

Forum for Disaster Victim Identification

Friday, 29 June 2012

The Penridge Suite, 470 Bowes Road, London N11 1NL

The procedure of identifying victims of disasters either major (such as terrorist attacks or earthquakes) or smaller (such as aeroplane crashes) cannot rely on visual recognition alone. Comparison of fingerprints, dental records and / or DNA samples with ones stored in databases or taken from victims' personal effects are often required to obtain a conclusive identification.

This inaugural networking event will gather together experts in DVI to discuss current legislation and techniques involved in DVI

This event has CPD accreditation and will have a discussion panel session.

On registration you will be able to submit your questions to the panel that will be asked by the chair on the day of the event

Meeting Chairs

Dr Phil Marsden, President, The British Association for Forensic Odontology, UK

Dr Vivienne Levy, Councillor- New Zealand Society of Forensic Odontology, NZ

- 9:00 – 9:45 Registration
- 9:45 – 10:00 **Introduction by the Chairs:**
Dr Phil Marsden, President, The British Association for Forensic Odontology, UK
Dr Vivienne Levy, Councillor- New Zealand Society of Forensic Odontology, NZ
- 10:00 – 10:30 **The role of forensic anthropology in Disaster Victim Identification**
Professor Sue Black, Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification, University of Dundee, Scotland
Every disaster is unique and not all will require a forensic anthropologist. This talk will discuss what the subject can add to the identification process and when it should be utilised.
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Talk title to be confirmed**
Dr. Tim Clayton, Forensic Science Service Ltd, UK.
- 11:00 – 11:30 Speakers' photo then mid-morning break and trade show
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Identity vs Identification in the 21st Century: The Forensic Use of Jewellery in Disaster Victim Identification**
Maria M MacLennan, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, The University of Dundee, Scotland
The increased occurrence of mass disasters in recent years means forensic experts have had to become more adept at utilising alternative means of identification should traditional methods fail. Primary methods of identification such as DNA, odontology and fingerprinting are crucial weapons in establishing identification, but can often be diminished in an extreme disaster environment. Jewellery has long been a signifier of personal identity, marking its wearer as a member of a particular religion, cultural group or life stage. This talk will discuss how design research can assist in utilising jewellery as a method of forensic identification in a Century where our individual personal identities are increasingly under attack.
- 12:00 – 12:30 **Collection and preservation of biological material for disaster victim identification**
Dr Eleanor Graham, Northumbria University, UK
As DNA can be recovered from any biological material, DNA profiling it has proven to be an invaluable method for personal identification following mass fatality incidents which result in disruption of the body, when other primary methods of identification may not be applicable. DNA profiling will only be applicable if a sufficient quantity and quality of DNA can be recovered from the collected material. This talk will describe the types of material which may be collected and will invite discussion of best practice for collection, storage and transportation methods of such material following a variety of incident types.
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch and trade show
- 13:30 – 14:30 **Question and Answer Session**
Delegates will be asked to submit questions to a panel of experts. Questions can be submitted before the event or on the day
- 14:30 – 15:00 **The role of computed tomography in mass fatality incidents**

Professor Guy Ratty, MBE. , East Midlands Forensic Pathology Unit, Leicester, United Kingdom (**talk straight after lunch**)

This talk will discuss the role of cross sectional imaging including matters related to identification, and cause of death in mass fatality incidents. It will indicate the infra structure that is required in the use of radiology in these circumstances.

15:00 – 15:30 Afternoon Tea/Coffee and trade show

15:30– 15:45 **Talk title to be confirmed**
TBC, Cellmark, Oxfordshire, UK

15:45 - 16:00 Selected oral presentations

16:00 – 16:30 **Lessons learnt during the christchurch earthquake.**

Dr Vivienne Levy, Councillor- New Zealand Society of Forensic Odontology, NZ

At 12.51pm on 22nd February 2011 a catastrophic Earthquake hit the city of Christchurch, New Zealand, resulting in the destruction of many buildings in the city centre together with the loss of 185 lives. Vivienne Levy was the AM and reconciliation co-ordinator of the Dental section of the DVI operation.

16:30 - 17:00 **Mass Disaster, Post Mortem, Identification Techniques and Procedures**

Dr Roger Summer, UK

The speaker will present a detailed account of many of the practices involved in mortuary procedures and the positive identification of human remains which may have a significant effect on the outcome of an enquiry, investigation or inquest.

