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March 2022

ASTEE Newsletter

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Message from the President

Dear ASTEE Members,

Welcome to 2022! I feel honored to serve the American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners as President, and I'm so excited for the wonderful year ahead. This year marks my personal 10-year anniversary as a member, and I am so grateful for the role that ASTEE has played in my journey as a forensic scientist. The knowledge and skills I've gained, the professional connections I've made, and the sense of community I feel through ASTEE have truly enriched my career and transformed trace evidence from a "job" to a passion. I'm thankful for the guidance of those who occupied this role before me; most recently Emily Weber, who has been a wonderful mentor and thoughtful collaborator, and who continues to offer her time and support whenever and wherever she can. I'm proud to be able to represent ASTEE in this role this year, and I promise to do everything I can to help trace evidence continue to grow, evolve, and thrive in 2022.

There are now more than 350 people, from Atlanta to Auckland, Dallas to Dubai, and Los Angeles to Lahore, that make up this organization. But if you're like me, you've had many a "small world" moment when speaking to another member of ASTEE. The connections shared between our small but global community are surprising and heartening to me. When the ASTEE website was redesigned in 2020, I was most excited for a new look and new functionality. However, what I am now most struck by is the community response to the ASTEE Forum. I love seeing how people are connecting and sharing information. I've seen members reaching out for help, asking questions, and generously sharing their



Message from the President continued...

knowledge and resources. Especially in an age when the internet can be a source of toxicity in our lives, I'm so thrilled and encouraged by how our membership has utilized the ASTEE Forum for good. I hope that the dialogue on the Forum continues to flourish in 2022. If you are reading this and have not yet signed up for an account on the ASTEE Forum, I hope that you do so today!

On another note, I have news to share with you! I'm happy to announce that ASTEE will be partnering with the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists for its 2022 Fall Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. Mark your calendars now for September 11th through the 16th, because you know that when MAFS and ASTEE co-host a meeting, trace evidence will be well-represented! More details on registration and workshop offerings will be forthcoming.

I have two big requests to make of the membership this year. First, if you are a Student or Associate Member of ASTEE, I want to ask for your help. Whether you are taking your first forensic microscopy course, just got your first job in trace evidence, or made it through voir dire in your first expert witness testimony, your opinions, skills, and energy are needed to make ASTEE better. I urge you to volunteer to serve ASTEE by joining one of its many committees. Every role in this organization is essential to its success. I know from personal experience how fulfilling the work can be, and I feel we need our youngest members to become stakeholders in ASTEE if we are to ensure that institutional knowledge is passed on and that new energy and ideas are brought to the table. If you are interesting in joining a committee, please let me know!

Second, I have a request for all members—Student, Associate, Regular, Founder, Charter, and Emeritus. We work (or have worked) in a wide variety of environments: small local laboratories, universities, federal agencies, private consulting firms, and everywhere in between. We have a similarly wide range of roles and expertise: generalists and specialists, examiners and supervisors, educators and researchers, technical leaders and laboratory directors. I urge you to share the value that you find in ASTEE with those around you who are not yet members. If there is something you have gained from ASTEE, tell a colleague about it. If there is a connection you have made because of ASTEE, pay that forward by connecting someone new to the organization. The trace evidence community can only grow stronger as more people engage. Any investment made by ASTEE's current membership in recruiting others to join the organization will pay dividends in ensuring the continued vitality of trace evidence for many years to come.

Once again, I am very much looking forward to an exciting and enriching 2022. It is an honor to serve you all. If there's anything I can do to make your experience in ASTEE a better one, please let me know and I'll do everything I can to help. You can reach me at asteetrace@gmail.com, or daniel.e.mabel.civ@army.mil.

Best regards,



Daniel Mabel

2022 ASTEE President



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ASTEE at a Glance – Committee Updates

Administrative and Bylaws Committee

The Admin and Bylaws Committee is working on a couple of clarifications related to the definition of an accredited educational institution and the process for the Board of Director's role in approving award recipients as well as an update to the Forum's Code of Contact with regard to not discussing proficiency tests before the results have been posted.

