

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON BLOODSTAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS  
(SWGSTAIN)

**Spring Meeting**  
**March 29- April 2, 2004**  
**Stafford, VA**

The following minutes document the biannual meeting which took place in Stafford, Virginia March 30 -April 1, 2004. Those in attendance were:

Tony Onorato, *Chairperson*, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Laboratory  
Tom Griffin, *Vice-Chairperson*, Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI)  
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 & Terminology Subcommittee Chair*, Gardner Forensic Consulting  
Jon Nordby, *Ethics Subcommittee Chair*, Final Analysis Forensics  
Heather Seubert, *Education and Training Subcommittee Chair*, FBI Laboratory  
LeeAnn Singley, *Quality Assurance Subcommittee Chair*, PA State Police  
Mike Van Stratton, *ASCLD Representative*, Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
Iris Dalley, *Ex Officio member*, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation  
Richard Eikelenboom, *Netherlands Forensic Institute*  
Rod Englert, *Englert Forensic Consultants*  
Martin Eversdijk, *Institute for Criminal Investigation and Crime Science*  
Jeff Gurvis, *Porter Lee Corporation*  
Victor Gorman, *Royal Canadian Mounted Police*  
Ros Hammond, *Forensic Alliance*  
Mike Illes, *Ontario Provincial Police*  
Stuart James, *James & Assoc. Forensic Consultants Inc.*  
Janice Johnson, *Ex Officio member*, Escambia County Sheriff's Office  
Terry Laber, *MDPS BCA Crime Laboratory*  
Jennifer Luttmann, *FBI Laboratory*  
Kenneth Martin, *MA State Police*  
Phyllis Rollan, *AL Dept. of Forensic Services*  
Robert Spalding, *Spalding Forensics*  
Paulette Sutton, *Regional Forensic Center*  
Toby Wolson, *Miami-Dade PD Crime Laboratory*

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

The meeting began with opening remarks by Onorato. Griffin introduced the new ex officio members. Iris Dalley and Janice Johnson said a few words of behalf of their organizations, The Association for Crime Scene Reconstruction (ACSR) and The International Association for Identification (IAI) respectfully.

### Invited Guests

Onorato announced that Jim Mudd, Quality Assurance Manager for the DNA Analysis Unit I of the FBI Laboratory (not able to attend); Mark Seiden, a Florida Defense Attorney; and Amanda Eller Choi, Assistant General Counsel for the FBI Laboratory were the invited guests for this meeting. .

### FBI Academy Policy on security clearance

Onorato commented on the FBI Academy's policy for security clearances such that every visitor must be prearranged.

Onorato arranged for scientists of the FBI Laboratory Latent Print Unit to be on site Wednesday, March 31 to make fingerprint cards. Onorato stated that members did not have to fill out clearance papers if they don't want to, but if future SWGSTAIN meetings were to be held at the Academy; those without the clearance would not be able to participate. Guests of future meetings will have to get the security papers filled out two months before the meeting.

### SWGSTAIN logo ballot

An artist in the Investigative and Prosecutive Graphics Unit of the FBI Laboratory created seven different logos. Members were asked to cast their vote for the one they feel represents the SWGSTAIN organization best. Patches and shirts with the logo will be made in the near future.

### Reference Materials

Bob Spalding announced that he compiled a notebook of bloodstain pattern analysis reference articles. The notebook was reproduced and several copies were available for those who wanted one.

### Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the Fall, 2003 meeting were distributed to the members for review. The document will be adopted at the Business Meeting. A lively discussion followed concerning the publishing of the meeting's minutes for public review. Onorato mentioned that the Forensic Science Communication only publishes consensus-type documents and therefore, would not be able to publish the SWGSTAIN minutes. Other forums were discussed, including the possibility of creating a website.

Griffin stressed the importance for members to be present for the meeting in its entirety.

### Subcommittee Updates:

Quality Assurance Subcommittee: LeeAnn Singley reported that ten feedbacks were received for the Quality Assurance document (SOP for crime scene) with five appendices which she sent electronically to members after the November, 2003 meeting. Singley reported that the group will review all of the comments and plans to provide the membership with an update at the end of this meeting.

Taxonomy and Terminology Subcommittee: Ross Gardner reported that the group will focus on finalizing a Taxonomy draft document for the membership to review and comment on.

Education and Training Subcommittee: Heather Seubert reported that two comments were received for the Pre-Training Education Requirements document, which was distributed at the Fall, 2003 meeting. Seubert reported the group will focus on developing educational requirements specific to bloodstain pattern analysis trainees.

