

Minutes of the Scientific Working Group on Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (SWGSTAIN), Spring Meeting, April 11 – 16, 2010

The following minutes document the biannual meeting that took place in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 11-16, 2010.

In attendance:

Executive Board:

Chair: David Baldwin, Midwest Forensics Resource Center

Vice Chair: Tom Griffin, Bevel, Gardner and Associates

Regular Members:

Iris Dalley, Bevel, Gardner & Associates

Martin Eversdijk, Regional Police Amsterdam-Amstelland Forensic Department

Pat Laturus, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Retired

Michael Taylor, Institute of Environmental Science and Research (NZ)

Subcommittee Chairs:

Business and Strategic Planning- Mark Reynolds, West Australian Police Service

Legal- For Vic Gorman, Terry Laber, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

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.

Taxonomy and Terminology- For Jeff Gurvis, Stuart James, James & Associates Forensic Consultants

Exec. Secretary: Todd Zdorkowski, Midwest Forensics Resource Center

Members:

Tom Bevel, Bevel, Gardner & Associates

Jon Forsythe, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Retired)

Tony Larkin, Metropolitan Police Service-London

Gillian Leak, Forensic Science Service Ltd. (UK)

Ken Martin, Massachusetts State Police

Jeremiah Morris, Johnson County Sheriff's Office

Brian Yamashita, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Ex-Officio Members:

IABPA Representative: Kevin Maloney, Ottawa Police Service

ASCLD Representative: Mike Van Stratton, Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Invited Guests:

Brian Allen, Ontario Police College

Faruk Asicioglu, Dept of Forensic Biology, Institute of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Justice, Turkey

Jim Dougherty, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension/ASCLD-LAB-PRC

Gord Lefebvre, Ontario Provincial Police

Joanne Millington, Forensic Science Service London Laboratory, Great Britain

Patti Williams, ASCLD-LAB

In Support:

Cindy Eckhart, Midwest Forensics Resource Center

Melinda Schlosser, Midwest Forensics Resource Center

Absences:

Richard Eikelenboom, Netherlands Forensic Institute

Philippe Esperança, Institut Genetique-Nantes

Neil Fraser, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Ross Gardner, Bevel, Gardner & Associates

Jeff Gurvis, Porter Lee Corporation

Victor Gorman, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Retired)

Paul Kish, Paul Erwin Kish Forensic Consultant and Associates

Jon Nordby, Final Analysis Forensics

Paulette Sutton, University of Tennessee (Retired)

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April 2010 Agenda and Minutes

Sunday, April 11, 2010

6:00 PM Executive Board Meeting in lobby of Shilo Inn.

Those present: David Baldwin, Tom Griffin, Iris Dalley, Martin Eversdijk,
Michael Taylor, Todd Zdorkowski

Topics discussed: preview of the Meeting.

9:00 PM Meeting with international travelers.

Monday, April 12

7:30 AM Chair and Vice Chair Meeting

8:00 AM Subcommittee Chair Meeting

9:00 AM Welcome, Initial Business Matters and Subcommittee Updates

Business and Strategic Planning- Tom Griffin (for Mark Reynolds) described the input provided to their survey at the last meeting, described plans to seek further input from a survey of the IABPA and the wider bloodstain community; and described plans to combine these into an overall strategic plan for SWGSTAIN and the future of BPA. They will seek an outside expert to assist in the strategic planning and plan-writing process.

Legal- Terry Laber (for Jeff Gurvis), described their need for more subcommittee members, described the comments they have received on their validation document, described their intent to review the comments, and described their goal of integrating the comments into the draft document.

Quality Assurance- LeeAnn Singley, described a draft document on proficiency testing, requested feedback that could be incorporated into the draft during the course of the meeting, and described her hope that the revised document would be ready for public comment by the end of the meeting. The subcommittee's next project will address recommendations for BPA report writing.

Research and Development - Michael Illes, announced a BPA review paper to be published in the Canadian Journal of Forensic Science, described a Draft Research Guidelines document the subcommittee planned to review, described review articles the subcommittee is planning, and described a research project to be accomplished by a student from Cedar Crest College, working with Iris Dalley, at the MFRC during the summer.

Training and Education- Toby Wolson, described a BPA process mapping exercise his group would perform, in preparation for a curriculum design session, facilitated by Patti Williams.

Taxonomy and Terminology- Stuart James (for Vic Gorman) described a need for new members, described updates to the subcommittee's atlas project, and requested additional atlas images from SWGSTAIN members

11:00 AM Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions (extending throughout the day)

6:00 PM Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 13

8:00 AM Guest Lecture and Discussion:

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Overview of ASCLD/LAB's Proficiency Review Program

Invited Speaker: Patti Williams, Proficiency Test Program Manager
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory
Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB)

8:45 AM Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions (extending throughout the day)

6:00 PM Special Topics Dinner and Discussion:

BPA Gap Analysis from Recent Experiences

Discussion leaders: Mike Illes and Michael Taylor

SWGSTAIN participants described recent experiences that highlighted differences between the ideal state envisioned for Bloodstain pattern Analysis as a forensic science discipline, and the current reality. Discussion then turned to strategies that could be employed to reduce the experienced gaps.

