



Forensic Technology
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

A program of the National Institute of Justice

HHRRC POSTER SESSION PROGRAM

The Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center (HHRRC) seeks to use the assets of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) to promote the application of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles to investigate global humanitarian and human rights injustices. The HHRRC is funded in part by the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ's) Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCOE).

HHRRC projects are selected for support by the International Advisory Council of the HHRRC and can include research applied to humanitarian and human rights projects, training materials and equipment, and advising or subject matter expertise. The HHRRC also aims to support and encourage AAFS members to increase their engagement in applying contemporary forensic science to global humanitarian and human rights matters.

In addition to direct support for forensic studies, the HHRRC provides access to publications and educational materials to disseminate knowledge on the issues and applications of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles. The HHRRC assists projects by making laboratory and analysis equipment available to teams and laboratories and by connecting them with vendors and other resources. To strengthen the available pool of advisors, the HHRRC established a database of volunteers willing to assist and make a difference in global humanitarian and human rights issues.

Scan the QR code or visit this link to view the HHRRC Brochure: ForensicCOE.org/private/63da84d3cdc04

Moderator:

Dawnie Steadman, PhD
HHRRC Chair
Director, Forensic Anthropology Center
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN

Co-Moderator:

Jeri Roper Miller, PhD
AAFS Past President (2021–2022)
FTCOE Project Director
RTI International
Research Triangle Park, NC



**View the
HHRRC
overview
brochure now!**



The FTCOE, led by RTI International, is supported through a Cooperative Agreement from the National Institute of Justice (15PNIJ-21-GK-02192-MUMU), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Neither the U.S. Department of Justice nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse, this printed material.

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY BUILDING FOR HUMANITARIAN ETHICS IN FORENSIC INVESTIGATION, REPORTING, AND RESEARCH PUBLICATION DEALING WITH CADAVERS IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT

Mohammad Nasir Ahmad* and Vina Vaswani | Yenepoya (Deemed to Be University)

Abstract: Professional, ethical approaches and humanitarian forensics are in the infancy stage in India. Forensic professionals in this context feel that there is an urgent need to raise awareness of this issue. With the support of the Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center Grant, the presenters conducted a few capacity-building training programs where collaborators learned how to mitigate ethical issues relating to cadavers from a humanitarian forensics lens. The programs helped spread the roots of humanitarian forensics and an ethical approach to dealing with cadavers.

“THEY ARE OUR PARENTS” – APPLICATIONS OF FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY IN IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF OPERATION CONDOR IN PARAGUAY

Katelyn L. Bolhofner* and Adriana Sartorio | Arizona State University

Rogelio Goiburú | Justice Ministry, Asunción, Paraguay

Abstract: In 1975, dictatorships in the Southern Cone of South America began a campaign of political repression—Operation Condor—resulting in thousands of “disappeared” individuals. This presentation provides an update on efforts to aid the Historical Memory Department, Paraguay, in identifying remains from a clandestine mass grave associated with Operation Condor.

HAIR AND NATURAL TEXTILES AS DETECTORS FOR CHLORINE GAS EXPOSURE

Jack Hietpas* | John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Ethan Groves, Skip Palenik, and Christopher S. Palenik | Microtrace

Abstract: This project explores a novel method for assessing the exposure of people and their clothing to chlorine gas, a resurgent chemical warfare agent. The research examines changes to the micro-structure of human hair and natural textile fibers that occur as a result of chlorine dosage (exposure time and concentration of chlorine gas). A suite of microscopical and microanalytical methods have been explored to examine and characterize exposed hair and fibers.

HHRC GRANTS PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The AAFS HHRC seeks to use the assets of AAFS to promote the application of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles to global humanitarian or human rights projects requiring special forensic assistance.

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view more information:

www.AAFS.org/research-insights-type-hhrc/hhrc-grants-proposal-submission-information



DEVELOPING AN ISOSCAPE FOR HUMAN PROVENANCE: PILOT STUDY RESULTS ON THE EFFECT OF FORMALDEHYDE ON STRONTIUM ISOTOPE VALUES

Lawrence Hill*, Craig Adam Keyes, and Desiré Brits | University of the Witwatersrand

Stephen Fonseca and Lucinda Evert | International Committee of the Red Cross

Abstract: The use of strontium isotopes for provenance studies is well-established, but there are no publications on the effect of embalming chemicals such as formaldehyde on these values. This study sampled enamel and fingernails from donated decedents before and after embalming to evaluate the effect of formaldehyde on strontium isotope values.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT FOR MIGRANT DEATH IN MAVERICK COUNTY, TEXAS

Molly A. Kaplan*, Courtney Siegert, Ivanna Robledo, Chloe P. McDanel, Victoria Soto, and Kate Spradley | Texas State University

Abstract: This poster presents Operation Identification's emergency exhumation response for 26 individuals buried in Maverick County, Texas. These efforts mark a shift in the project's scope, which has traditionally focused on the long-term deceased but now manages recent migrant death cases. Development of disaster victim identification protocols is ongoing in the region.

"WE WILL NEVER STOP LOOKING": UTILIZING FAMILY REFERENCE SAMPLES COLLECTED IN LATIN AMERICA TO IDENTIFY MIGRANT REMAINS FOUND ALONG THE UNITED STATES/MEXICO BORDER

Jason De León *, Perla Torres, and Austin Shipman | Undocumented Migration Project & Colibrí Center for Human Rights

Abstract: This poster presents recent work by the Undocumented Migration Project and the Colibrí Center for Human Rights, a joint 501(c)(3) focused on helping families of missing migrants reunite with their loved ones. This poster presentation highlights recent international DNA collection events and work focused on identifying human remains recovered in Arizona.

FORENSIC ISOTOPE ANALYSIS IN COLOMBIA: CAPACITY-BUILDING THROUGH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Tiffany B. Saul* | Vanderbilt University

Natalia Angélica Camacho Torres | University of Granada & EQUITAS

Abstract: Although the primary objective of this Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center-funded project is to validate water isoscape predictions of geographic residence history in Colombia for assisting with human identification, there have been additional benefits that include a student exchange and specialized training in isotope sample preparation. This presentation will discuss the positive benefits of this collaborative endeavor.

Thank you for your support!

MORE FTCOE HHRRC RESOURCES

Visit the HHRRC landing page to view all resources:

- Virtual Poster Sessions
- Webinars
- Podcast Episodes

Scan the QR code or visit this link to view more resources:

ForensicCOE.org/humanitarian-human-rights-resource-center/



Scan to view
the page now!



NIJ | *National Institute
of Justice*

STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE.



A program of the National Institute of Justice



RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world. For more information, visit www.rti.org. RTI International is a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.