Legal Subcommittee: Rhonda Craig reported that only two comments were received for the revised copy of the predicate questions document, which was distributed at the Fall, 2003 meeting. Craig stated the group would continue to work on developing cross-examination questions.

Ethics Subcommittee: Jon Nordby stated that several comments were received on the Ethics document, which was distributed at the Fall, 2003 meeting. The comments were compiled for the group and guest Amanda Eller Choi to review. The group plans hand out a final draft of the document the next day to the membership to assess, and possibly vote on as an amended bylaw at the Business meeting.

Griffin suggested watermarking "DRAFT" on documents.

#### New Business

Griffin announced the reassignment of the Research subcommittee members as follows:

Terry Laber: Ethics subcommittee

Paulette Sutton: Taxonomy and Terminology subcommittee

Mike Illes: Quality Assurance subcommittee (filling in for Neil)

Griffin reiterated the Research subcommittee would reconvene when needed.

The membership then held breakout sessions for the afternoon.

March 31, 2004

Toby Wolson introduced guest speaker Mr. Mark Seiden, a defense attorney in the state of Florida. Seiden provided an overview of the challenges faced by expert witnesses in a Frye hearing. A question and answer session followed.

Jon Nordby distributed the revised first draft of the Ethics document to the members for review. Comments and feedback were requested before tomorrow.

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

April 1, 2004

### New Business

Griffin began the meeting by providing an overview of the day's agenda. Nordby distributed the revised Ethics Code document and presented the Ethics subcommittee report. Nordby explained the revisions of the document to the members.

11:06 am Nordby made a motion that the proposed SWGSTAIN Ethics Code as received in three pages be accepted for inclusion in the existing SWGSTAIN bylaws. Vic Gorman seconded the motion. Floor opened to debate. A lively discussion ensued.

Griffin suggested that motions are withdrawn. Gorman withdrew his motion. Nordby withdrew his prior motion so as to include some of the comments that were made and edit the document. A discussion regarding the changes to be made ensued.

The membership broke for lunch while a revised document was created.

The Fall and Spring meeting dates were discussed. The members tentatively planned the Fall SWGSTAIN meeting for November 8-12, 2004 and the Spring meeting for April 4-8, 2005 in the Quantico, VA area. Onorato will contact each member via letter in the near future.

Onorato encouraged members to present SWGSTAIN at other organization conferences when an opportunity to do so arises. A discussion regarding possible forums ensued.

1:50 pm: Griffin proposed a motion to accept the Fall, 2003 SWGSTAIN minutes as amended. Toby Wolson carried the motion. Mike Illes seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous decision.

Nordby distributed the revised Ethics Code document. Nordby made a motion to adopt this SWGSTAIN Ethics Code document for inclusion in the SWGSTAIN bylaws. Floor opened to debate. A discussion ensued. Phyllis Rollan made a motion to close the floor to discussion. Paul Kish seconded the motion. The motion to close the discussion was carried by unanimous decision at 1:57 pm.

The motion to adopt the SWGSTAIN Ethics Code document for inclusion in the SWGSTAIN bylaws was carried by unanimous decision at 2:00 pm.

Onorato stated that members at the next meeting would review the second part of the document.

Griffin excused the ex officio members from the room while membership issues were being discussed. At the conclusion of this discussion, Griffin invited the ex officio members back into the room.

Taxonomy and Terminology Subcommittee: Gardner provided an overview of the week's progress via PowerPoint presentation and distributed the draft document. A lively discussion ensued. Epstein and Gurvis were complimentary of the group's efforts. Gardner encourages members to provide comments electronically.

Legal Subcommittee: Craig reported on the third draft of the predicate questions document. The cross-examinations topic was changed to the topic of testimony preparation. Craig encouraged members to send comments electronically.

Education and Training Subcommittee: Seubert reviewed the draft document on the guidelines for the educational requirements for trainees with members. Seubert requested that members review the wording of the document (too general or too specific) and provide feedback by October 1, 2004. Seubert noted that there would be a glossary included with the final draft of the document. The list of terms will be defined at the next meeting.

Quality Assurance Subcommittee: Singley began by thanking those members who sent comments. The group addressed each and every comment and revised the document accordingly. The document will be restructured into Quality Assurance manual format; with separate manual outlining recommendations for standard operating procedures. Singley plans to have another reformulated document ready for member review at the end of the next meeting.