

2010 MAAFS Plenary Session
Wednesday, May 19

8:00 -8:30 Opening Remarks

8:30-11:30 **Learning the Language of ISO 17025**, Anja Einseln, Training Manager, ASCLD/LAB, Garner, NC; Robert Ollis, U.S. Army Crime Laboratory, Forest Park, GA

As many laboratories begin their transition from ASCLD/LAB Legacy to the ASCLD/LAB International program there may be some moaning and groaning and then the whisper campaign begins. There are quite a few myths that start flying around the lab when laboratory management communicates that “the laboratory will need to start preparing for ISO 17025.” Some people start looking at their retirement schedule, others start reading ISO 17025 along with a highlighter and sticky notes. During my presentation I hope to share with you what ISO 17025 can bring to your laboratory to help you, your work and your laboratory. The journey for some labs may be one of minor adjustments and modifications, for other labs it may be taking on a new way of thinking and communicating, and for yet other labs the process may seem overwhelming and burdensome due to the requirements of “documenting” a management system. Regardless of where your journey begins, I plan to address each of these areas and will also have the pleasure of having a representative from one of the labs that is actively moving toward becoming accredited to the ASCLD/LAB International program share their experiences and progress. We hope that jointly we will provide some clarity, some direction and guidance on how to prepare for the transition.

11:30 -1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 4:30 **Estimating the Uncertainty of Measurements in the Modern Forensic Laboratory: Compliance with ISO 17025**, Robert Ollis, U.S. Army Crime Laboratory, Forest Park, GA

As ISO accreditation gains more significance to forensic science many laboratories are faced with the seemingly daunting task of determining Measurement Uncertainty (MU). This workshop will demonstrate how to establish a program to determine and monitor measurement uncertainty in any discipline in forensic science. Included will be discussions of basic statistics, reporting measurement uncertainty, estimates of measurement uncertainty not based on rigid metrological determinations, and how measurement uncertainty affects the customer. This hands-on, no-nonsense approach to the application of the ISO standard will help the attendee realize that going ISO is easier than previously thought.

4:30 – 5:00 **From Fire to Fundamentals: Highlighting NIJ’s General Forensics Research Portfolio**, Danielle McLeod-Henning, Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences, National Institute of Justice, Washington DC

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice and NIJ’s mission is to advance scientific research and development to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. The Office of Investigative and Forensics Sciences (OIFS) of NIJ is tasked to advance forensic science by providing grants for research and development in all forensic disciplines. This presentation will highlight the General Forensics (non-DNA) R&D Portfolio, including recent research objectives focusing on Fundamental Research to Address the Accuracy, Reliability, and Measurement Validity of Forensic Science Disciplines; R&D in Crime Scene and Medicolegal Investigations; R&D on Instrumental Analysis for Forensic Applications; and R&D on Pattern and Impression Evidence. Furthermore, this presentation will discuss how NIJ identifies and addresses the research needs of the forensic practitioner community, and forthcoming community outreach activities including the Impression and Pattern Evidence Symposium and Technology Transition Workshops.