Awards Committee

Congratulations to our award winners!

- Tiffany Millet received the 2021 Student Research Project Award.
- Courtney Vander Pyl received a travel award for the 2022 American Academy Of Forensic Sciences conference in Seattle.
- Oriana Ovide received a travel award for the 2022 American Academy Of Forensic Sciences conference in Seattle.

Nominations for the Edmond Locard Award for Excellence in Trace Evidence are due June 1st. This award is presented annually to a nominee who, like the award's namesake, has made a significant impact in the field, whether through teaching, training, research, or innovations in techniques, methods, or instrumentation. The only requirement of nominees is that they have been active in the field of Trace Evidence for at least ten years. Only members of ASTEE may make nominations, but the nominee does not have to be a member of ASTEE. Prior nominations may be reactivated by sending an e-mail to darrel.hall@osp.oregon.gov.

Applications for the Research Grant Award are due on August 3rd. The Research Grant Award provides \$500 for a project that will advance the field of Trace evidence. Applicants must have proof of membership in ASTEE and submit a written research proposal. The award recipient will provide a summary of their research results to the ASTEE Board of Directors within one year of receiving the grant.

Check out the awards page on the ASTEE website for more information.

Education Committee

We are excited to announce that ASTEE will be partnering with the Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) for a joint conference at their annual meeting in Des Moines, IA from September 11-16, 2022! Please consider submitting a poster or presentation to this conference once the Call for Papers is announced. We are working hard to organize workshops and an ASTEE event for this conference. Meeting information will be posted on the MAFS website (<https://www.mafs.net/>) and the ASTEE forum once it is available.

Be sure to visit the ASTEE member forum! We have been posting various journal articles, conference materials, and online resources for your enjoyment. Please post anything you would like to share with the membership! If you have any questions, please contact the committee at the e-mail listed below.

If you have ideas for potential webinars, you can recommend someone (including yourself) who may be able to offer a workshop or webinar, or you or your laboratory are interested in hosting a workshop (virtual or otherwise), please send an e-mail to astee.edu.committee@gmail.com.

ASTEEN at a Glance – Committee Updates continued...

Elections Committee

ASTEEMembership Survey- Coming March 2022

ASTEEN has been serving trace evidence examiners from around the world since 2009. It is due to the passion and contributions of the membership that has allowed ASTEEN to grow into the organization it is today. ASTEEN continually seeks ways it can improve service to its members. In March a survey will be sent to the membership to help the board members and committee chairs identify how ASTEEN can improve its service. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey. Your comments, ideas, and opinions are extremely valuable.

ASTEEN Election- Coming October 2022

The election committee would like to announce the addition of a new committee member, Mackayla Bernard from Texas DPS. Welcome Mackayla!

The 2022 election will occur in October. If you are a full member (regular, founder, charter, etc.) please consider running for the ASTEEN board. If you are a student or associate member please consider updating your membership to a regular member if you meet the qualifications.

- President-Elect (1-year term, then serves as President for 1 year): Fulfills the President's duties should the president be absent, leave office or become incapacitated. The President's duties include: presiding at meetings; conducting the business of the Society, and promoting the fulfillment of the Society's objectives.
- Treasurer (2-year term): Keeps Society financial records, safeguards its funds, keeps the membership list current, notifies the membership chair of address changes, deposits all monies received by the Society in accounts approved by the Board, files the Society (Corporate) Annual Report, and submits the corporate renewal fee.
- Director (3-year term): Act at the direction of the executive board (President, President- Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary) to carry out assigned tasks on behalf of the Society. Directors are voting members of the Board.