Wednesday, April 14

8:00 AM Guest Lecture and Discussion:

The Development of Blood Pattern Analysis in Turkey: Still in Need of Many Efforts

Invited Speaker: Faruk Ascioglu, MD, Ph.D., Forensic Medicine Specialist & Medical Biologist, Associate Professor, and Chairman, 5th Committee of The Council of Forensic Medicine, Turkey

8:45 AM Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions (extending throughout the day)

Thursday, April 15

8:00 AM Guest Lecture and Discussion:

BPA - Stutter Positions

Invited Speaker: Jo Millington, Senior Forensic Scientist
Forensic Science Service: Homicide Department, U.K.

8:45 AM Subcommittee Peer Review Presentations

The Quality Assurance Subcommittee (LeeAnn Singley) circulated a draft document with its recommendations for BPA proficiency testing. The draft document was circulated for comment through the subcommittees, and then through the SWGSTAIN participants as a group. The suggested changes were discussed and incorporated. A motion was made that the resulting document be released for public comment, and that motion was passed by unanimous vote.

1:30 PM Subcommittee Peer Review Presentations

The Legal Subcommittee (Terry Laber for Jeff Gurvis) led a group discussion of its draft recommendations for validation guidelines in BPA. The draft had been circulated for comment through the subcommittees, and suggestions were incorporated. The group reviewed the document, and the subcommittee projected that the comments could be incorporated and be ready for public comment by the end of the next meeting.

3:00 PM Subcommittee Updates

Business and Strategic Planning- Mark Reynolds described the subcommittee's progress at the meeting, and their desire to seek an outside expert to assist in the process of further data-analysis, strategic planning and plan-writing.

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Legal- Terry Laber (for Jeff Gurvis), described their goal of integrating the comments from the subcommittees and the group-as-a-whole into a draft document ready for public comment.

Quality Assurance- LeeAnn Singley reviewed the critique of the current document on proficiency testing.

Research and Development - Michael Illes discussed progress on articles made during the meeting. Brian Yamashita described a list of unpublished BPA articles he has collected for potential review.

Training and Education- Toby Wolson described the near-completion of a BPA process mapping exercise. The completed process map will be used in a curriculum design session with Max Houck at the fall meeting

Taxonomy and Terminology- Stuart James (for Vic Gorman) described the work they had accomplished reviewing the atlas and integrating new photos into it, and several emerging problems of definition that the Subcommittee has identified that will need group discussion in the future.

4:00 PM Business Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected, and the corrected minutes were accepted.

Thank you to guest, and guest comments

The chair formally thanked the invited guests for their participation in the meeting.

Old Business

Publication of the SWGSTAIN Quality Assurance document.

Because no Forensic Science Communications has been published since October of 2009, the group discussed the possibility of publishing SWGSTAIN documents elsewhere.

New Business

A. Business and Strategic Planning Subcommittee.

SWGSTAIN initiated the new subcommittee. Mark Reynolds is its Chair. The other members are Tom Griffin and Ross Gardner.

B. Draft documents.

The QA Subcommittee's draft document on proficiency testing is ready to go to the executive board, and out for public comment. It will appear on the SGWSTAIN website for public review.

C. Other.

Some observations on SWGSTAIN's current bylaws were expressed by Mark Reynolds, with the thought they might merit discussion and potential change.

Brian Yamashita inquired about SWGSTAIN's policy with regard to unqualified practitioners, sanction of unqualified or unethical practitioners, and insurance for SWGSTAIN officers and members.

Next Meeting(s)

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The location will be Salt Lake City. The hotel may change. The proposed dates are October 31-Nov 5, 2010.

The following meeting is scheduled for April 3-8 2011. It will be Salt Lake City. The hotel will be determined.

Reminders on Policy

Attendance

The chair spoke about the importance of SWGSTAIN's mission, about work-product issues with low subcommittee turn-outs, and about the importance of attendance at meetings.

Document control

The chair spoke about SGWSTAIN's document control policies and practices. He emphasized the group-based nature of the document production process and the importance of progressing through the document production process in an orderly way prior to any use of a document.

Conflict of Interest

The chair reminded the group that SWGSTAIN's mission is to the entire BPA community, and that best practice suggests the avoidance of both real and perceived conflicts of interest.

Membership

The chair reviewed the process by which SGWSTAIN invites guests, integrates them into the meetings, and assesses guests for potential SWGSTAIN membership.

The group discussed potential new members, and voted in support of inviting Gord Lefebvre and Brian Allen to become members. Both accepted the invitation

4:45 PM Adjourn