

forensic science

FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The National Academy of Sciences Report and Beyond

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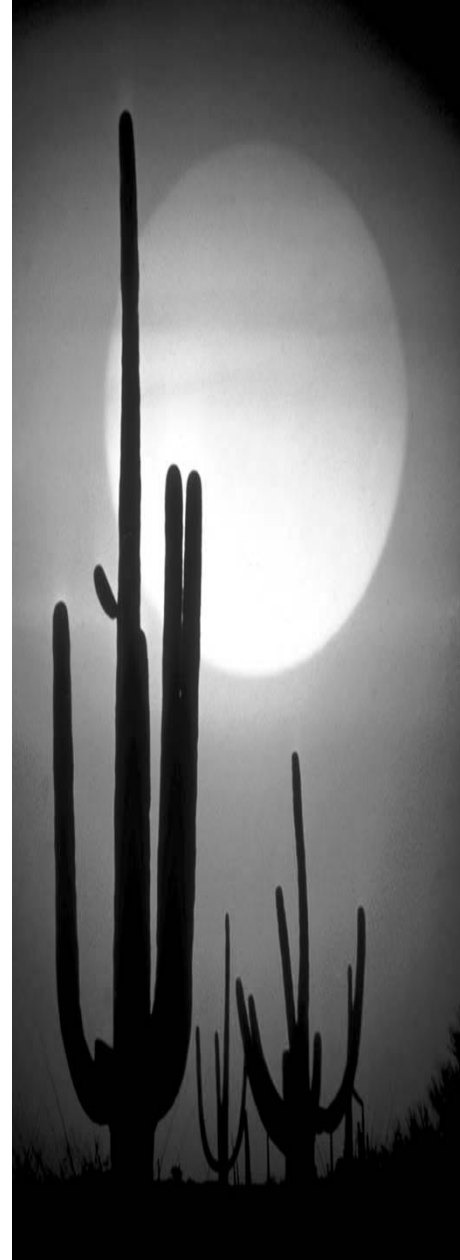
Technology Center

(NFSTC)



Forensic Laboratory Accreditation

- There are two nationally recognized accreditation bodies in the United States. Both are *voluntary*
 - The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB)
 - The Forensic Quality Services International (FQS-I).



Mandatory Laboratory Accreditation

- Most forensic scientists are in favor of mandatory Laboratory Accreditation



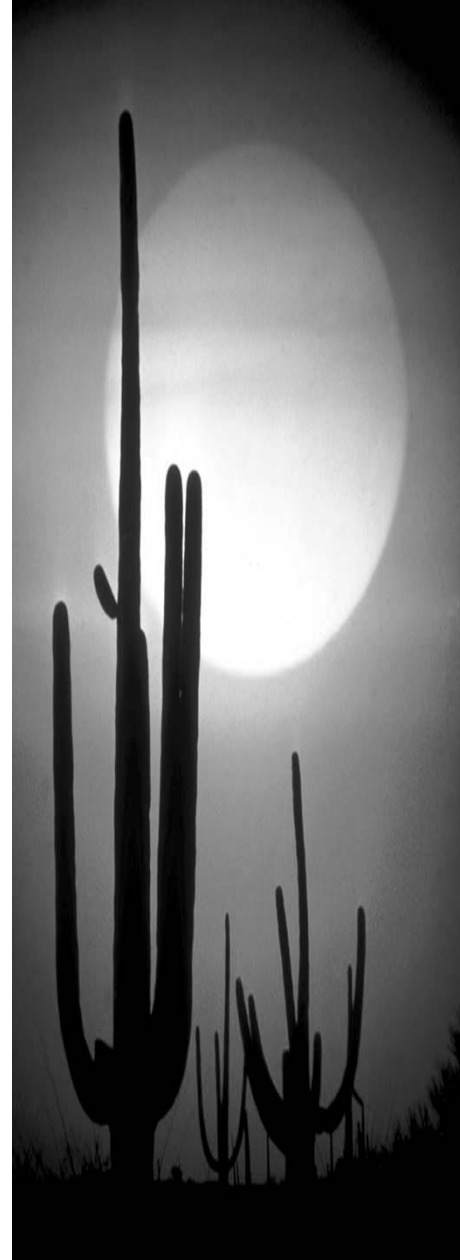
Certification of Forensic Science Professionals

- Certification standards could be created by assessing established and recognized international standards, such as those published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).



Certification of Forensic Science Professionals

- Many forensic scientists are willing to undergo a certification process and believe that no person (public or private) should be allowed to practice in a forensic science discipline or testify as a forensic science professional without the same certification.



