

# SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON BLOODSTAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS (SWGSTAIN)

Fall Meeting  
November 5-9, 2007  
Dumfries, VA

The following minutes document the biannual meeting which took place in Dumfries, VA November 5-9, 2007.  
Those in attendance were:

Anthony Onorato- *Chairperson*- FBI Laboratory  
Tom Griffin- *Vice-Chairperson*- Colorado Bureau of Investigation  
Tom Bevel- *Executive Board Member*- TBI  
Iris Dalley- *Executive Board Member*- OK State Bureau of Investigation  
Martin Eversdijk- *Executive Board Member*- Amsterdam Police  
Paul Kish- *Executive Board Member*- Forensic Consultant & Associates  
Pat Laturnus- *Executive Board Member*- Ontario Police College- Canada  
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*- Grayson Singley Assoc., LLC  
Michael Van Stratton- *ASCLD Representative*- Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
Victor Gorman- Consultant  
Jon Forsythe- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) - Canada  
Neil Fraser- R.C.M.P. - Canada  
Mike Illes- Ontario Provincial Police- Canada  
Stuart James- James & Associates Forensic Consultants, Inc.  
Kenneth Martin- Massachusetts State Police  
Bob Spalding-Spalding Forensics, LLC  
Paulette Sutton- Consultant  
Michael Taylor- Christchurch Science Centre- New Zealand  
Toby Wolson- Miami-Dade Police Department Crime Laboratory

## Ex Officio members and Invited Guests

David Baldwin- Iowa State Midwest Forensic Resource Center  
Donald Doller- Suffolk County Crime Laboratory  
Philippe Esperanca- French Gendarmerie Research Institute- France  
Gillian Leak- Forensic Science Service- United Kingdom  
Willem van Spanje- Delft Forensics- The Netherlands  
Brian Yamashita- Royal Canadian Mounted Police- Canada

## **Monday, November 5, 2007**

Tony Onorato began the meeting at 9:15 am with opening remarks and reviewing the meeting's agenda.

Onorato asked the group about their experience with the website, [www.swgstain.org](http://www.swgstain.org). He said the non-SWGSTAIN documents are now noted as such on the Resource page. The group said that they were still having trouble using their email accounts. Many were receiving numerous Spam messages. It was suggested to incorporate password protected areas to the site exclusive to members only, so the need for using the email accounts would diminish. Onorato stated that he was working with an employee of the Evidence Response Team to get the hi-speed video (from Fall, 2005 meeting) into a sizeable clip for the website.

Guests were encouraged to introduce themselves to the group.  
Guests were encouraged to attend any of the subcommittee sessions that interested them.

Mike Van Stratton said that the SWGSTAIN poster presentation received a lot of positive attention at the American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD) meeting.

The following documents were due to be in Forensic Science Communications in January, 2008: "Guidelines for the Minimum Educational and Training Requirements for Bloodstain Pattern Analysts", "Topics to consider in Preparation for an Admissibility Hearing on Bloodstain Pattern Analysis", and "Guidelines for a Quality Assurance Program in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis". Onorato handed out the editor's comments which were incorporated into the documents. He asked the group to read over the comments.

The current bylaws and a copy of the recommended changes to the bylaws were included in this meeting's folder packet. Onorato asked the group for feedback of the recommended changes of the bylaws that he sent via email. Most of the changes were made in an effort to ensure the work product could progress at each meeting. Tom Griffin interjected that this topic was being brought up because there were 21 members present at this time. A lively discussion ensued regarding when to vote on the bylaw changes. Ken Martin suggested waiting until the following morning to vote to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to thoroughly read them.

Subcommittee updates:

Research – Mike Illes said that three members have reached out to laboratories and departments internationally for interest in participation in research projects. He was interested in seeing the data from the Backtrac® (remote analysis) project.

Quality Assurance – LeeAnn Singley reported that nine pages of comments were generated for the document handed out at the previous meeting. Singley mentioned that the "Guidelines for Developing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Bloodstain Pattern Analysis" document was ready for review from the members; however, it was not in the proper format yet. Her subcommittee planned to review the edited "Guidelines for a Quality Assurance in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis" document.

Education & Training – Heather Seubert reported that they continue working on the "Educational Model for an Introductory Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Course" document. Her subcommittee planned to review the edited "Guidelines for the Minimum Educational and Training Requirements for Bloodstain Pattern Analysts" document.

Taxonomy & Terminology – Ross Gardner stated that his subcommittee planned to continue working on the decision map.

Legal – No one from the Legal subcommittee was present at this time to give an update.

Griffin reminded the invited guests that any documents given out during the meeting were for members only. Guests may review documents, but may not take them.

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

## **Tuesday, November 6, 2007**

Singley handed out the "Guidelines for Developing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Bloodstain Pattern Analysis" document.

Philippe Esperanca gave a presentation on Blood Pattern Analysis (BPA) Taxonomy. A lively discussion ensued following the presentation.

Vic Gorman spoke on behalf of the Taxonomy group. He said that the final product would be a consensus. Gorman ensured the group that the subcommittee was very close to handing out a document. A lively

discussion ensued. Paul Kish reminded everyone of the statement on the SWGSTAIN logo; which is "Consensus through convergence". Kish said that the terms needed to be driven out now. Gorman thanked everyone for a professional exchange of ideas.

Invited guest speaker Dr. David Baldwin of the Midwest Forensic Resource Center gave a research update. A question and answer session followed.

Invited guest speaker Donald Doller of the Suffolk County Crime Laboratory gave an update to the target project. A question and answer session followed.

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

The group rejoined for an evening session for a vendor software demonstration given by Willem van Spanje of Delft Forensics.

### **Wednesday, November 7, 2007**

The membership broke into its subcommittees for the day.

### **Thursday, November 8, 2007**

Invited guest speaker Dr. Brian Yamashita of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police gave a presentation on "Bloody Foot and Footwear Impressions". A question and answer session followed.

The membership then broke into its subcommittees for the remainder of the morning and afternoon.

Business Meeting began at 4:07 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm.