

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON BLOODSTAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS  
(SWGSTAIN)

**Spring Meeting**  
**April 4-8, 2005**  
**Stafford, VA**

The following minutes document the biannual meeting which took place in Stafford, VA April 4-8, 2005. Those in attendance were:

Tom Griffin, *Vice-Chairperson*, Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI)  
Tom Bevel, *Executive Board Member*, TBI, LLC  
Paul Kish, *Executive Board Member*, Forensic Consultant & Associates  
Pat Laturnus, *Executive Board Member*, Ontario Police College  
Rhonda Craig, *Legal Subcommittee Chair*, FBI Laboratory  
Ross Gardner, *Taxonomy & Terminology Subcommittee Chair*, Gardner Forensic Consulting  
Heather Seubert, *Education and Training Subcommittee Chair*, FBI Laboratory  
LeeAnn Singley, *Quality Assurance Subcommittee Chair*, Grayson Singley Associates, LLC  
Iris Dalley, *Ex officio member*, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation  
Richard Eikelenboom, Independent Forensic Services  
Martin Eversdijk, Institute for Criminal Investigation and Crime Science  
Neil Fraser, 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  
Kenneth Martin, MA State Police  
Jon Nordby, Final Analysis Forensics  
Norman Reeves, *Ex officio member*, Norman H. Reeves Forensic Consulting  
Phyllis Rollan, AL Dept. of Forensic Services  
Robert Spalding, Spalding Forensics

Invited Guests:

Selma Eikelenboom-Schieleld, Independent Forensic Services  
Gillian Leak, Forensic Science Service  
Jim Mudd, FBI Laboratory  
Matthew Noede, Washington State Police

April 4, 2005

The meeting began at with opening remarks by Vice-Chair Tom Griffin. Griffin announced that Tony Onorato would not be attending.

Griffin announced that Jim Mudd, Quality Assurance Manager for the DNA Analysis Unit I of the FBI Laboratory, Gillian Leak of the Forensic Science Service, Matthew Noedel of the Washington State Police were the invited guests for this meeting. Invited guests and ex officio members were introduced and were given the opportunity to comment on behalf of their organizations.

#### Meeting Updates

Griffin said the SWGSTAIN panel discussion at the IABPA meeting was well received. Norman Reeves noted that there wasn't the negative view as seen with past IABPA meetings.

Mike Van Stratton was not present to provide feedback of the ASCLAD meeting.

#### Ethics Subcommittee

Griffin revealed that the Ethics Subcommittee would not convene at this meeting. The document drafted at the March, 2004 meeting was currently under review with the FBI attorneys.

#### Membership Issues

Griffin mentioned that Executive Board positions would be re-appointed at the next meeting, which is tentatively scheduled June 27- July 1, 2005 at the FBI Academy. Griffin reminded members to turn in the necessary clearance information needed to gain access onto the FBI Academy grounds, if they haven't already done so. A lively discussion ensued regarding the short notice of the June meeting.

#### Terminology

Griffin reiterated the use of the following terms when generating the documents:

Must= without exception

Should= expectation that it will be done

Recommend= appropriate, but not mandatory

#### Virtual Academy Update

Heather Seubert informed the group that it is still under construction.

#### Validation Study

Mike Illes and Seubert advised the members of a validation study they were interested in performing, and asked for participants. A more in-depth discussion of the study was scheduled for the following evening for those members interested in participating. A discussion about approaches to the validation study ensued.

Jim Mudd, Quality Assurance Specialist in the DNA Unit of the FBI Laboratory, provided an informative Quality Assurance presentation. Mudd provided the members with copies of the standard operating procedures used by the FBI Laboratory DNA Unit I Bloodstain Pattern Analysis group. A lively group discussion followed.

The group divided into their respective subcommittees for the remainder of the morning and reconvened as a group after lunch.

Griffin polled the group for interest and availability for attending the tentatively scheduled June meeting. Approximately half of those members present would not be able to attend. A lively discussion ensued regarding the dismay of having three meetings within one calendar year.

#### Subcommittee Updates

Education and Training Subcommittee: Seubert reported that she received two formal comments in writing from Paulette Sutton and LeeAnn Singley. Seubert suggested for the other subcommittees to go over the Education & Training document as a group and provide comments by the end of the following day. At that time, the Education & Training subcommittee would review and incorporate the comments into a revised document.

Legal Subcommittee: Rhonda Craig reported that she received two formal comments in writing from Griffin and Singley. Craig was anticipating having a draft document ready for the members to vote on by week's end.

Quality Assurance Subcommittee: Mike Illes reported on behalf of Singley. The subcommittee was ready to review the revised document. Illes mentioned that Jim Mudd provided new ideas for the document.

