



## Pathology & Biology Section – 2008

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### **G101 Unusual Death of a Transsexual (Identification of Damaging Means and Death Time)**

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After attending this presentation, the attendees will understand how scanning electron microscopy and immunohistochemistry can assist the forensic investigator and pathologist in correlating the scene, autopsy findings, and cause of death.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by illustrating the importance of ancillary studies in the forensic autopsy.

February 2007 in Puglia, a transsexual homicide victim was discovered on a suburban road. The body was adjacent to the victim's automobile.

The autopsy confirmed that the cause of death was a serious encephalic concussion. There were doubts about the means of trauma, and for such a reason further analysis was conducted with the scanning electron microscope. Material that was deposited on the epidermic borders of the scalp was compared with the varnish rests of the automobile. It was suspected that the collision/impact of the victim's head was to the lower clapper of the right front door.

The time of death was evaluated by immunohistochemical surveys executed on samples of cerebral parenchyma using the anti-betaAPP antibody.

**Transsexual Homicide, Damaging Means, Immunohistochemical Investigation**