

February 2, 2014

Dear National Commission on Forensic Science Members,

The International Association of Identification (IAI) represents over 7,000 members that are primarily active practitioners in the pattern evidence and crime scene disciplines. Our Organization promotes standardization and excellence throughout the forensic science profession, and we encourage any collective effort that works toward that end. Therefore, the establishment of this Commission and the manner in which it moves forward is of extremely high interest to the members of the IAI.

The first step, to establish this Commission and select its distinguished membership, was an encouraging one, although we had anticipated that it would include a larger proportion of forensic science practitioners and a representative of the IAI. Because a vast majority of forensic professionals practice in disciplines, such as latent print and crime scene examination, it is important to include this large forensic community in any collective forensic science effort.

In past conversations, meetings and presentations given by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) personnel, it has been shared that there is an extensive structure of groups and committees planned that will be assigned specific roles in the administration and development of a national forensic science standardization body. As this committee structure is defined, the IAI has three primary areas of concern that we respectfully request you consider:

1. That forensic practitioners are represented in appropriate numbers on all levels of the committees and administration. In particular, we suggest that the pattern evidence and crime scene disciplines are included in significant proportions.
2. That the work products and members of the Scientific Working Groups (SWG's) be maintained and Included in the new expert groups that will be formed for the same purpose under this new umbrella group. The SWG's created a vast wealth of resources for the forensic science community including; standards, guidelines, admissibility resources and research archives. We recommend the Commission review and consider incorporating these existing resources from the outset.
3. That all forensic science professional associations be represented in the composition of group membership, as no one forensic professional association represents all the relevant scientific communities.


LESLEY HAMMER, *President*

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Recent discussions between NIST representatives and the IAI leadership have included assurances that relate to these concerns. It is certainly the hope of the IAI that the Commission will move forward considering these items and ensuring they are addressed.

We recognize and thank you for your commitment to this important endeavor, and for your time and attention to these comments from the IAI. Our Association is available as a resource to you. Do not hesitate to call on us for assistance and participation as you move forward with this important undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley Hammer', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Lesley Hammer
President, International Association for Identification

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