

**Minutes of the Scientific Working Group on Bloodstain Pattern
Analysis (SWGSTAIN)
Spring Meeting
March 29 – April 3, 2009**

I. The following minutes document the biannual meeting that took place in Salt Lake City, Utah March 29-April 3 2009.

II. Those in attendance were:

Executive Board:

Chair: David Baldwin, Midwest Forensics Resource Center

Regular Members:

Iris Dalley, Bevel, Gardner & Associates
Martin Eversdijk, Regional Police Amsterdam-Amstelland Forensic Department
Paul Kish, Forensic Consultant & Associates
Pat Latusus, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Retired
Michael Taylor, Institute of Environmental Science and Research (NZ)

Subcommittee Chairs:

Legal- Jeff Gurvis, Porter Lee Corporation
Quality Assurance- Lee Ann Singley, Grayson Singley Associates
Research and Development - Michael Illes, Ontario Provincial Police
Training and Education- Toby Wolson, Miami-Dade Police Dept.
Executive Secretary: Todd Zdorkowski, Midwest Forensics Resource Center
(appointed during meeting)

Members:

Iris Dalley, Bevel, Gardner & Associates
Richard Eikelenboom, Independent Forensic Services
Philippe Esperança, Institut Genetique-Nantes
Jon Forsythe, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Retired)
Neil Fraser, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Victor Gorman, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Retired)
Stuart James, James & Associates Forensic Consultants, Inc.
Terry Laber, Laber & Epstein
Tony Larkin, Metropolitan Police Service
Gillian Leak, Forensic Science Service
Jon Nordby, Final Analysis Forensics
Mark Reynolds, West Australian Police Service
Paulette Sutton, University of Tennessee (Retired)
Mike Van Stratton, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, *ASCLD Representative*

Ex-Officio Members

IABPA Representative: Kevin Maloney, Ottawa Police Service

Invited Guests

Antony Cooper, CSIR Built Environment (SA)
Scott Jory, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Kevin Maloney, Ottawa Police Service
Jeremiah Morris, Johnson County Sheriff's Office
Jonathyn Priest, Denver Police Department
Brian Yamashita, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Todd Zdorkowski, Midwest Forensics Resource Center

In Support

Cindy Eckhart, Midwest Forensics Resource Center

III. Agenda and minutes

Sunday, March 29, 2009

9:00 PM Meeting of SWGSTAIN international travelers.

The Chair welcomed the international travelers to the meeting. He gave a short preview of the meeting, inquired into the nature of their travel experiences, and proposed a change in the administration of SWGSTAIN international travel.

Monday, March 30

7:30 AM and 8:00 AM Chair and Vice Chair Meeting and Subcommittee Chair Meeting: Attendees re-capped the past 6 months' developments and previewed the coming week's program of work.

9:00 AM Welcome and Business Matters: The Chair welcomed the group to Salt Lake City. He described how the FBI transferred sponsorship of SWGSTAIN to the Midwest Forensics Resource Center and he acknowledged NIJ for allowing the MFRC to fund SWGSTAIN.

10:00 AM Subcommittee Updates:

Research Subcommittee Chair, Mike Illes, described progress made by the MFRC in expanding the SWGSTAIN bibliography and working on review articles.

Quality Assurance Subcommittee Chair, LeeAnn Singley, reported that the subcommittee would review the public comments on the SOP guidelines and resubmit the document to the group during the week.

Education and Training Subcommittee Chair (acting), Toby Wolson, reported that his Subcommittee had produced a document describing the recommended content for a basic BPA course that would be circulated for comment.

Taxonomy and Terminology Subcommittee Chair, Stuart James (reporting for Ross Gardner), reported that the group is working on a taxonomy document.

Legal Subcommittee Chair, Jeff Gurvis, reported that the Subcommittee would continue combing the SWGSTAIN bibliography for materials that meet criteria for validation.

11 AM to 5 PM Subcommittee Break-Out/Working sessions

6:00 PM Executive Board Meeting: The Executive Board met to discuss the opening of the meeting, the day's progress, the NAS report, and other events.

Tuesday, March 31

8:00 AM Invited Guest Lecture and Group Discussion: “The MFRC’s NIJ BPA Training Program.” Todd Zdorkowski, Associate Director of the MFRC.

9-11:30 AM Subcommittee Break-Out/Working Sessions

1:30 PM QA Chair, LeeAnn Singley presented the subcommittee’s Standard Operating Procedure document. The document was approved by the membership.

2 to 5 PM Subcommittee Break-Out/Working Sessions

6:00 PM Special Topics Dinner and Discussion: “SWGSTAIN and the NAS Report”
Discussion Leader Paul Kish reported on the National Academy of Sciences study entitled: “Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward”. The membership decided to draft a position statement with respect to the content and findings of the report. The T&E subcommittee was assigned the task of preparing a rough draft.