The presentation will address the establishment of cordons, scene preservation and security at the incident site, body recovery techniques including the chain of continuity and the associated health and safety and risk assessment considerations. The temporary storage of human remains prior to their transportation from the incident site to the location where the authorised autopsy will be conducted. The established protocols and procedures associated with positive identification techniques relating to the unknown dead which are normally performed within a post-mortem room environment. The duties and responsibilities of those who may be involved in the investigative and clinical procedures.

Strategies will also be identified for accommodating the needs of the media who always invoke a keen interest post incident. The establishment of both post-mortem and anti-mortem centres, the important aspects associated with relative liaison, the creation of a body repatriation centre and the requirements of the various religious denominations involved when any incident or disaster has taken place.

17:00 Chairman's summing up

Media partners



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This meeting was organised by Euroscicon (www.euroscicon.com), a team of dedicated professionals working for the continuous improvement of technical knowledge transfer to all scientists. Euroscicon believe that they can make a positive difference to the quality of science by providing cutting edge information on new technological advancements to the scientific community. This is provided via our exceptional services to individual scientists, research institutions and industry.

About the Speakers

Eleanor Graham is a Lecturer in Forensic Science in the Department of Chemical and Forensic Sciences, School of Life Science. She studied for her first degree in Biochemistry at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) before completing an MSc in Biomolecular Archaeology jointly run by UMIST and the University of Sheffield. She then moved to the

University of Leicester to complete her PhD under the supervision of Professor Guy Ruty, where she stayed to work as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate before taking up her position at Northumbria University.

Eleanor is a member of the Forensic Science Society, the International Society of Forensic Genetics and the British Association for Human Identification. In 2008, she got the 'highly commended' for 'The University Biopsy Tool' at the 2008 Da Vinci Health Technology awards.

Maria Maclennan is a Designer Researcher and current PhD Scholar at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (DJCAD) at The University of Dundee. She is currently undertaking an ESRC CASE PhD Scholarship in collaboration with the University's world-renowned Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification (CAHID).

Maria's Doctoral research into 'Forensic' Jewellery is primarily concerned with exploring how design methods can be employed to better utilise jewellery in the forensic process of Disaster Victim Identification (DVI). Maria previously graduated with a Bachelor of Design (with Honours) in Jewellery and Metal Design and a Master of Design (with Distinction).

Sue Black is director of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification. Awarded OBE for services to forensic anthropology in Kosovo. Awarded Police Commendation from ACPO for DVI training. Lead Anthropologist on Mass Fatalities Home Office committee. Lead Anthropologist on Interpol sub-committee for DVI. Author of two texts on DVI.

Eleanor A.M. Graham graduated from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) in 2000 gaining a BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry. This was followed in 2002 by an MSc in Biomolecular Archaeology at the University of Sheffield. Eleanor studied for her PhD in Forensic DNA Profiling at the East Midlands Forensic Pathology Unit, University of Leicester, graduating in January 2008. Her research interests include DNA transfer and persistence and the application of low-template DNA profiling methods to casework scenarios. She is currently employed as a lecturer in forensic science at Northumbria University.

Guy Ruty holds the Foundation Chair in Forensic Pathology at the University of Leicester where he is Chief Forensic Pathologist. His principal work relates to the provision of forensic pathology services to HM Coroners and police forces of the East Midlands. He also provides forensic pathology services to other police forces of the United Kingdom as well as opinion work for both prosecution and defence for solicitors and police forces alike. He provides forensic pathology and mass disaster services to police forces and countries internationally. In addition he has published over 200 publications including original peer reviewed papers, review articles, editorials, case reports, letters and abstracts (those related to national and international meetings), and was the founder Editor-in-Chief of the International Forensic Journal, *Forensic Science, Medicine and Pathology* which I edited until December 2008.

