

**SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON BLOODSTAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS  
(SWGSTAIN)**

**Fall Meeting  
November 3-7, 2008  
Dumfries, VA**

The following minutes document the biannual meeting which took place in Dumfries, VA, November 3-7, 2008.

Those in attendance were:

Tony Onorato, *Chairperson*, FBI  
Tom Griffin, *Vice-Chair*, Colorado Bureau of Investigation  
Iris Dalley- *Executive Board Member*, OK State Bureau of Investigation  
Martin Eversdijk- *Executive Board Member*, Amsterdam Police  
Tom Bevel- *Executive Board Member*, Bevel, Gardner & Associates  
Rhonda Craig- *Legal Subcommittee Chair*, FBI Laboratory,  
LeeAnn Singley- *Quality Assurance Subcommittee Chair*, Grayson Singley Assoc., LLC  
Heather Seubert- *Education and Training Subcommittee Chair*, FBI Laboratory  
Ross Gardner- *Taxonomy/Terminology Subcommittee Chair*, Bevel, Gardner & Assoc.  
Mike Illes- *Research Subcommittee Chair*, Ontario Provincial Police

Philippe Esperanca- French Gendarmerie Research Institute- France  
Neil Fraser- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)  
Victor Gorman- RCMP (retired)  
Jeff Gurvis- Consultant  
Stuart James- James & Associates Forensic Consultants, Inc.  
Tony Larkin- Metropolitan Police Service, London  
Gillian Leak- Forensic Science Service, United Kingdom  
Ken Martin- Massachusetts State Police  
Jon Nordby- Final Analysis Forensics  
Bob Spalding- Spalding Forensics, LLC  
Michael Taylor- Institute of Environmental Science & Research, New Zealand  
Mike VanStratton- ASCLD LAB representative, Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
Toby Wolson- Miami-Dade Police Department Crime Laboratory

Ex Officio members and Guests

David Baldwin- Iowa State Midwest Forensic Resource Center  
Kevin Maloney- IABPA Committee for SWGSTAIN Response, Ottawa Police Service  
Carolyn Gannett- San Diego Sheriff's Crime Lab  
Jeff Scozzafava- Detective, Somerset County Prosecutor's Office  
Jonathyn Priest- Lt. Denver Police Department  
Yong-Seok Choi- Daegu Metropolitan Police Agency, Korea  
Brian Yamashita- RCMP  
Donald Doller- Suffolk County Crime Laboratory  
Antony Cooper- Built Environment Unit, CSIR, South Africa  
Terry Gattis- Broward County, Florida  
Jeremy Morris- Johnson County, Kansas

## **Monday 11/3/08**

The Subcommittee Chairs met with Onorato and Griffin to discuss updates from each of the Subcommittees.

Onorato opened the meeting at approximately 9:15 a.m. The first order of business was the members' updates as to goings on in the "SWGSTAIN family." Onorato then described the SWGSTAIN protocols for meetings, subcommittee documents (work product) for discussion or review. This meeting will include documents at all three types of reviews. After discussion, it was decided that a list of members would be updated and handed out at every spring meeting.

The subcommittee chairs or their representatives gave updates. The Terminology draft document from Terminology and Taxonomy has been posted and responses with comments had been received. Research was in the process of writing review articles and working on validation. To date 571 articles have been received. Given copyrights, etc. the subcommittee cannot provide copies of these articles. Quality Assurance has the Guideline document for SOP, which underwent "cross pollination" at the last meeting was ready for "the big board." Legal had put out their second document at the last meeting and was doing rewrite on it. Education and Training was working on documents for introductory and advanced courses.

The general session then ended and the subcommittees began the work sessions. This continued into and throughout the afternoon.

## **Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup>**

Antony Cooper did a presentation on his "Thoughts on Categorizing Bloodstain Patterns" and provided a handout of his presentation.

Onorato then called for a brief members-only meeting to discuss issues that have arisen.

The remainder of the day was devoted to the subcommittees work.

That evening Donald Doller presented his research findings on multiple impact study. He described his theoretical approach and his practical approach. He also mentioned the ISO 17025 system for standards.

Mike VanStratton talked about the issue of error rates. Toby distributed a handout covering a second compilation of case law from 1993-1999. There was discussion about the data from proficiency tests as a means of getting information on error rates.

## **Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup>**

The first part of the morning was devoted to the subcommittees meeting individually.

At 10:00 a.m. Terminology presented the comments that had been received after the Terminology draft had been posted. Four replies had been received. Gardner acknowledged the input of the guests. The revised draft was projected along with comment document from the IABPA committee for comparison. The revised draft was formatted according to the template for terminology in ISO standards. A lively discussion followed as each term was presented. Only the terms and their definitions were being presented now, with classification to follow at a later time.

This presentation and discussion essentially took up the remainder of the day.

## **Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

Yong-Seok Choi presented the status of bloodstain pattern analysis in Korea, which included a summary of a meeting of the Korean Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts. This association was formed in June 2008. His city has a population of 2.5 million with 6,000 police officers. There is one national police system with 100,000 officers. This informative presentation included training in BPA in Korea.

Baldwin discussed the Midwest Forensic Resource Center (MFRC) based at Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa. The Midwest region covers thirteen states. Funding comes from NIJ. Some of the advisory groups include casework assistance, training programs education and research. He talked about the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCE). Some SWGSTAIN members have worked with him on various projects.

He presented videos created by using “shadowgraphy” that showed backspatter interacting with air. During this study they found sub-millimeter spatter on targets 6-8 feet away.

QA then took a document (Guidelines for Developing an SOP for BPA) to the “big board.” Another lively discussion ensued. This continued into the afternoon. After noting that the subcommittee will attach a glossary to the document, Wolson made a motion to accept the document. Craig seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The document will now go to the executive board.

Discussion resumed on the terminology document. After further discussion, Wolson made a motion to accept the document and pass it on to the executive board. Singley seconded the motion. It passed unanimously with no abstentions.

At 3:15 p.m. Onorato convened the business meeting. Gurvis made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Gorman seconded. The motion passed. Onorato will post the minutes on the website. The spring meeting is scheduled for March 30 to April 3, 2009.

All of the guests were offered an opportunity to address the group. After that, the guests were asked to turn in any “work product” to Onorato. The guests were thanked for their participation and then they left so the members-only portion of the meeting could be held.