



JOURNAL of FORENSIC ODONTO- STOMATOLOGY

VOLUME 31 Supplement 1 October 2013
Abstract book IOFOS Conference 2013 Firenze

THE CURRENT STATUS OF BITEMARK EVIDENCE EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-2013

DavidRSenn

University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas, USA

Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio (UTHSCSA) - Director, Center for Education and Research in Forensics (CERF) - Director, Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Odontology - Director, Southwest Symposium on Forensic Dentistry - Chief Forensic Odontologist for the Bexar County (Texas) Medical Examiner's Office. Diplomate and Past President of the American Board of Forensic Odontology (ABFO), Fellow in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), member of the American Society of Forensic Odontology (ASFO) - Secretary and serves on the Board of Directors for the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB). He also serves on Board of Directors for the Scientific Working Group for Disaster Victim Identification (SWGDIV). He is a member of the National Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team, (DMORT) Region VI. Co-editor of Forensic Dentistry, 2nd Edition (January, 2010) and co-editor of the Manual of Forensic Odontology, 5th Edition (January, 2013).

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

The education of dentists who plan to become forensic odontologists in collecting, managing, analyzing, and reporting bitemark evidence has evolved from being virtually non-existent when the first bitemark case was brought before the US court system in 1954 to its current status. Formal bitemark evidence education in the USA began in earnest only after forensic odontology was established as a branch of forensic science upon the formation of the Odontology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the American Society of Forensic Odontology in the early 1970s and the American Board of Forensic Odontology in 1976. Conceptualized at the meetings of these groups, the pioneers of forensic odontology education organized short courses and symposia that included bitemark evidence instruction. Later, longer and more detailed instruction in the management of bitemark evidence became part of weeklong courses and ultimately a one-year and then two-year long fellowship in forensic odontology. The philosophy and the content of education courses in bitemark evidence also evolved from those early years. This evolution was and is, in part, a result of the natural maturation of a novel field, but without doubt, was also motivated by the need to add discipline, common sense, and appropriate science to a nascent field that was, in the opinions of many, prematurely thrust into the legal system. The changes both influenced and were guided by the evolving standards and guidelines published by the American Board of Forensic Odontology. This presentation details that evolution and documents the changes that have occurred in the USA in teaching the principles and methodology of managing bitemark evidence.

KEYWORDS: Forensic Odontology, Bitemark, Education

JFOS. October 2013, Vol.31, Sup.No.1 Pag 129
ISSN :2219-6749