



VICTORIAN INSTITUTE  
OF FORENSIC MEDICINE



## The Analysis of Human Skeletal Remains: A Quality Assurance Workshop

31<sup>st</sup> Australasian Society of Human Biology Conference

**Date:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2017

**Location:** Craig Royal Hotel, Ballarat, Victoria

**Cost:** \$40

This workshop welcomes students and professionals involved in the analysis of human skeletal remains (including those from archaeological, historical or forensic contexts) to participate in a one-day quality assurance workshop designed to allow participants to examine the quality of their assessment, scoring and interpretation of morphological skeletal features.

The workshop will provide participants with a unique opportunity to view morphological skeletal features associated with differentiating human from non-human bone, establishing a biological profile (sex, age and ancestry), and identifying and interpreting skeletal trauma and pathology. Given the logistical, practical and ethical limitations of using real human skeletal remains, this workshop will use multiplanar reconstruction images of de-identified skeletal remains obtained from CT scans. Participant's responses will be recorded in a de-identifiable manner. Upon completion of the morphological assessment, cases will be self-reviewed in the workshop group. The correct responses will be provided, followed by a detailed collaborative discussion about the similarity and/or diversity of responses. This discussion will be undertaken in a friendly, non-critical, supportive learning environment. Following completion of the workshop, a detailed summary of the group's observations from each case will be distributed to participants.

**Workshop Outcome:** Participants will be able to identify their own strengths and weaknesses in assessing morphological skeletal features in relation to differentiating human from non-human bone, establishing a biological profile and identifying and interpreting trauma and pathology. Participants will understand how the group collectively assess and interprets morphological features and will have the opportunity to learn from their peers.

Workshop participants will be provided with a booklet containing all the case images and responses that were covered in the workshop to assist with their future osteological analyses. The workshop will be facilitated by Dr Soren Blau (Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine) and Samantha Rowbotham (Monash University). The workshop will run from 9:30am - 3pm (with a 1 hr lunch break) and will include workshop materials and a light lunch for participants.



A minimum of 30 participants is required for this workshop to run.

This workshop is sponsored by the Department of Forensic Medicine, Monash University and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.