

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Dental Identification by Pattern Matching – Variation and Reliability of Techniques

HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL NUMBER: H-2018-252

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr. Denice Higgins

STUDENT RESEARCHER: Dr. Catherine Sims

STUDENT'S DEGREE: M. Philosophy (Dentistry)

Dear Participant,

You are invited to participate in the research project described below.

What is the project about?

The aim of this project is to assess the validity of the current methodology of dental identification in Australia and how it compares to the recommended standards for pattern matching techniques in recent American reports. It will involve a survey of Australian forensic odontologists to identify which techniques are routinely used as well as their opinions on the American reports and how they might relate to Australia. The current availability of validity studies for these techniques will be assessed via literature review.

Who is undertaking the project?

This project is being conducted by Dr Catherine Sims.

This research will form the basis for the degree of Master of Philosophy (Dentistry) at the University of Adelaide under the supervision of Dr Denice Higgins and Dr John Berketa.

Why am I being invited to participate?

All Australian forensic odontologists and forensic odontology students are being invited to participate anonymously. With regards to student participation, non-participation or withdrawal will not affect their assessment or relationship with their University. For participants known to the researchers, participation, non-participation or withdrawal will not have any effect on the relationship with the researchers.

What will I be asked to do?

Fill in a survey online. The survey has 5 sections including questions about forensic odontology practice and opinions related to the forensic pattern matching technique of dental identification. The submission of responses will be indicative of consent to participate.

How much time will the project take?

The questionnaire will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Are there any risks associated with participating in this project?

There are no foreseeable risks.

What are the benefits of the research project?

Benefits to the practice of forensic odontology include an overview of how dental identification is conducted in Australia and through the research as a whole, an understanding of the level of validation of currently used techniques and how this may relate to or affect the current standards of practice. This will result in maintaining and advancing the professions standards.

Can I withdraw from the project?

Participation in this project is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate, you can withdraw from the study at any time before the submission of the survey.

What will happen to my information?

The unidentified survey information will be stored at the Forensic Odontology Unit, University of Adelaide indefinitely. Only researchers named on this information sheet will have access to the information. Data will be collated to provide a general overview of the practice of dental identification in Australia as a whole. Participants will only be identified as 'forensic odontologists'. Research findings will be published in journal papers and presented at conferences. Although not currently planned, de-identified data may be used in future research. Participation in this survey will also be taken as consent for use of non-identifiable data in any future projects.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the project?

If you have any questions regarding the research please get in contact with Dr. Denice Higgins or Dr. Catherine Sims at the Forensic Odontology Unit, University of Adelaide via phone or email.

Phone: 08 83135431

Email: forensic.odont@adelaide.edu.au

What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

The study has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Adelaide (approval number H-2018-252). If you have questions or problems associated with the practical aspects of your participation in the project, or wish to raise a concern or complaint about the project, then you should consult the Principal Investigator. If you wish to speak with an independent person regarding a concern or complaint, the University's policy on research involving human participants, or your rights as a participant, please contact the Human Research Ethics Committee's Secretariat on:

Phone: +61 8 8313 6028

Email: hrec@adelaide.edu.au

Post: Level 4, Rundle Mall Plaza, 50 Rundle Mall, ADELAIDE SA 5000

Any complaint or concern will be treated in confidence and fully investigated. You will be informed of the outcome.

If I want to participate, what do I do?

If you would like to participate please fill in the survey and submit online.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Catherine Sims

Dr. Denice Higgins

Dr. John Berketa