G29 "Oscar" the 1985 Unidentified Person (UP): Forensic Evolution — Odontology to Phenotyping

Patrick A. Murray, DDS, OCME State of Maryland, Baltimore, MD; and Warren D. Tewes, DDS, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of MD, 108 Bakers Lane, Queenstown, MD 21658-1101*

After attending this presentation, attendees will appreciate the efforts and perseverance demonstrated in a 1985 UP case. Attendees will also appreciate the evolution of forensic sciences in attempting to identify this UP case.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by visualizing the evolution of techniques for UP cases.

In Glen Burnie, MD, circa 1985, the skull of a murdered man was found in a trash can. As expected, this case became an Unidentified Case associated with the office of the Chief Medical Examiner of the State of Maryland. To this date, this decedent remains unidentified as UP Case #142852A or UNK 85-33.

As time and case investigators have moved on, this unidentified person has affectionately become known as "Oscar." Continued attempts to identify this unknown decedent via dental examination have been unsuccessful. Subsequently, the skull of "Oscar" has been submitted to forensic artists to provide sketches and a facial reconstruction with the hopes that the public would take notice and contribute information that would assist with an identification of "Oscar." The July 2016 issue of *National Geographic* depicted "Oscar's" skull during the artist's rendition of what "Oscar" is perceived to look like. Despite these efforts, "Oscar" still remains unnamed and unclaimed.

Many traditional disciplines have been employed over the past 30 years with respect to this unidentified case. The investigators have also been willing to use any and all modalities available for forensic identification. Traditionally, with skeletonized remains or a skull needing identification, we have always looked toward forensic odontology to contribute to the identification of the unknown individual. "Oscar" has restorations in nearly every tooth. The restorative dental materials include amalgam, composites, and also gold foil. All of the disciplines of forensic science have evolved over the years as technology has developed. "Old school" methods are still used on a daily basis; however, new technologies are emerging and are actively being investigated in forensic science.

"Oscar's" case was presented in the 2003 Bring Your Own Slides session at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) annual meeting. This 2017 presentation is intended to update the case and demonstrate how forensic science has evolved over the intervening years. We now have the ability to take a DNA sample and produce expanded identification capabilities. "Oscar's" genetic sample was sent to Parabon® Nanolabs in December, 2015, for analysis.

This presentation will show the current capabilities of Parabon® Nanolabs to take the decedent's DNA sample and, using their current technology, produce a phenotype report based on various predicted attributes of the person. These include skin color, eye color, hair color, freckling, genomic ancestry, and face morphology.

There is now a computer-generated image of how agency case #1985-055625-20150401, also known as "Oscar," has evolved. Who is "Oscar"?

Human Dental Identification, Facial Image Technology, Dental & Phenotype Comparisons