BIOL 104 Forensic Biology

Chapter 20 The Future

* Need for trained and knowledgeable evidence collectors

“However, academia must strive to supplement, not supplant, police in-service training.”

* Disproportionate burden placed on crime labs to process drug and blood-alcohol evidence limits processing of other physical evidence

“If all or even most of the burglaries, homicides, assaults, rapes, and other types of major offenses were investigated with the thoroughness expected of a proper criminal investigation, the quantity of physical evidence collected would require the existence of better staffed and better equipped crime laboratories.”

* Creation of undergraduate and graduate programs in forensic science

“Furthermore, the establishment of forensic education programs, especially at the graduate level, should be accompanied by the formulation of new academic research programs dedicated to investigating fertile areas of research that are pertinent to the expanding role of forensic science in criminal justice.”

* Increase in demand for DNA profiling

“Evidence now suggests that DNA evidence collected at property crime scenes may help law enforcement solve those crimes and identify perpetrators of more serious offenses.”

* Value of computer databases (e.g. IAFIS, NIBIN, CODIS)

“A major thrust of forensic research must concentrate on defining the most distinctive properties of evidence and relating those properties to statistics that measure their frequency of occurrence.”

* Value of class evidence

“Clearly, future research will have to concentrate on defining the value of class evidence so that these items can become statistically more meaningful and attractive to scientists and investigators alike.”

* Development of standardized protocols

“Future progress will depend on the willingness of all crime laboratories to enter into cooperative programs that will ensure uniform standards of analysis as well as providing for the collection and dissemination of analytical and statistical data.”

* Communication

“The criminalistic community must aggressively communicate its capabilities and objectives to both the police and legal communities.”

*Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*

* National Academy of Science report published in 2009

“however, few disagreed with the report’s call for creating a culture in forensic science that is strongly rooted in science.”