1999 Forensic Science Status and Needs

- <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/173412>

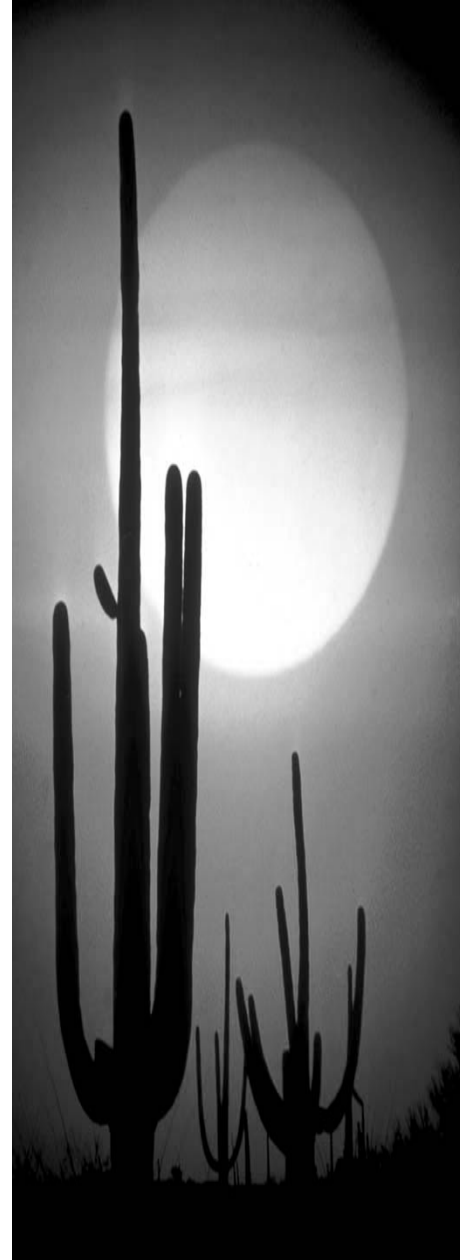
Coordination by the Office of Law Enforcement Standards and the National Institute of Standards and Technology

- Common needs prevalent throughout most of these disciplines include standardization, validation, and the creation of information databases. However, each discipline has specific aspects and concerns such as sensitivity, efficiency, precision, portability, and effectiveness of sampling methods. Therefore, blanket standards generally cannot and should not be applied—they should be adapted and customized to each individual discipline and technique



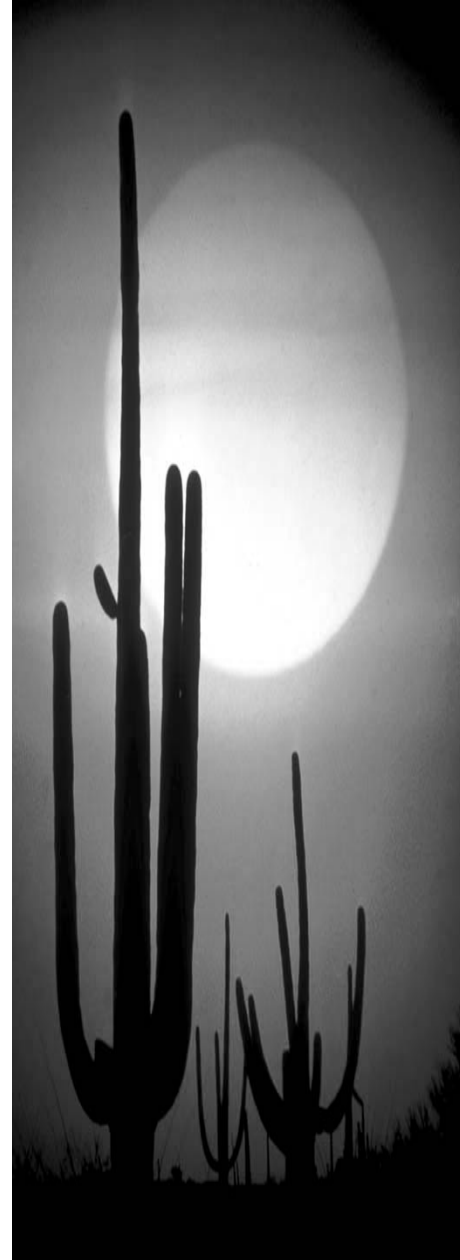
How to We Move Forward

- Nuclear DNA analysis has been subjected to more scrutiny than any other forensic discipline, with extensive experimentation and validation performed prior to its use in investigations.
- The successes with forensic DNA analysis are largely in part due to the funding, research, and training programs made available



