

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **Logan Resigns as head of WSP Forensic Laboratory Bureau**

(Olympia) – Dr. Barry Logan, head of the Washington State Patrol's Forensic Laboratory Services Bureau, has submitted his resignation effective March 14.

As head of the FLSB, Logan was responsible for operation of the State Crime Laboratory and the State Toxicology Laboratory. He also filled the role of State Toxicologist as defined in law.

"Barry and I spent a good deal of time discussing the future of his Bureau," said State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste. "In the end, we came to a collegial and mutual agreement that a change in leadership is necessary."

For several months, the patrol has been in the process of correcting operational deficiencies discovered in the toxicology lab. The recent court rulings also were critical of the operation and management of the lab.

"I believe the Tox Lab is staffed by competent, ethical people who do great work," Batiste said. "Barry has done an exceptional job of addressing the issues discovered during this difficult period. But he and I have agreed that maintaining forward momentum will require different leadership."

Batiste accepted the resignation "with regret." He has appointed Crime Lab Division Manager Larry Hebert, a 34-year veteran of the lab, as interim bureau commander.

Under Dr. Logan's leadership, the lab grew dramatically in both size and scope. More than 50 scientists and professional staff were added, backlogs of cases were reduced, and the Toxicology Lab received accreditation from the American Board of Forensic Toxicologists.

"I appreciate the work that Barry has done over the last ten years. He has served the criminal justice system in this state with distinction. Every citizen, and especially those who have been victims of crime, owe him a huge debt."

Irregularities were discovered in the Toxicology Lab in late summer. A senior manager was found to have signed off on tests she did not personally perform. An investigation into that

misconduct led to the discovery of other problems, including errors that may have materially affected breathalyzer results in about 130 DUI cases.

Batiste immediately ordered a series of audits, and all recommendations made by the auditors to date have been accepted. Most have already been implemented. A review of those audits is being done by the state's Forensic Investigation Council, which will decide if it needs to conduct a further audit of its own.

A national search for a new bureau director will begin immediately. However, that position will no longer fill the dual role of State Toxicologist. Dr. Fiona Couper of Washington, DC has already been hired to fill that role, and will begin work on March 10. She will have five business days of orientation time with Dr. Logan before his resignation is effective.

The new director will serve as a chief administrator for the bureau, with Dr. Couper responsible for assuring technical excellence in the lab itself.

"The men and women who work in the Tox Lab are some of the finest scientists I know," Batiste said. "I have confidence in them, and I have no higher priority than restoring public and judicial confidence in the work they do."

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