Serving on the ASTEEN Board is a great way to contribute to the organization and to have a positive impact on the forensic science community. If you are interested in serving on the ASTEEN Board of Directors in any of these positions, please send a photo along with a brief bio detailing your qualifications and the reasons why you would like to serve on the Board to Katie Igowsky, Katherine.Igowsky@state.mn.us, by September 2, 2022. The election will take place via electronic ballot in October.

Research Committee

The Research Committee has been working on updating the list of internships in trace evidence analysis for students. The current listing can be found on the ASTEEN website (<https://www.asteetrace.org/rcommittee>). We have also included a copy on page **12-14** of this newsletter. Although the pandemic has suspended a number of these internships, there are still opportunities available. If your lab offers internships, please reach out to Kelly Brinsko Beckert, kbeckert@microtrace.com, with the name of your laboratory, contact person (if available), any application deadlines, and website links with information and requirements. It's not always easy for students to find an internship in trace, and the pandemic has made it even more difficult, so any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated!

UV-VIS ABSORBANCE

UV-VIS REFLECTANCE

UV-VIS FLUORESCENCE

RAMAN

UV-VIS POLARIZATION

GLASS REFRACTIVE INDEX

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ASTEE at a Glance – Committee Updates continued...

Sponsorship Committee

The Sponsorship Committee would like to welcome our newest sponsors, Leeds Micro and JusticeTrax! Thank you for your sponsorship! An additional 80 invitations have been sent out to potential sponsors which are awaiting responses. Any potential sponsors can reach out to the Sponsorship Committee chair Mike Trimpe attrimpegolf@gmail.com for more information.

Publications Committee

Newsletter

The Publications Committee would like to thank Anne Koettel for years of volunteered service participating on the ASTEE Publications—Newsletter Committee. We are grateful to our volunteers who allow us to continue providing ASTEE members with Newsletters. We are always looking for new content to share with ASTEE Members! Please send any ideas for ASTEE Newsletter content, including *News You Can Use* topics, to Kiersten Coffin (Kiersten.Coffin@dps.texas.gov).

JASTEE

Check out the latest issue of JASTEE at [American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners \(asteetrace.org\)](http://American Society of Trace Evidence Examiners (asteetrace.org)). As always, JASTEE is seeking manuscripts for submission so that we can continue to share the wealth of knowledge of the Trace Evidence community. Please contact Journal Editor Heidi Prough (ProughH@michigan.gov) with submissions and/or questions.

2022 Dues

The New Year is here, which means it's time to start thinking about dues! The ASTEE \$25 membership dues should be paid by March 31st to avoid the \$5 late fee.

News You Can Use

National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach

In 2013 a group called the SAFER (Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting) Working Group was formed, in part, to develop best practices and protocols for the collection and processing of evidence in sexual assault kits. This group developed the [National Best Practices for Sexual Assault Kits: A Multidisciplinary Approach](#). This guide was created to aid nurses in the collection of evidence in sexual assault examinations. When this guide was open for public comment, the OSAC Trace Materials subcommittee sent an official response regarding the collection of trace evidence ([See response here](#)). This response addressed concerns regarding several of the recommendations and their impact on the collection and preservation of Trace Evidence. ASTEE drafted and distributed a letter of support to the OSAC Trace Materials Subcommittee's response. During a recent workshop discussing these guidelines, the subject matter experts thanked the OSAC Trace Materials Subcommittee for its response and stated they were going to consider the recommendations. This was an encouraging first step in starting a conversation about the value of trace evidence in sexual assault investigations, and ASTEE hopes this dialogue continues to evolve.

May We Introduce You To...

May we introduce you to...Kevin Brady

Occupation: Senior Research Specialist (Microscopy and Microanalysis) at Tredegar Surface Protection LLC

What Trace Evidence sub-discipline(s) are the focus of your work?

Currently studying trace organic residues from plastics films. Mostly sub-micron transfers of low molecular weight hydrocarbons and other chemicals onto glass, metal, and plastic substrates. Testing thickness of residue deposits using white light interferometry and using TOF-SIMS to identify them.



What is your favorite quote?