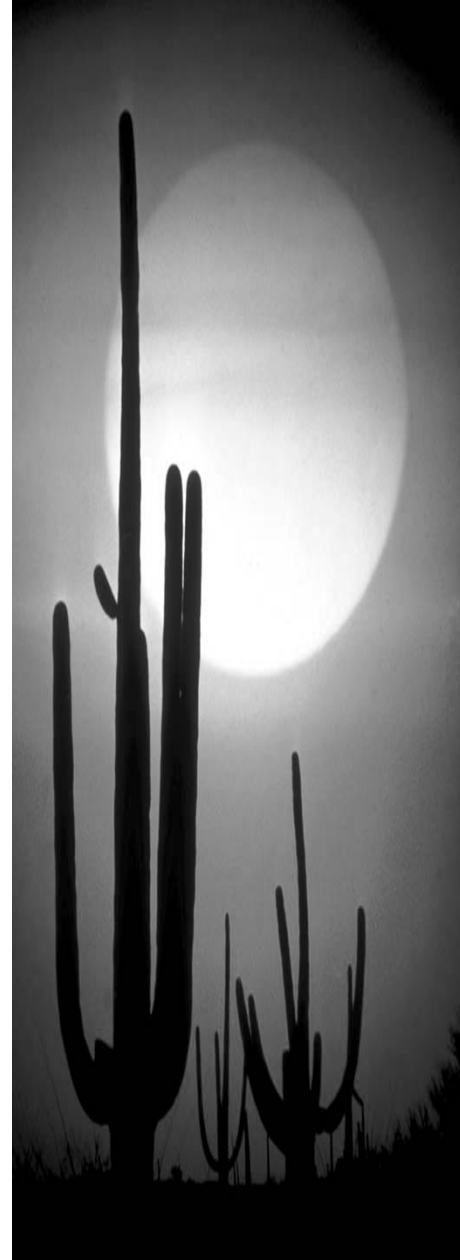
Forensic Disciplines- Moving Forward

- There must be a concerted effort to address all forensic disciplines and ensure that each receive the research, funding, and training necessary so that there is equivalency throughout all forensic science disciplines.



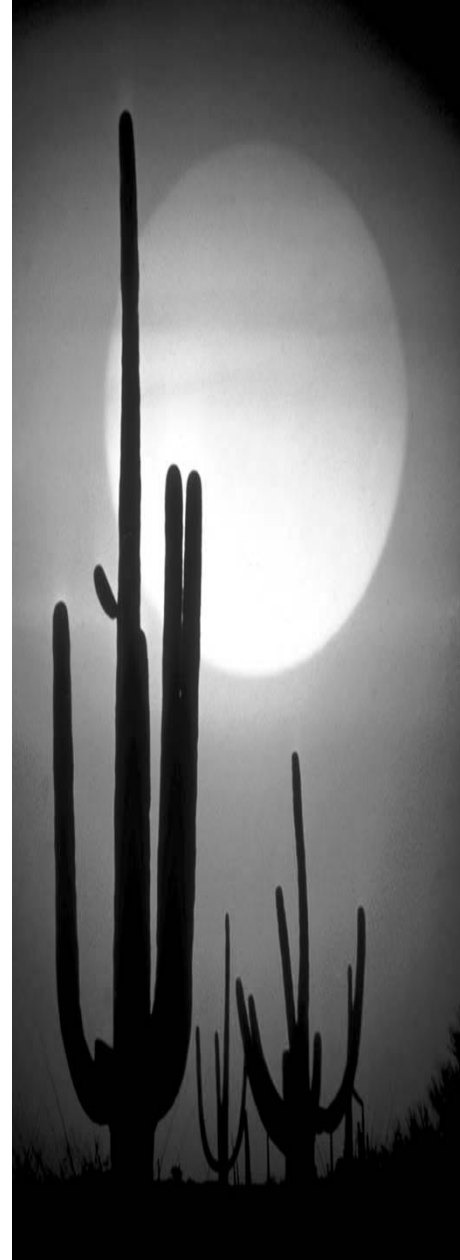
What do to in the Interim

- Assess concerns on a case-by-case bases.
- The issues outline in the NAS report do not mean that all forensic scientific work done is flawed



Standardized Reporting

- Many forensic scientists could easily adapt to standardized reporting.
- ASTM has a document: Designation: E 1732 – 96a (Reapproved 2005)
Standard Terminology Relating to Forensic Science
- This could be used as a starting point



In Conclusion

- If appropriate funding and support is given to the forensic science community, many of the concerns outline in the NAS report could be addressed to the satisfaction of both the forensic science community and the public.

