



### D70 The Role of the Radiographer in Forensic Medical Investigation

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand range of diagnostic imaging procedures used in support of forensic investigation and the key role played by the radiographer or radiologic technologist.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by highlighting the need for core standards and guidelines in forensic radiography, supported by training programs for radiographers.

**Purpose:** A review of the role of the radiographer in support of forensic medical investigation in South Africa, Australia, Argentina, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

**Materials and Methods:** Two to three university centers of Forensic Pathology were visited in each country between December 2005 and March 2006, as part of a Winston Churchill Traveling Fellowship. Through observation, discussion, and semi-structured interviews with radiography service users, service providers, and educators, the following aspects in each center were assessed:

- Service philosophy and scope of practice
- Use and availability of technologies
- Organizational roles and responsibilities of those undertaking forensic radiography examinations; and
- Current training programs

Relevant published literature was also reviewed.

**Results:** Marked differences in utilization and availability of services between countries, and lesser differences between centers within each country, were evident. The perception of the importance of radiography as a tool of the forensic investigator are influenced by differing levels of violent crime, degree of involvement of radiographers and radiologists, available resources, and differences between education systems for radiographers and pathology technicians. Access to advanced imaging techniques is at present limited to those centers attracting research funding or where cultural issues are significant, but many practitioners report an increasing use of and interest in forensic medical imaging.

**Conclusions:** Radiographers play an increasingly important role in forensic medical investigation. Core standards and guidelines in forensic radiography should be formulated and supported by training programs for radiographers.

**Radiography, Radiology, Education**