"Remember that Truth alone is the Matter that you are in search after; and if you have been mistaken, let not Vanity seduce you to persist in your Mistake." - Henry Baker 1743

Tell us something that would surprise others about you.

I am an amateur baker that enjoys making challenging pastries and bread.

What is the most interesting place you have been?

I was in Japan for my first ever earthquake on March 11th 2011 and it was a 9.0 magnitude! My Japanese hosts were so kind and went out of their way to assure I could get home safely. I witnessed so many acts of community spirited behavior during that national crisis, it was inspiring.

May we introduce you to... Tarah Helsel

Occupation: Supervisor and Forensic Scientist at RJ Lee Group Inc.

What Trace Evidence sub-discipline(s) are the focus of your work? Primer gunshot residue analysis

Who has been a mentor to you and how have they helped you?

Mike Cipoletti & Allison Laneve. Mike Cipoletti is the director of the Forensic Science program at Waynesburg University. When I was a student there, he constantly helped guide me and mentor me as I navigated scheduling and fulfilling the program's requirements, and helped me so much with finding internship and job opportunities. Allison Laneve has been my manager and has mentored me from the beginning of my Forensic Scientist career until now. Everything I know about GSR analysis is thanks to her and her expertise.



What do you like to do in your down time?

I enjoy discovering new TV series, playing videogames, drawing and crafting.

What is the most interesting place you have been?

Bermuda!

May We Introduce You To...continued

May we introduce you to... Steve Barnett

Occupation: My business card says President but I really am more of the Chief Technical Officer of Barnett Technical Services

What Trace Evidence sub-discipline(s) are the focus of your work?

As a spectroscopist and microscopist, most of my work falls under the Materials section. We have some interesting work ahead in GSR that may play a role in this area.



What is the top activity on your bucket list?

I don't have a bucket list *per se*, but I generally enjoy meeting new people from new cultures, and find that some of my best experiences come through travel to different regions of the world where I can meet the local people. I find the human experience to be incredibly fascinating.

Tell us something that would surprise others about you.

I spent three years as an aerobics instructor (MANY years ago!). I loved it and to this day, I miss it. I love any physical activity that challenges me.

What is the most interesting place you have been?

I travelled to Belarus in 2021 to perform some measurements with a company I work with that manufactures Raman microscopes. This was about 6 weeks after their President/Dictator had just "won" his last election where 80% of the votes went to the opposition candidate. It was sad and tragic to see how the people had to endure under this dictator, yet encouraging to see the resiliency of the people. That experience really helps me cherish the freedoms we have here.

Important Dates

March 31, 2022	ASTEE dues due
May 10-13, 2022	MAAFS Annual Meeting in Newport News, VA
June 1, 2022	Nominations due for ASTEE Edmond Locard Award
July 31-August 6, 2022	IAI International Educational Conference in Omaha, Nebraska
August 3, 2022	Application for ASTEE Research Grant Award due
September 11-16, 2022	Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (MAFS) and ASTEE joint conference at their annual meeting in Des Moines, IA
October 2022	ASTEE Elections

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IMAGING

GLASS RI
MEASUREMENT

IMAGE
PROCESSING






LIGHT
POLARISATION

UV-Vis-IR
MICRO-SPECTROSCOPY

ASTEE Word Search - Hair Edition!

