



## Physical Anthropology Section – 2005

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### **H9 The Meeting of Old and New: Luminol Application to a Suspected Ritualistic Heathen Stone From Viking Times**

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The goal of this presentation is to introduce the audience to heathen worshipping ceremonies in Iceland in the Viking times as they relate to a recently discovered special stone that was, upon examination with Luminol, found to be focally positive.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating the potential for Luminol to contribute to knowledge of this an ancient ceremonial stone in Iceland.

During the last year, the expansion of a summer home in the northwestern part of Iceland called Strandir, uncovered an unusually shaped stone, which some locals recognized to coincide with old descriptions of artifacts used during heathen worship. The stone had an external triangular shape with smooth and straight sides and on the base of the triangle was a deep cup-shaped depression in the surface. According to the stories blood was contained in this depressed area during the ceremonies. The local authorities in Strandir approached the forensic community and asked for possible aid in determining if blood had ever been contained in the cupshaped part of the stone. Luminol application to the stone showed a very weak positive luminescence localized to the cup shaped area of the stone, with other areas of the stone being negative.

Luminol is known to detect old blood; however, it cannot determine when this presumptive blood was deposited. Geographical evaluation will be obtained to try to determine possible age of the chiseling of the stone.

**Anthropology, Luminol, Heathen Ceremonies**