Taxonomy and Terminology Subcommittee: Ross Gardner reported that he received only two comments since the last meeting. Gardner admitted that his group was still having difficulty on classification of drips and blood into blood. Gardner asked the group to provide input on the possibility to reconsider groupings. A lively discussion ensued. Gardner planned to provide old and new documents to the group for side by side comparisons, but neither of the documents should be considered to be a draft as of yet.

April 5, 2005

Griffin began the meeting with opening remarks and mentioned that he spoke to Onorato via phone regarding the June meeting issue. Onorato felt that there should definitely be a presence at the June meeting, perhaps more like a working session. Seubert mentioned that it would be acceptable for members to attend only a few days as opposed to the full week. A lively discussion ensued.

Griffin introduced invited guest speaker Gillian Leak of the Forensic Science Service. Leak presented the challenges of processing a bloodstain pattern case under severe weather restrictions. A question and answer session followed.

Griffin introduced invited guest speaker Matthew Noedel of the Washington State Police Department. Noedel presented a lab experiment he designed (stemmed from one of his cases) to test non-replenishing blood sources. A question and answer session followed. The group stated that Noedel should publish his experiment after the court date. He concurred.

Griffin introduced guest speaker Selma Eikelenboom-Schieveld of the Independent Forensic Services. Eikelenboom-Schieveld presented on Injuries and Time of Death in

Relation to Blood Pattern Analysis. A question and answer session followed.

The membership then broke into its subcommittees for the remainder of the day to review the working documents provided to them by the Subcommittee Chairs. Feedback for each of the documents was desired by the subcommittee Chairs the next morning.

Illes commented that the Quality Assurance subcommittee would have benefited more had Jim Mudd been brought in earlier to the process.

April 6, 2005

Griffin began the meeting with opening remarks and mentioned that he spoke to Onorato regarding the group's concerns about the June meeting. It was decided that the June meeting would not be a regular meeting but a working session for subcommittees to come together and continue on their working documents as a group.

Robert Spalding and LeeAnn Singley introduced themselves to the group.

The membership then broke into its subcommittees for the remainder of the day to review the working documents provided to them by the Subcommittee Chairs.

April 7, 2005

Griffin began the meeting by providing an overview of the day's agenda.

Subcommittee Updates

Quality Assurance Subcommittee: Singley stated that is a document (guideline), not a standard operating procedure. Her group will need time to review the comments provided from the other subcommittees.

Education and Training Subcommittee: Seubert reported that they need to come up with their glossary (what a competency test is, etc.) before the document is released for voting. At this time, the glossary is a work in progress. Seubert stated that they are still struggling with the terminology "must/ should" regarding photographs. A discussion about documentation ensued.

Legal Subcommittee: Terry Laber reported on behalf of Craig. He stated that they received good comments and that his group will work on incorporating the suggestions made by the other subcommittees.

Taxonomy & Terminology Subcommittee: Gardner reported that they received good comments and that his group will work on incorporating the ideas made by the other subcommittees.

Seubert and Illes provided more information about the validation study.

Griffin mentioned that voting on these documents would not happen at this meeting, in order to give all members (those not present) an opportunity to review.

#### Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the spring, 2004 meeting were distributed to the members for review. Griffin proposed a motion to accept the spring, 2004 SWGSTAIN minutes as amended. Jon Norton carried the motion. Tom Bevel seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous decision at 3:10 pm.

Griffin gave out Education Certificates to the invited guest speakers and thanked them for participating.

Reeves offered publishing the SWGSTAIN bylaws and Spring, 2002 minutes in the next IABPA newsletter. A discussion regarding other possible avenues ensued.

#### Board Appointments

Griffin reiterated that appointments are on a three year basis. Those members interested should contact Onorato.

#### Future Meetings

The Fall, 2005 meeting dates were discussed. The meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 7-11, 2005 in Quantico, VA. Illes stressed the point that international invitees need at least two months notice in order to get approval for travel. Griffin agreed to raise this issue with the Executive Board. Onorato will contact each member in the near future to facilitate the administrative needs of individual members. A discussion regarding other months in regards for fiscal budget (such as January/June rotation) ensued.

Griffin noted that he will report to Onorato that every subcommittee was interested in coming for an unspecified amount of time. Griffin stated that the June meeting will not have a business meeting.

Since the meeting tentatively scheduled for June, 2005 was not a typical meeting, the members decided that guests would not be invited.

The Subcommittee Chairs reported that there was no need for guests in their respective groups for the Fall, 2005 meeting. Singley reported that her group would not need the expertise of Jim Mudd at the Fall, 2005 meeting.

#### Validation Study

The study participants were reported as Richard Eikelenboom, Heather Seubert, Paul Laternus, Jon Nordby, Neil Fraser, LeeAnn Singley, Ross Gardner, Terry Laber, Mike Illes.

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

Griffin requested the ex officio members and guests return the working documents handouts.

Griffin congratulated the group for a very productive week. He stated that the members had a lot to be proud of; as individuals and as a group.