



ABSTRACT

In response to the NIJ Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCOE) solicitation, Rose Ochi, Executive Director of the California Forensic Science Institute (CFSI), Cal State LA has created a collaboration with our partners: Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the California Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS), all accredited crime laboratories, headed by Greg B. Matheson, Dean M. Gialamas and Jill Spriggs respectively, and the California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics (CJC), a FEPAC accredited Master's Program, directed by Katherine Roberts PhD.

Greg Matheson, Director of LAPD SID will oversee the FTCOE operation managing the work of the team leaders and will coordinate work activities. As the Director, he will represent the FTCOE with NIJ and the forensic field. He brings his knowledge and reputation as the manager of a full service crime laboratory from a major police agency, and professional networks from his service in leadership roles in state and national forensic associations.

Craig D. Uchida PhD, President of Justice and Securities Strategies, (JSS), located in the beltway, will coordinate support for the NIJ and designated TWGs. He is knowledgeable about NIJ as the former Research and Evaluation Director for NIJ and from his current association as a NIJ grantee on research related projects.

In the key role of indentifying technological needs and supporting NIJ and TWGs in determining research priorities will be Joseph Peterson D. Crim., an experienced forensic science researcher, who will be assisted by Carol Henderson J.D., Director of the National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law. They will be reviewing published technology research, disseminating of project related information, finding forensic experts, and helping to set up consultations with the forensic community.

Dr. Katherine Roberts will coordinate our technology testing teams. Together, the teams have the necessary technology testing experience to perform this task. For eg., the CA BFS Central Valley Lab developed Polynomial Texture Mapping (PTM). It has been presented at NIJ technology conferences, International Association for Identification, and at a transition workshop. CJC has a history of collaborative research with crime labs and private industry as well as technology testing experience. Please see the Appendix for a CJC example that demonstrates a complete technology testing cycle: technology testing, publishing results, and presenting a paper at a forensic science national conference. Equally important was the transfer of new technology to practitioners in a technology workshop which was taught as part of CFSI NIJ funded course on Mitochondrial DNA by Cassandra Calloway PhD. It will be available for Web-based delivery in the near future. This is another example of the FTCOE process and our capabilities.

The LAPD and LASD also have experience in technology testing both in their crime laboratories and in the field. Robert Waldron PhD., former NLECTC Director, will support technology development and technical assistance. He will lead a team of forensic experts including, Barry Fisher retired LASD Lab Director, Peter De Forest D. Crim., Cassandra Calloway PhD. and other experts will be enlisted as needed.



California Forensic Science Institute

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REDUCE THE RISK OF MISIDENTIFICATION*



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LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM LEADERS, EXECUTIVES FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, PUBLIC DEFENDER AND ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, LAPD AND LASD, DEFENSE BAR AND THE JUDICIARY, ALONG WITH AN EXPERT IN THE AREA OF EYEWITNESS MEMORY, WILL ENGAGE IN AN OPEN FORUM TO EXAMINE BEST PRACTICES IN THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF EYEWITNESS EVIDENCE.

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