

## Letter to the Editor

Sir:

We would like to thank Dr. Schanfield for his review of our textbook, *Fundamentals of Forensic Science*, particularly the list of errata. As the authors of this book, we accept full responsibility for any errors. Dr. Schanfield is correct that neither of us are forensic biologists. We did, however, make sure that several of our pre-publication reviewers were experienced forensic biologists; they either missed or disagreed with Dr. Schanfield's findings. Nonetheless, we will make sure that these comments are incorporated into the second edition of our textbook.

We would like point out that some of Dr. Schanfield's comments, especially his comparisons with other forensic science books, are not correct. In his review, speaking of Saferstein's *Criminalistics* book, he notes "it does not include some of the more exotic topics such as entomology and anthropology." We do not consider these areas to be "exotic" and neither would forensic entomologists or anthropologists. These topics are not used *enough* in crime scene investigations, in our view, and that is why we included them. We received a number of prepublication requests and suggestions that we include chapters on pathology, entomology and anthropology because instructors wanted the option to be able to offer them to their students. Dr. Schanfield's comments to the contrary, James and Nordby's book is not a textbook, *per se*, thus,

comparison with *Fundamentals of Forensic Science* is difficult. It is also not true that the topics are covered "in greater depth" in James and Nordby's book than in ours; for example, *Fundamentals of Forensic Science* goes into much greater detail about trace evidence (five chapters including microscopy, hairs, fibers, paint, and soil and glass) than *Forensic Science* does (one chapter on all of trace evidence). *Fundamentals* is also more consistent in level, depth, and breadth, having been written by just two authors, rather than a host of edited authors.

We are disappointed that Dr. Schanfield was unable to recommend our book for introductory students based on some errors in a few chapters of the textbook. Having said all of this, it is clear that Dr. Schanfield took a significant amount of time to review *Fundamentals of Forensic Science* for the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. We invite Dr. Schanfield to consider reviewing the second edition for us before it is published.

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