Laboratory Director (ASCLD) update

SWGSTAIN ASCLD Representative Mike Van Stratton provided an overview of the SWGSTAIN update at the ASCLD meeting. Van Stratton relayed SWGSTAIN's objectives, updates, subcommittees, member roster, etc. via a poster presentation. Van Stratton stated that the response was positive. A synopsis of the presentation will be published in the ASCLAD newsletter.

Onorato announced that Van Stratton will serve as a floater and not be assigned to the Research Subcommittee.

#### Research Subcommittee

Onorato addressed the concerns of the Research Subcommittee, which has had a difficult time flourishing due to attendance issues and the fact that the direction of this subcommittee relies heavily on the direction of the other groups.

Onorato proposed to suspend the Research Subcommittee on a short-term basis.

#### Formation of an *ad hoc* Ethics Subcommittee

Onorato proposed the formation of an *ad hoc* Ethics Subcommittee on a short-term basis. A lively discussion followed and a consensus to do so was reached. Due to their knowledge and expertise of ethics regulations, Onorato appointed Tom Bevel, Mike Van Stratton, Kim Duddy, and Jon Nordby to serve on the subcommittee. Onorato stressed that the subcommittee will only address ethical issues of SWGSTAIN and not of ethical standards that a blood pattern analyst upholds. A lively discussion ensued.

#### Virtual Academy

Onorato reported to members that the FBI's Virtual Academy is still a work in progress.

#### New Member Assignments

New member assignments were as follows:

Ros Hammond: Legal Subcommittee

Victor Gorman: Terminology Subcommittee

Onorato mentioned that Adrian Emes and Michael Illes (not present) will be afforded the opportunity to choose which subcommittee best suits their interests at a future meeting.

### Terminology Issue

As suggested by the Executive Board and addressed by the membership at the March 2003 meeting, the following words should be used to convey the following meanings:

1. Shall= will be done
2. Must= without exception
3. Should=expected to be done
4. Recommend= appropriate, but not mandatory

A lively discussion followed.

Quality Assurance Subcommittee: LeeAnn Singley reported that the group will focus on finalizing the standard operating procedures document for crime scene analysis.

Legal Subcommittee: Rhonda Craig reported that only one feedback was received for the working document on direct examination which was sent electronically to members after the March 2003 meeting. Craig reported the group will focus on developing cross examination questions and their suggested responses with appropriate reference citations.

Education and Training Subcommittee: Heather Seubert reported that the group will focus on finalizing the outline for training matters which will assist in developing specific guidelines for blood pattern analysis training courses.

Taxonomy and Terminology Subcommittee: Ross Gardner reported that the group will continue to focus on describing patterns. Gardner emphasized that the group expects to have a basic taxonomy draft document by the end of the week.

The membership then held break-out sessions to address and prioritize their issues for the afternoon.

November 12, 2003

Onorato began the meeting by welcoming and introducing guest speaker Mr. Stephen B. Meagher, Unit Chief of the Latent Fingerprint Unit of the FBI Laboratory. Meagher provided an overview of the challenges that expert witnesses face in a Daubert hearing. A question and answer session followed.

The membership then broke into its subcommittees for the remainder of the day.

November 13, 2003

The membership broke into its subcommittees for the morning and reconvened as a group in the afternoon.

Tom Griffin began the meeting by thanking the invited guests and new members for their ideas and insight.

Griffin reiterated that any draft documents given out by subcommittees were for members only. Invited guests may review documents, but may not take them.

Griffin suggested to watermark "DRAFT" on documents.

#### Subcommittee Updates:

Legal Subcommittee: Craig reported on the development of a two part document designed to assist in preparing a curriculum vitae and cross examination predicate questions and suggested answers which defend the discipline. Craig encourages feedback to the draft document handout by February. A lively discussion concerning methodology ensued.

Taxonomy and Terminology Subcommittee: Kelly Robbins spoke on behalf of Ross Gardner on the progress of the group. A lot of time was spent on defining the terms dynamic and passive patterns. The group hopes to have a draft document for membership review by the end of Spring 2004 meeting.

Education and Training Subcommittee: Heather Seubert commented on the productivity of this meeting. Seubert provided members with the draft document on the guidelines for the educational requirements for trainees, analysts, and instructors on the topic of blood pattern analysis. Seubert encourages members to provide comments in written format at the Spring meeting.

Ethics Subcommittee: Jon Nordby addressed the issues concerning the creation of the ethics document, which is still a work in progress. Nordby emphasized the importance of the ethics code. The document was given to members for review. The document will also be reviewed by the FBI lawyers. Comments and feedback will be reviewed and incorporated into the document at the Spring meeting. A lively discussion ensued.

Griffin asked the members to be respectful to the feedback deadlines set forth by the subcommittee chairs.

Seubert provided Continuing Education Certificates to the members.

Griffin furnished the guests an opportunity to address the membership with a brief summary of their SWGSTAIN experience.

#### New Business

2:56 pm: Griffin proposed a motion to accept the November, 2002 SWGSTAIN minutes as amended. Toby Wolson carried the motion. Jon Nordby seconded the motion.

2:58 pm: Griffin proposed a motion to accept the March, 2003 SWGSTAIN minutes as amended. Toby Wolson carried the motion. Pat Laturnus seconded the motion.

Griffin mentioned that the minutes of the SWGSTAIN meetings will be available on the Forensic Science Communication in the near future.

The Spring meeting dates were discussed. The members tentatively scheduled the next SWGSTAIN meeting for May 10-14, 2004 in Quantico, VA. Members expressed concern for

the need of more than two weeks notice of meeting dates. Onorato will contact each member via letter in the near future to facilitate the administrative needs of individual members. A lively discussion ensued regarding March and May meeting dates.

Griffin encouraged members to present SWGSTAIN at other organization conferences when an opportunity to so arises. A lively discussion regarding possible forums ensued. Griffin relayed to the members that Onorato will check on the prospect of creating a SWGSTAIN website.

The invited guests returned draft documents and were thanked once again for their participation and were adjourned.

#### Executive Board Report

Griffin briefed the membership on topics discussed at the Executive Board Meeting which met on November 11, 2003 at 5:00 pm.