

## I26 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde—Child Pornography, Cybercrime, and Pediatrics: A Case Report From Argentina

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**Learning Overview:** After attending this presentation, attendees will confront the challenges that arise at a pediatric setting when a sexual perpetrator is found to be part of the health team. Attendees will also understand the importance of local, regional, and international collaboration to discover, try, prosecute, and sentence this horrific crime.

**Impact on the Forensic Science Community:** This presentation will impact the forensic science community by showing key aspects of the important roles that law, ethics, technology, and psychiatry are called upon to perform to protect children and patients. This presentation will also call attention to how best to prevent child abuse, protect pediatric patients, assure the best standard of care, and select the best professionals and best people to serve, which is a great dilemma that this shocking case puts at odds.

Child sexual abuse imagery and exploitation on the internet is an urgent problem. Last year in the United States, nearly 70 million images and videos of child sexual abuse, commonly known as child pornography, were reported to the authorities.

In 2018, technology companies reported over 45 million online photos and videos of children being sexually abused, more than double what they found the previous year. In 1998, there were over 3,000 reports of child sexual abuse imagery. Just over a decade later, yearly reports soared past 100,000. In 2014, that number surpassed one million. In 2018, there were 18.4 million; more than one-third of the total ever reported. Those reports included over 45 million images and videos flagged as child sexual abuse. That number originates almost entirely with technology companies based in the United States.

Child pornography reveals a problem global in scope, as most of the images found were traced to other countries as well. While the material, commonly known as child pornography, predates the digital era, smart phone cameras, social media, and cloud storage have allowed the images to multiply at an alarming rate. Both recirculated and new images occupy all corners of the internet, including a range of platforms as diverse as Facebook® Messenger, Microsoft's® Bing® search engine, and others.

In a particularly disturbing trend, online groups are devoting themselves to sharing images of younger children and more extreme forms of abuse. The groups use encrypted technologies and the dark web, the vast underbelly of the internet, to teach pedophiles how to carry out the crimes and how to record and share images of the abuse worldwide. In some online forums, children are forced to hold up signs with the name of the group or other identifying information to prove the images are fresh.

Offenders can cover their tracks by connecting to virtual private networks, which mask their locations, deploying encryption techniques, which can hide their messages and make their hard drives impenetrable, and posting on the dark web, which is inaccessible to conventional browsers. The problem of child sexual abuse imagery faces a particular hurdle. It gets scant attention because few people want to confront the enormity and horror of the content or they wrongly dismiss it as primarily teenagers sending inappropriate selfies. Common language about the abuse can also minimize the harm in people's minds. While the imagery is often defined as "child pornography" in criminal laws, experts prefer terms like child sexual abuse imagery or child exploitation material to underscore the seriousness of the crimes and to avoid conflating it with adult pornography, which is legal for people over 18 years of age.

This is the framework in which a case that involved a pediatrician in this criminal activity will be presented.

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### Child Abuse, Sexual Perpetrator, Psychopathy and Perversion