

SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON BLOODSTAIN PATTERN ANALYSIS
(SWGSTAIN)

Spring Meeting
March 31-April 3, 2008
Dumfries, VA

The following minutes document the biannual meeting which took place in Dumfries, VA, March 31-April 3, 2008.

Those in attendance were:

Anthony Onorato- *Chairperson*- FBI Laboratory
Tom Griffin- *Vice-Chairperson*- Colorado Bureau of Investigation
Iris Dalley- *Executive Board Member*- OK State Bureau of Investigation
Martin Eversdijk- *Executive Board Member*-Amsterdam Police
Paul Kish- *Executive Board Member*- Forensic Consultant & Associates
Ross Gardner- Taxonomy Subcommittee Chair- Gardner Forensic Consulting
Heather Seubert- *Education and Training Subcommittee Chair*- FBI Laboratory
LeeAnn Singley- *Quality Assurance Subcommittee Chair*- Grayson Singley Assoc., LLC

Philippe Esperanca- French Gendarmerie Research Institute- France
Richard Eikelenboom - Consultant
Jon Forsythe- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P.) - Canada
Neil Fraser- R.C.M.P. – Canada
Jeff Gurvis - Consultant
Stuart James- James & Associates Forensic Consultants, Inc.
Terry Laber – MDPS-BCA Crime Lab
Tony Larkin – Metropolitan Police
Kenneth Martin- Massachusetts State Police
Jon Nordby - Final Analysis Forensics
Mark Reynolds – Western Australia Police
Bob Spalding-Spalding Forensics, LLC
Toby Wolson- Miami-Dade Police Department Crime Laboratory

Ex Officio members and Invited Guests

David Baldwin- Iowa State Midwest Forensic Resource Center
William Ralston III, Medical Examiner Commonwealth of Kentucky
Kevin Maloney- IABPA Committee for SWGSTAIN Response- Canada
Jeff Scozzafava- Detective, Somerset County Prosecutor's Office

Monday, March 31, 2008

Tom Griffin began the meeting at 9:23 am with opening remarks and reviewing the meeting's agenda. He noted that the first SWGSTAIN "formation" meeting was held six years ago this month. Guests and members were introduced.

Subcommittee Updates:

Research- Paul Kish mentioned that the direction of the subcommittee has changed slightly. They would be accumulating/collecting published bloodstain pattern analysis articles to be used for review articles. From that, they will determine where the need for research projects lies. Several

people volunteered to send bibliographies to Kish.

Legal- Rhonda Craig said that her subcommittee planned to review the comments she received for the "Validation Guidelines for Blood Pattern Analysts" document. They hoped the document would be ready for the members' vote by meeting's end.

Quality Assurance- LeeAnn Singley asked the group to review the "Guidelines for Developing Standard Operating Procedures" document. She hoped the document would be ready for the members' vote by meeting's end.

Education and Training- Ken Martin spoke on behalf of Heather Seubert in her absence. This subcommittee planned to continue working on the "Educational Model for an Introductory Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Course."

Taxonomy & Terminology- Ross Gardner said that he received comments from last meetings glossary, and planned to incorporate the comments into document at this meeting. The subcommittee hoped the glossary would be ready for members' vote by meeting's end.

Singley provided an IABPA update.

Tuesday, April 01, 2008

Dr. William Ralston, Medical Examiner of Kentucky's State Medical Examiner's Office gave a presentation on time of death and postmortem changes.

Onorato announced that Jim Mudd has retired from the FBI, and has resigned from the Executive Secretary position within SWGSTAIN. The position is now vacant.

Onorato thanked Gardner for bringing the Yahoo's blog on blood pattern analysis. CDs weren't made available to the public- it was the vendor who did the demo. Ross participated in on the thread blog- we were trying to get it up for public, but it was too big.

Seubert and Michael Taylor made a BPA video using a new, high-speed camera provided by FBI's ERT. Onorato encouraged people to check out the videos.

David Baldwin briefed the group on the recent three-day symposium on BPA held at the Midwest Forensic Resource Center. There were approximately 50 attendees and several SWGSTAIN members were present.

Brendan Shea updated the group on the SWGSTAIN website. In February 2008 there was an average of over 600 hits per day. In March of 2008 there were hits from 37 countries.

Wednesday, April 02, 2008

Subcommittee break outs until 10, then reconvene to review documents as a group.

Gardner started the session with the 'recommended terminology' document. A LIVELY, interactive line-by-line reading of the document ensued.

Thursday, April 03, 2008

Meeting began at 8:00 am with the continuation of the lively, interactive line-by-line review of the Taxonomy & Terminology document.

At 9:52 am, Grif made a motion to adopt this document minus the italics for the purpose of passing it on to the Executive Board for their consideration. Toby Wolson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Onorato asked the group to thank the Taxonomy & Terminology group for all of their hard work.

The group broke for lunch, and reconvened to review other documents.

Gurvis presented the Legal document, "Validation Guidelines for BPA Analysis" to the group. A line-by-line reading of the document was done. A lively discussion ensued.

The Education & Training document would be forwarded out to the members to be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Quality Assurance document will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mark Reynolds provided the group with BPA progression in Australia. He also provided information on his research project involving EXCEL® Autoshape Bloodstain Measurement System. A lively discussion ensued.

Onorato gave the ex officio members and invited guests an opportunity to address the membership with a brief summary of their SWGSTAIN experience.

The Business meeting began at 4:00 pm. Those in attendance were:

Jon Forsythe
Tony Larkin
LeeAnn Singley
David Baldwin
Jeff Gurvis
Neil Fraser
Tom Griffin
Toby Wolson
Heather Seubert
Bob Spalding
Paul Kish
Terry Laber
Ken Martin
Ross Gardner
Philippe Esperanca
Iris Dalley
Richard Eikelenboom
Stuart James
Tony Onorato

Certificates of attendance were handed out.

Future meeting dates were discussed. The Fall, 2008 meeting was scheduled for November 3-7, 2008 in the Quantico, VA area. The Spring, 2009 meeting was tentatively set for March 30-April 3, 2009; also in the Quantico, VA area.

Onorato asked the group if the shuttle bus departure time of 9:00 am (on the last day of the meeting) works for everyone's schedule. It was decided that an 8:00 am departure time would be better.

The minutes from the Fall, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Griffin proposed a motion to accept the Fall, 2007 SWGSTAIN minutes as amended. Toby Wolson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous decision.

Onorato requested the ex officio members and guests return the unpublished document handouts.