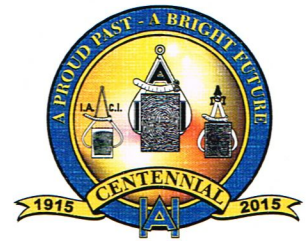


October 16, 2013



Dear Fellow IAI Members,

In the United States, **NIST has posted a 'notice of inquiry'**¹ asking for input on their proposal to establish 'Guidance Groups' to serve as subject matter expert groups to operate in place of the current SWG's². Due to the potential impact that these committees will have to our profession, it is important that we participate in these discussions as an organization and as individuals.

There are three ways that IAI members are able to have a voice in response to this inquiry; as IAI President I will submit a statement on behalf of the membership to represent the position of the IAI, the IAI CFSO representative will participate in submitting a collective statement from the CFSO³, and individual members are encouraged to submit comment directly¹.

We, as members of the IAI, represent the largest association of forensic science practitioners in the world, and I will use our influence to promote the most productive way to move forward in regard to the proposed 'Guidance Groups' and in any other related forums that I submit comment. I am providing below what I believe, from past discussions, to be the most important positions related to any group formed to create forensic standards:

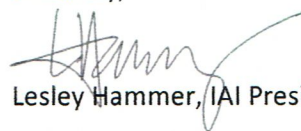
Any group providing forensic discipline standard guidance should be composed of a significant number of subject matter experts that are active practitioners in the discipline that the group represents; include federal, state, local and private practice representation; and incorporate the current SWG's, evolving what has worked well into any new subject matter expert groups.

To ensure that our comment reflects the general position of our membership, I am requesting that you send input that you have regarding these positions to me by November 1, so that I may consider the responses in the IAI comment. I will post the IAI response to the NIST inquiry on our website when it is complete. **Please send comment for the IAI position by Nov 1 to Lesley Hammer at: lesley.hammer@theiai.org.**

You are encouraged to consider including the above IAI position points in your individual response to the NIST inquiry. **Comments must be received by NIST by November 12, 2013** (see link under 1 below for NIST posting).

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important process.

Sincerely,



Lesley Hammer, IAI President

1. NIST Notice of Inquiry <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-27/pdf/2013-23617.pdf#!>
2. Scientific Working Groups (there is not an official collective website for all SWG's, so see individual SWG websites such as www.swgfast.org and www.swgtread.org for links). Also see <http://theiai.org/guidelines/>
3. Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations <http://www.thecfso.org> (look at the advocacy/newsletters tab for position statements)

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