



### OSAC Update

- The second OSAC Meeting was held January 26-29, 2016 and involved over 500 individuals.
- OSAC has built the infrastructure to achieve its goal of providing high quality guidance material to standards development organizations (SDOs).
- The American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS) has obtained SDO status and will likely be the SDO of choice for most forensic disciplines.
- Presentation by Dr. John Butler, Vice-Chair of the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) described the role of the NCFS in strengthening forensic science in the US. For example the US Department of Justice used the NCFS recommendation on Universal Accreditation to develop policy that will ensure all federal prosecutions must use accredited labs by 2020.
- Other work products that are under consideration by NCFS include:
  - Proficiency testing
  - National Code of Professional Responsibility
  - Transparent Quality Management System
  - Testimony using the term “Reasonable Degree of Scientific Certainty”.
- At the FR OSAC subcommittee the following topics are being hotly debated:
  - Terminology – Identification vs. same source identification
  - Training – statistics , scientific reasoning and logic
  - Invited statisticians debated US Army wording for reporting same source identifications to the court (shown below) and felt that the phrase “likelihood...considered extremely low” implied quantification when that is not currently the case.

“The latent print on Exhibit # and the finger/palm print standards bearing the name XXXX have corresponding ridge detail. The likelihood of observing this amount of correspondence when two impressions are made by different sources is considered extremely low.”

- Research – 6 topics were identified as priority needs and submitted to the Physics/ Pattern SAC. They will look for commonality in research needs for all subcommittees (i.e. BPA, footwear, QD, FR and Firearms) in order to provide guidance to US government funding bodies for forensic research.