



G9 The Impact of the First International Forensic Odontology in Human Rights Workshop in the United Arab Emirates

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will have a better understanding of the forensic odontologist's role in human rights, as well as the critical part of restoring human identity and dignity to unidentified human remains using dental information.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by serving as an example of how to increase awareness of humanitarian forensic odontology.

A forensic odontology workshop was held at a forensic science conference in November 2017 at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The conference focused on the latest innovations and challenges facing the forensic science community. The full-day workshop in forensic odontology was offered for the first time in the UAE by four international experts. It was organized by the Medical Examiner Office of Abu Dhabi Police in partnership with Forensic Odontology for Human Rights (FOD4HR). FOD4HR is an international, non-governmental group with more than 100 experts in forensic odontology that promotes best practice in human identification and human rights protection.

The topics covered for this study were age estimation, dental identification, anthropology comparison, and pattern injuries analysis and concluded with a panel discussion session. The workshop was designed to be theoretical through the examination and interpretation of reported cases. In addition, there were hands-on exercises to enhance skills and encourage the exchange of participants' experiences.

To assess the impact of the forensic odontology workshop, statistical analysis was based on a questionnaire completed by attendees to evaluate the effectiveness of the workshop. Only 12 participants were selected, out of 22, who work in the police force in the training department of Abu Dhabi Police. The demographics of attendees were nine general dentists, eight forensic scientists, three dental students, and two disaster victim managers.

As a result, there was a significant increase in the level of workshop learning objectives in knowledge, skills, and behavior by overall 41.14%, which increased from pre-workshop 32.81% to 73.95% post-workshop. The statistical results of the questionnaire revealed 94.44% participation satisfaction on the efficacies of the lecturers. In addition, 93.76% of the ability to execute the specific session on the topics were discussed.

In conclusion, the workshop revealed an overall of 93.75% impact on attendees. Furthermore, requests were made to broaden the scope of the topics discussed in forensic odontology, such as the role of odontology in migration and human trafficking. Forensic odontology can be a powerful resource for human rights anywhere in the world, which encourages the continual effort to conduct future humanitarian forensic odontology workshops.

Human Identification, Human Rights, Humanitarian Forensic Odontology