

THE FQS UPDATE

WELCOME TO "THE FQS UPDATE"

"Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives." William A. Foster

Special Thanks!

We would like to take the time to thank all of our customers for a great 2008. We look forward to serving you in 2009. Your hard work and dedication make our jobs easy. Your commitment to excellence is inspiring. You make a difference everyday and your efforts are appreciated. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact us. We are here to serve you. Thank you from the FOS staff!

IAAC Evaluation:

In April, FOS-I will be visited by members of the IAAC (Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation) to review operations and observe assessments in process to finalize the evaluation of FOS-I. This will result in the recognition of FOS-I by IAAC as an approved accrediting body. The evaluation is similar to what our member laboratories encounter during assessment visits by FOS-I, and will assure our members that FOS-I is compliant with the International Standard for Accrediting Bodies, known as ISO 17011. Currently, FOS-I Quality Manager William Tilstone and Manager of Accreditations Randall Robbins are in the process of providing additional information to IAAC about the operations of FOS-I, to demonstrate compliance with ISO 17011. The Manager of Accreditations is working with laboratories that are due for assessment visits (either initial, reaccreditation or surveillance) around that time to be a participant in the process, as IAAC wishes to observe 3 such assessments during that week. Once this process is successfully completed, FOS-I will gain its international recognition by IAAC.



"I don't need to check anything with 'the boys in forensics', I know it was you."

Inside this issue:

FOS Services	2
Calendar of Events	3
FOS Org chart	4
Contact information	5



FOS Services

To clarify roles and responsibilities, FOS has established a new business unit, FOS-Consulting (FOS-C) to provide all non accreditation services. FOS-C and FOS-I are independent legal entities each with its own manager reporting directly to the President.

FOS-I

Forensic Science Laboratory Accreditation: FOS-I provides accreditations for forensic science laboratories to the standards set out in ISO/IEC 17025:2005, and with supplemental criteria covering ILAC Guide 19, Digital Evidence, Latent Print, and Animal Drug Testing.

Crime Scene Examination and Testing: FOS-I provides the same standard of testing for crime scene units whether they are stand-alone units within a law enforcement agency or part of a crime laboratory. Where the crime scene unit also conducts testing-such as latent print recovery and comparison of firearms examinations- these can be added to the scope of the accreditation.

DNA Laboratory Accreditation: FOS-I is recognized by the NDIS Board as an accrediting body that meets the standards required to accredit laboratories participating in NDIS.

Pre-Assessment Audit: A Pre-Assessment visit is used to determine an agency's compliance with the requirements of ISO 17025. The assessors will review management system policies, procedures, records, security, chain of custody, as well as conduct interviews with staff. The assessment will end with a close out conference and report.

(FOS-I operates its accreditations to the standard required by ISO 17011 as demonstrated by successful completion of evaluation by NACLA.)

FOS-C

Internal Auditing Workshop: This workshop is designed to train staff in auditing techniques against the standards of the accreditation ISO 17025 program.

ISO Without Tears Workshop (1 day): Introductory class to aid in the preparation for ISO preparation. The class will include an overview of ISO 17025, technical requirements, forensic testing aspects and laboratory preparation.

ISO 17025 and Auditor Assessor Workshop (General 3 day): Basic understanding of ISO 17025, technical requirements, forensic testing aspects, internal auditing, implementation, corrective action, preparation and management.

ISO 17025 and Auditor Assessor Workshop (Advanced 5 day): Expansion of general training including applying ISO 17025, technical requirements, forensic testing aspects, internal auditing, implementation, corrective action, preparation, management, post audit, further visiting of clauses, and bench exercises.

GAP Analysis: A gap is often referred to "*the space between where we are and where we want to be*". FOS will make sure the team members from a laboratory are in compliance with the key aspects of their program, will prepare a report based on information gathered, and identify corrective action where required. The FOS audit team will also discuss findings and recommendations with the laboratory.