Awards include; Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioners Commendation Most relevant, Professor Ruty is a member of the Pathology Sub Committee of the Steering Committee for Disaster Victim Identification for Interpol and the Chair of the Forensic Imaging Sub Committee of the Interpol DVI Pathology Sub Committee

As a former Director of Forensic Services in the Police Service, **Roger Summers** had a corporate senior management responsibility for the Force Scientific Support, Fingerprint and Forensic Photography Departments, Chemical Development Laboratories, Forensic Submissions Facility, Technical Support Unit and Forensic Medical Examiners. Now a multi-skilled senior manager, he has over thirty eight years continuous experience in all scientific support disciplines. Operationally, Roger has been involved in numerous murder investigations and many high profile cases, locally, nationally and internationally, almost all of which have led to successful detections, the offenders convicted.

He was a Forensic advisor to a former Deputy Chief Constable for over 15 years. During his career he was an active member of many high profile committees. Roger helped make American legal history by preparing and producing photographic 'bite mark' evidence leading to the successful prosecution of a rapist-murder (the first time any person had been charged and convicted of 'first degree murder' solely on 'bite mark' evidence in the USA). These pioneering techniques have now been accepted as the norm when Forensic Odontological evidence is presented in the judicial process worldwide.

A senior lecturer of international repute, Roger has given several hundred professional lectures and presentations some so far afield as America, Germany, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Mauritius, Russia and Switzerland.

He was a member of the initial multi-national task force team, deployed at the request of the Australian and Thai governments in the wake of the Asian Tsunami where he assisted in establishing forensic protocols for the identification of thousands who perished as a result of the Tsunami.

Roger was invited to perform the role of Forensic Consultant, Lecturer at the inaugural and validation stages of the pioneering BSc (Hons) Forensic Science Degree at the University of Derby. His involvement continues at all levels of the forensic science undergraduate and postgraduate academic process as a Senior Lecturer in Forensic and Crime Science at Staffordshire University. Amongst his responsibilities at the University is to design bespoke short courses in respect of 'Continuous Professional Development', both within the sphere of Academia and the wider external organisations and Public sectors. On Christmas Eve 2006, Roger returned to the UK, having spent a number of weeks on deployment as a member of the forensic investigation team in Brazil following their worst "Air Disaster" when two aircraft collided at 37,000ft above the Amazon Jungle. More recently in 2010, he was called in by the Lebanese Authorities and Ethiopian Airlines to lead the disaster victim identification protocols and strategies involved with a disaster. He also acted as Forensic liaison between all countries involved. A Boeing 737-800 crashed into the Mediterranean Sea in stormy weather shortly after takeoff from Beirut Rafik Hariri International Airport. None of the 90 passengers and crew on board survived. His expertise in Human Identification Techniques and forensic related matters are much in demand internationally both from a teaching and operational perspective.

Keywords: Forensic Anthropology, Anatomy, Identification, DVI, Forensic Jewellery, Design Research, Identity, Emergent Identification Technologies, Disaster Victim Identification, DNA, collection, storage, transportation, computed tomography, mass fatality, identification, logistics, cause of death, Earthquake, Christchurch, reconciliation, dental, mortuary, pathology, Mass Disaster, Post Mortem, autopsy, anti-mortem, repatriation

Registration Web Site: www.regonline.co.uk/DVI2012

NOTES ABOUT THIS EUROSCICON EVENT

For your convenience we would like to bring your attention to the following

- You will be issued with a FULL delegate list within 14 days of the event, which will include the email addresses of the delegates (we are sorry that there is this delay in emailing the list, but we need to make sure that it takes into account any late arrivals). You will not be included in this list if you have opted out and you can do this by logging into your registration details. This list will not be sold or ever give out to third parties. Only people attending or sponsoring the event have access to the list
- There may be an independent meeting report published within a few months of this event. If this is published we will send you an email to let you know the reference details
- Notepads and pens are available from the Euroscicon reception desk
- We cannot give out the slides from our speaker's presentations as they are deleted immediately after each event. If you require a particular set of slides please approach the speaker
- Please remember that EuroSciCon is a small independent company with no subsidies from society memberships or academic rates for venues. We try to be as reasonably priced as possible and our delegate rates are substantially lower than comparable commercial meeting organisations
- To keep updated on our events and other Life Science News, please sign up for our newsletter at www.eurosciconnews.com
- We may take pictures during the meeting. These pictures will be used to promote our events and placed on our various websites and the closed Euroscicon group on Facebook. If you do not want your photograph distributed please let one of the Euroscicon staff know.