E	V	S	X	I	U	K	M	T	E	L	O	G	E	N	H	I	Q	H	E	W	R	U
M	F	U	C	E	O	Z	G	A	T	R	A	L	U	C	I	L	L	O	F	J	X	Z
T	N	B	O	H	F	P	M	J	J	C	A	C	F	S	Q	C	R	I	V	E	V	X
N	I	Q	R	M	Q	R	Y	C	N	O	U	N	O	J	I	R	A	O	H	U	O	E
E	W	N	T	J	Y	N	M	G	O	L	E	H	A	R	I	C	H	T	O	J	E	A
M	S	Z	I	G	G	O	E	X	Y	O	L	S	Q	G	T	L	A	A	A	T	U	W
G	E	Y	C	G	E	L	D	K	I	R	C	I	F	Z	E	E	V	S	A	G	C	L
I	L	D	A	K	T	A	U	X	J	B	I	A	M	Z	Q	N	X	Y	V	D	E	H
P	A	O	L	B	A	N	L	E	K	A	L	Q	I	B	W	X	L	F	O	M	J	N
J	C	B	F	F	G	O	L	D	W	N	L	Y	H	G	R	X	J	C	R	L	S	G
H	S	D	U	S	E	R	A	H	D	D	O	J	F	A	M	I	Y	K	E	Z	Q	R
V	V	I	S	A	R	O	E	U	I	I	F	Y	G	M	I	L	C	K	P	C	C	P
W	P	O	I	N	G	C	P	D	B	N	R	G	B	N	Z	R	H	A	A	W	D	X
W	P	V	U	A	G	V	P	G	K	G	E	L	C	I	T	U	C	A	T	I	U	B
L	Z	O	B	S	A	U	N	N	X	M	G	L	J	V	W	F	H	U	I	E	N	B
Y	W	Q	D	T	N	E	M	G	A	R	F	Z	P	E	U	V	R	M	I	F	I	L

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden     and .

AGGREGATE
ANAGEN
CATAGEN
COLOR BANDING
CORONAL
CORTEX
CORTICAL FUSI

CUTICLE
FOLLICLE
FOLLICULAR TAG
FRAGMENT
HAIR
IMBRICATE
MEDULLA

OVOID BODY
PIGMENT
ROOT
SCALES
TAPER
TELOGEN

*Solution on page 16

Internship Opportunities—Updated January 2022

All internships are unpaid unless otherwise noted.

Laboratory	Contact Person	Application Deadline	Information and Requirements
North Carolina State Crime Laboratory	Jennifer Remy jremy@ncdoj.gov	Spring: October 1, Summer: February 15 Fall: May 1	https://ncdoj.gov/crime-lab/internships/
Westchester County Forensic Laboratory (NY) (Suspended for pandemic)	See Application	Winter (Dec-Feb): Sept 1 Spring (Mar-May): Nov 1 Summer (Jun-Aug): ASAP early Fall (Sep-Nov): June 1	https://labs.westchestergov.com/internship-programs
Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (Cleveland, OH) (Suspended for pandemic)	Christopher Harris, cbharris@cuyahogacounty.us	Mid-May	https://www.cuyahogacounty.us/medical-examiner/resources/internships
Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory (Suspended for pandemic, check website for updates)	James Medeiros, james_medeiros1@uri.edu Jane Northup, jnorthup@uri.edu	Summer: Early April	https://web.uri.edu/risc/student_opportunities/
Illinois State Police Forensic Science Laboratories	Bill Demuth, Bill.Demuth@illinois.gov	Spring Semester: Sept 30 Summer Semester: Jan 31 Fall Semester: April 30	https://isp.illinois.gov/JoinISP/Internships
Johnson County Sheriff's Office Criminalistics Laboratory	Katelyn Meyer Kate-lyn.meyer@jocogov.org	Fall: October – December, Application Deadline: July 1st Spring: February – April, Application Deadline: November 1st Summer: June – August, Application Deadline: March 15th	https://www.jocosherriff.org/operations-bureau/criminalistics-laboratory/crime-lab-internships
Georgia Bureau of Investigation	See Application Packet	See Application Packet	https://gbi.georgia.gov/employment-opportunities/internship-program
Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory	WSPCrimeLabInternship@wsp.wa.gov	Summer – applications accepted Dec-Jan (submit early)	https://www.wsp.wa.gov/crime/crime-and-forensic-laboratory-services/
Michigan State Police Northville Forensic Laboratory (Suspended for pandemic)	Erica Anderson andersonE7@michigan.gov	Summer: March 1	An intern must be at least a sophomore in college majoring in forensic science, biology, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology, or a related pure or applied science.