FOS Services Continued

Academic Services: FOS offers curriculum development and course instruction in forensic and life sciences for academic institutions. Currently, FOS partners with the University of South Florida to offer undergraduate instruction in forensic science to Criminologists.

Organizational Needs Analysis: This service offers strategic planning to state, local, and privately owned agencies for the optimization of forensic capabilities. A team of experts with years of forensic management experience, organizational psychologists, and others will oversee your analysis. They will provide a comprehensive review of your organization and provide a summary of findings, short term recommendations, and long term improvement ideas.

Uncertainty of Measurement: FOS prepared a presentation as an aid to our current and prospective accredited laboratories in interpretation of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005. The presentation consists of a slide show accompanied by notes. Microsoft PowerPoint or PowerPoint Viewer is required to view the presentation. Visit our website for the link at www.forquality.org.

Customized Training: A variety of workshops can be customized for your agency to suit your individual training needs. We will work with you to create a curriculum that will be most beneficial for your agency and conduct on-site training at your facility. Training programs can be provided in any area of Forensic Science and are available for crime laboratory personnel, private laboratories, law enforcement agencies and legal professionals. Contact FOS for process and scheduling at pab@forquality.org.

Calendar of Events:

February 23-25: "ISO 17025 Review and Audit Preparation" Denver Police Academy, Denver CO

March 16-20: "ISO 17025 and Audit Preparation Workshop" (general and advanced), FOS Workshop, Clearwater, FL

November 9-13: "ISO 17025 and Audit Preparation Workshop" (general and advanced), FOS Workshop, Clearwater, FL

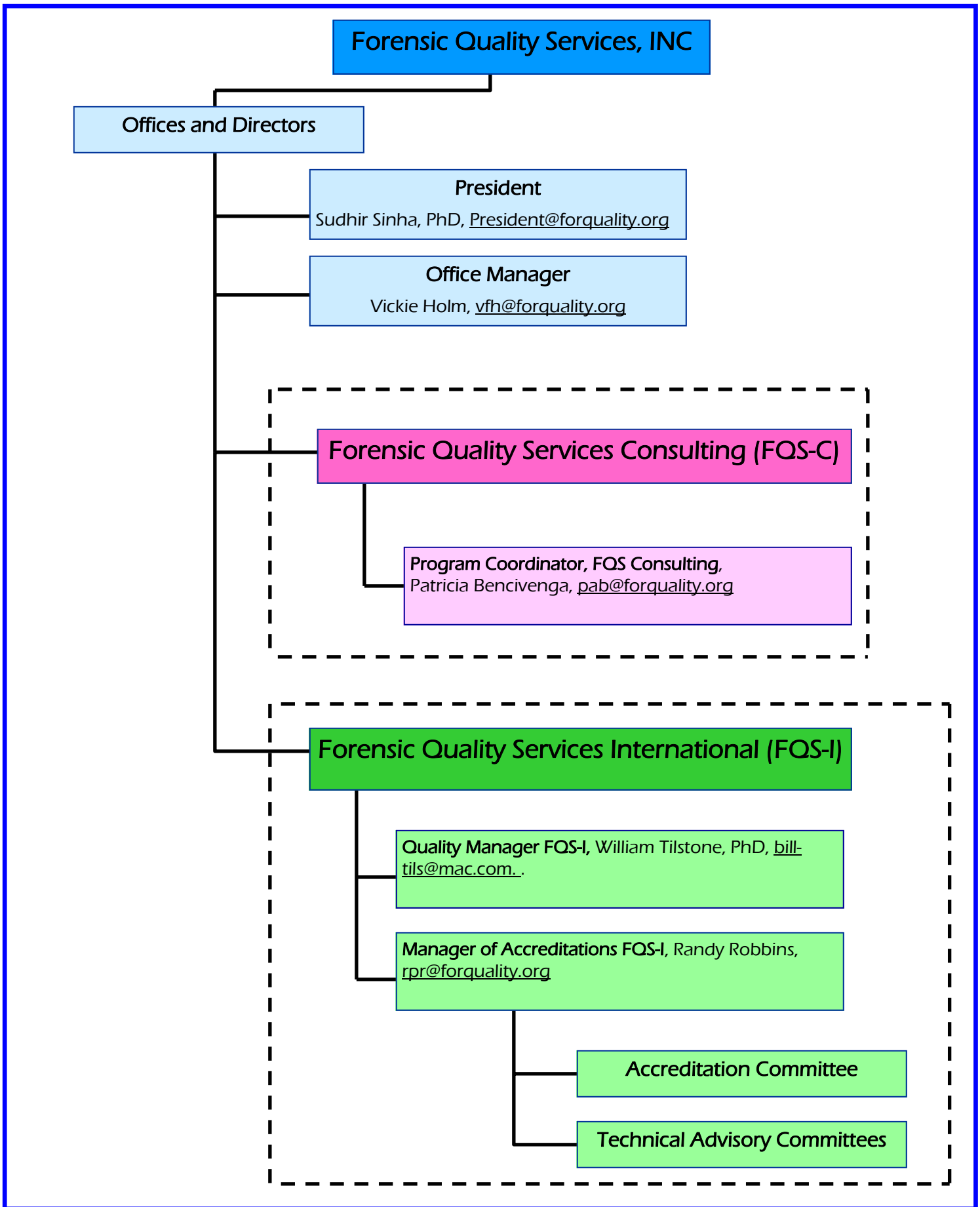
(Space is limited, sign up NOW!)