Wednesday, April 1

8:00 AM Guest Lecture and Discussion: Invited Speaker, Sgt. Scott Jory, Bloodstain Pattern Analyst in the Halifax RCMP National Forensic Investigation Support Services, spoke about the "Standardization of the RCMP National Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Program."

Guest Lecture and Discussion: Invited Speaker, Mr. Antony Cooper, Operating Unit Fellow in Logistics and Quantitative Methods, CSIR Built Environment, of Pretoria, South Africa addressed: "Thoughts on categorizing bloodstain patterns"

10:00 AM – 11 AM Subcommittee Peer Review Presentation.
Education and Training Subcommittee Chair, Toby Wolson, described the approach that the Subcommittee had taken to the development of its draft bloodstain pattern analysis course. Feedback from the membership requested modification of the document.

1:30 PM to 5 PM Subcommittee Break-Out/Work Sessions

Thursday, April 2

8:00 AM Guest Lecture and Discussion: Invited Speaker, Jeremy Morris of the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office, described experiments that he performed to create and characterize bloodstains caused when blood soaked clothing is ripped at a crime scene.

Guest Lecture and Discussion: Invited Speaker, Jonathyn Priest of the Denver Police Department, presented an introduction to “Blood and Crime Scenes.”

10:00 AM Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions

1:30 PM Subcommittee Updates:

The Research Subcommittee (Mike Illes) reported that new articles had been added to the SWGSTAIN bibliography, progress was made clustering groups of related articles, and related articles assigned to authors for review, write-up and publication. Mike reported that the Research Subcommittee would like to invite a number of academic researchers to future meetings.

The Legal Subcommittee (Jeff Gurvis) reported that it was using the SWGSTAIN bibliography to search for existing validation studies and considering validation studies of specific procedures in BPA.

The Education and Training Subcommittee (Toby Wolson) reported on revising the draft model.

The Taxonomy and Terminology Subcommittee (Stuart James) reported that they are discussing a document that links the published terminology with lab-produced photographic images and written descriptions.

The Quality Assurance Subcommittee (LeeAnn Singley) will begin to investigate development of guidelines for BPA proficiency testing.

The Education and Training Subcommittee (Toby Wolson) distributed the Subcommittee's draft NAS position paper for discussion and revision.

4:00 PM Business Meeting

- A. Minutes of the previous meeting
 - a. Several edits were suggested
 - b. The amended minutes were voted on and accepted
- B. Old Business
 - a. The NAS Report and SWGSTAIN response
 - i. The edited SWGSTAIN response was voted on and approved
 - ii. The Executive Board was given responsibility for finalizing the group draft and circulating as appropriate
 - b. The QA document
 - i. The approved document will be provided to the Chair of the Executive Board
 - ii. It will be submitted to the FBI's "Forensic Science Communications" for publication.
 - iii. It will be published in the IABPA Newsletter afterwards.
 - iv. It will also be published on the SWGSTAIN website.
 - c. SWGSTAIN website
 - i. The Chair reported that the website has been moved to Google, where it is free of hosting costs.
 - ii. The Chair proposed redesigning the SWGSTAIN logo, which was moved, voted on, and approved
 - d. Bylaws
 - i. Iris Dalley will rewrite the bylaws to accommodate the change in SWGSTAIN sponsorship

- ii. She will provide them to the Chair for submission to the Executive Board for review and approval
 - iii. The new bylaws will be circulated electronically for at least 2 weeks for review, comments, and voting
 - C. New Business
 - a. Mark Reynolds proposed that SWGSTAIN empanel a Strategic Planning Subcommittee
 - i. It would develop a 15-year “vision” plan, a 5-year “strategic” plan, and 1-year annual plans.
 - ii. The group voted its approval of the proposal.
 - b. Location and date of future meetings
 - i. SWGSTAIN will continue to meet in Salt Lake City - the next meeting date will be November 1-6 2009
 - c. Memberships and appointments
 - i. Jon Nordby, Michael Taylor, and Paulette Sutton were reappointed for 3-years terms.
 - ii. Brian Yamashita was appointed as a new member.
 - iii. Tom Bevel and Iris Dalley requested reassignment from the QA Subcommittee. Their request was accepted. Tom will join the Education and Training Subcommittee, while Iris will join the Research Committee.
 - iv. Jeff Gurvis was appointed to serve as Chair of the Legal Subcommittee, and Toby Wolson was appointed to serve as Chair of the Education and Training Subcommittee.
 - v. Todd Zdorkowski was appointed Executive Secretary.
 - vi. SWGSTAIN Chair noted that the T2 and QA Subcommittees need new members.
 - D. Closing: a motion to close the meeting was offered, seconded, voted-upon and accepted.