Internship Opportunities—Updated January 2022 continued...

All internships are unpaid unless otherwise noted.

Laboratory	Contact Person	Application Deadline	Information and Requirements
Orange County Crime Laboratory (CA)	See website	Summer: January 15	https://hrs.ocgov.com/careers/volunteer-intern/internships/internship-opportunities https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/oc/internships/jobs/322238/forensic-science-intern-unpaid-intern
Indiana State Police Laboratories	See Application	Summer: Early February	https://www.in.gov/isp/labs/2446.htm
Miami Valley Regional Crime Laboratory (Dayton, OH)	Kialee Bowles 937-225-6022 or BowlesK@mcchio.org	No deadline given	https://www.mccchio.org/government/other-government-and-community-agencies/miami-valley-regional-crime-lab/forensic-science-internship.php
Colorado Bureau of Investigation Forensic Services (Suspended for pandemic)	Denver Lab – Kailee Henson Kailee.henson@state.co.us	Summer: Mid January	While internships are available in both the Denver and Pueblo locations, Trace is only located in Denver.
Cwiklik and Associates (Seattle, WA) (small private forensic science laboratory specializing in microscopy, trace evidence and general criminalistics)	Chesterene Cwicklik chesterene@cwikliklab.com	Summer and academic year, No deadline given.	<p>Interested candidates should send a resume that includes coursework.</p> <p>Interns work on internship projects, not on cases. Interns are exposed to discussions etc. about casework, so they do get to see some of the work.</p> <p>The best credentials are a willingness to understand science fundamentals, to have an active curiosity about phenomena and their explanations, and about what we really do not know. The operative word in "forensic science" is science.</p>

Internship Opportunities—Updated January 2022 continued...

All internships are unpaid unless otherwise noted.

Laboratory	Contact Person	Application Deadline	Information and Requirements
United States Postal Service Forensic Laboratory Services (Dulles, VA)	Lisa Tolli, LETolli@uspis.gov Explain your objectives in pursuing an internship and attach a résumé and college transcript (the transcripts can be unofficial).	Internship applications for the year will be taken on a rolling basis starting mid-October the prior year until all positions are filled. Internships can occur throughout the year, not just during the summer.	Graduate students are preferred. All internship applicants must have completed at least two years of higher education progressing toward a degree in a natural science, and must be enrolled in a degree program during the time the application is submitted. The start/end dates of internships are decided by mutual agreement between the prospective intern and laboratory prior to the submission of the final application.
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Carmen Wischnewski CMWISCHNEWSKI@fbi.gov (Visiting Scientist Program only)	None given	https://www.fbijobs.gov/students/undergrad See information on the honors internship program as well as the visiting scientist program.
Microtrace, LLC	Chris Palenik cpalenik@microtrace.com	Applications accepted year-round.	https://www.microtrace.com/about/opportunities/
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	Myha L Myha.Le@state.mn.us	Spring internship: January through May, Application deadline: Last Friday in October <hr/> Summer internship: June through August, Application deadline: Last Friday in March <hr/> Fall internship: September through December, Application deadline: Last Friday in May	https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/forensic-science/Pages/career-opportunities-internships.aspx

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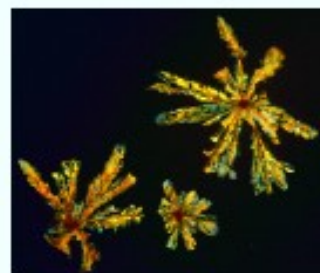
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Volume 68, No. 2

We are pleased to offer the next issue of **The Microscope** journal Vol. 68:2 (2020) as an online edition, which can be viewed on the McCrone Research Institute website, www.mccroneinstitute.org. Featured research articles include:

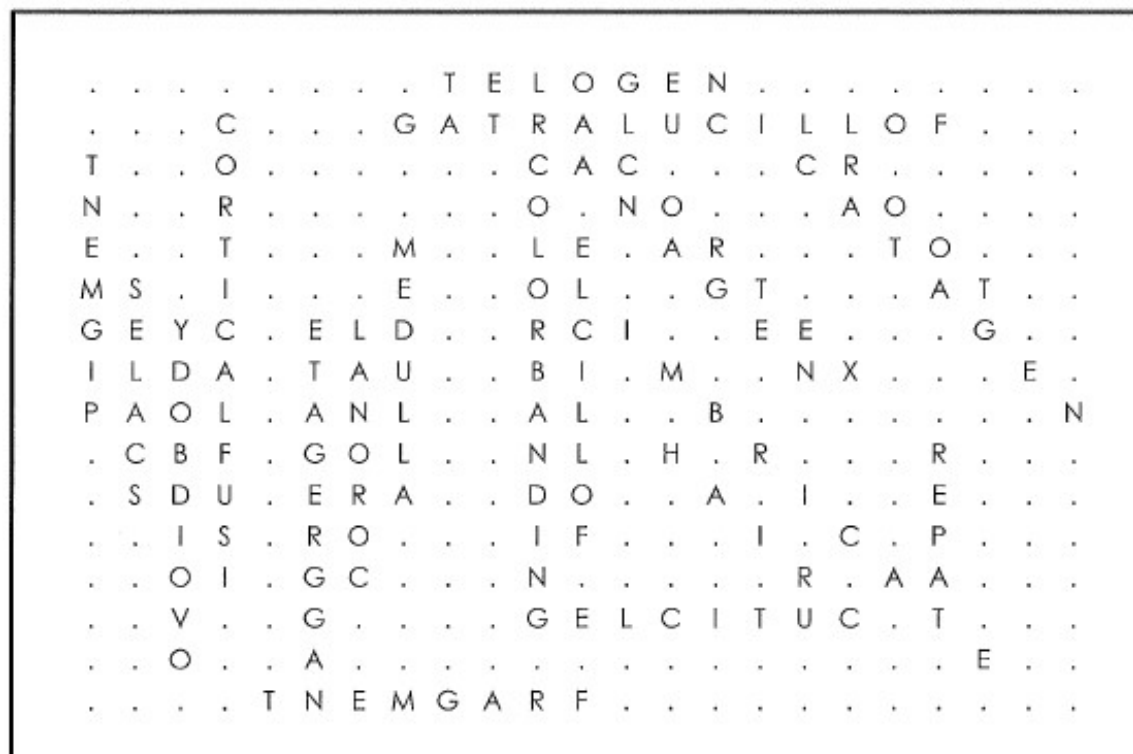
- The microscopical examination of the roughness of surfaces, by John Russ.
- Brian J. Ford's Critical Focus column on Covid-19 vaccinations.
- Microscopical analyses of asbestos-containing fibrous adhesive, by James Millette, et al.
- New microcrystal tests for illicit drugs, diverted pharmaceuticals, and psychoactive bath salts, by McCrone Research Institute.



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SOLUTION**ASTEE Word Search - Hair Edition!**

Word directions and start points are formatted: (Direction, X, Y)

AGGREGATE (N,6,15)

ANAGEN (SE,12,3)

CATAGEN (SE,17,3)

COLOR BANDING (S,11,3)

CORONAL (N,7,13)

CORTEX (SE,13,3)

CORTICAL FUSI (S,4,2)

CUTICLE (W,18,14)

FOLLICLE (N,12,12)

FOLLICULAR TAG (W,20,2)

FRAGMENT (W,12,16)

HAIR (SE,14,10)

IMBRICATE (SE,13,7)

MEDULLA (S,8,5)

OVOID BODY (N,3,15)

PIGMENT (N,1,9)

ROOT (SE,18,3)

SCALES (N,2,11)

TAPER (N,20,14)

TELOGEN (E,9,1)



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