



Workshops - 2017

W16 The AAFS Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center: Year Two

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the structure of the AAFS Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center (HHRRC or Center) and its impact on multiple global projects as well as understand the current applications of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles and methodology to global issues relating to humanitarian and human rights and the impact of these efforts. Participants also will receive new information on the progress and products of the AAFS Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center created in 2015.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by raising awareness of the structure and accomplishments of the AAFS HHRRC and the important developments in the global application of humanitarian and human rights forensic science.

The value of the application of forensic science to humanitarian and human rights cases is growing as research expands and new global areas of need arise. This workshop will provide current information on the development, structure, and progress of the new AAFS Center and its subcommittees which promote the application of contemporary forensic science to humanitarian and human rights cases around the world. Participants will learn the difference between humanitarian applications and those relating to human rights in today's world. Specific methodology and case examples are provided on the forensic investigation and documentation of torture and ill-treatment. Capacity building represents a major application involving training and education. Detail is provided on techniques of capacity building and lessons learned from diverse global experiences. Recent years have witnessed global sharing of resources and assistance in casework, training, and expertise. Details are provided on the dynamics and successes of such global cooperation.

Casework in the humanitarian and human rights arena has defined specific problems in need of new research. With support from the AAFS HHRRC, new research is focusing on the uptake and detection of nerve agents in human bone and using stable isotope forensics as an investigative tool for geolocating unidentified border crossers from the Texas-Mexico border. Center support also has enabled training sessions to strengthen human exhumation and identification efforts in Mexico and to conserve and analyze human remains resulting from Khmer Rouge era mass violence in Krang Ta Chan, Cambodia. Principal investigators in these projects will provide information on how to formulate proposals for support and the complexities of defining, articulating, and reaching goals. Participants will gain an understanding of the challenges faced and the benefits to be attained from involvement in research and case

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applications in this area. Presenters from diverse research backgrounds will showcase how the new Center and its developments can facilitate progress in the application of forensic science to humanitarian and human rights issues in different contexts around the world.

Humanitarian, Human Rights, Resource Center