



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FORENSIC SCIENCE



Fund Pilot Projects to Facilitate Translation for Research into Forensic Science Practice

Subcommittee

Scientific Inquiry and Research

Type of Work Product

Adjudication of Public Comments on Draft Document

Public Comment Summary

Comments were supportive with two suggestions to broaden the scope.

Adjudication Process Used by Subcommittee: Comments were shared with subcommittee members and discussed via email exchange.

Itemized Issues and Adjudication Summary

DOJ-LA-2015-0009-0068: The submitter requested that examples be provided as to how the integration into a lab would be accomplished. The submitter also asked if there would be any additional funding to hire a fellow after their initial appointment ended. The submitter also asked why the PI had to be the director and noted that directors may not be qualified to act as the PI because of background.

Having the laboratory director act as PI establishes a transparent responsibility for the director to provide both administrative as well as scientific oversight of the fellow's activities. How the laboratory director assigns the fellow would be at their discretion. Language has been added to allow for an academic co-PI to increase the collaborative potential.

This recommendation can only address creation of a post-doctoral program. As with any post-doc, there is never a guarantee of post-fellowship employment at the laboratory. In turn, the laboratory is not obligated to hire the post-doc. It is the hope of the Commission that these fellows can and will be hired by a forensic laboratory (host lab or other) but a post-doctoral appointment is always a time-limited appointment. No changes were made to the document.

0053: The submitter noted that medicolegal facilities were not mentioned.

The document includes medicolegal professionals in this group as Forensic Medicine Service Providers (FMSP). Additional language has been added to make it clear that this group is included in the recommendation.

0052: The submitter noted that the location of the work should be broadened to include off-site work. Results of the project should also be published in peer-reviewed journals.

An editorial change was added to allow for some off-site work at the discretion of the PI. However,

the intent of the program is to insure that the fellows spend the majority of their time in the forensic lab to insure a two-way interaction between lab and researcher. No changes were made regarding requiring publication as this is an intrinsic expectation of all scientific post-doctoral appointments.