ACHIEVEMENTS!

Congratulations to the following agencies that achieved FOS-I ISO 17025 accreditation, reaccreditation, or expansion of scope of accreditation in the end of 2008:

UNT Center for Human Identification (reaccreditation)

Fresno County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory (Initial Accreditation)



Forensic Quality Services, Inc.

13575 58th St. N., Ste. 153

Clearwater, FL 33760

Phone: 727-538-4134

Fax: 727-538-4299

www.forquality.org**Board of Directors****Ben Perillo**, Chair,
perilloconsult@aol.com**Arthur Eisenberg, PhD**, UNT
Center for Human Identifica-
tion, eisenber@hsc.unt.edu**Jan Johnson**, Illinois State
Police Forensic Science
Laboratory, Chicago
Jan_Johnson@isp.state.il.us**Kathy Lee**, Georgia Bureau
of Investigation
Kathy.Lee@gbj.state.ga.us

Forensic Quality Services-Consulting (FQS-C) provides a range of organizational assistance and training/education services to support Forensic Science delivery.

Forensic Quality Services-International (FQS-I) is the country's longest established provider of ISO 17025 accreditation to forensic testing agencies in the U.S. It is one of the accrediting bodies recognized by the NDIS Procedures Board.

Our Staff**President**, Sudhir Sinha, PhD,
President@forquality.org**Quality Manager FQS-I**,
William Tilstone, PhD,
billtils@mac.com**Manager of Accreditations
FQS-I**, Randy Robbins,
rpr@forquality.org**Program Coordinator, FQS-C**,
Patricia Bencivenga,
pab@forquality.org**Office Manager**, Vickie
Holm, vfh@forquality.org**SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO “THE FQS
UPDATE”**

“The FQS Update” will be published bimonthly starting in January through November by Forensic Quality Services.

FQS welcomes submissions to this newsletter and will evaluate all such submissions with regard to their general interest to the readership. FQS reserves the right to edit submissions for length and editorial correctness. Please contact Pat for deadlines or submission requests at pab@forquality.org.

Rates for ad space are as follows:

One-eighth page: \$75/issue, \$300/yr (6 issues)

One-quarter page: \$100/issue, \$450/yr (6 issues)

One-half page: \$125/issue, \$600/yr (6 issues)