



Academic Programs - Short Course

Analysis and Interpretation of Skeletal Trauma

Course Description

In conjunction with the Department of Forensic Medicine, Monash University, this intensive short course is delivered by The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM), Australia's largest multi-disciplinary centre for forensic medical and scientific services. The primary focus of this course is the principles and practice of the analysis and interpretation of skeletal trauma from the perspective of the Forensic Anthropologist.

Course content includes detailed lectures and interactive sessions on trauma biomechanics, blunt force trauma, low and high velocity projectile trauma, sharp force trauma and taphonomic processes. This unique course is the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and will enable participants to apply principles and learnings to real case scenarios. It is relevant to professionals and students involved in the analysis of human skeletal remains including forensic anthropologists, forensic pathologists (and registrars), biological archaeologists and heritage officers. A basic knowledge of human osteology is required to participate. Lectures will be delivered by medico-legal and forensic science experts from the VIFM and external organisations.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course participants will have:

- an understanding of the role of different experts in the analysis and interpretation of skeletal trauma;
- a basic understanding of the biomechanics of skeletal trauma;
- knowledge of different types of trauma including blunt force, sharp force and high and low velocity projectile trauma;
- an understanding of the complexity of interpreting the timing of skeletal trauma;
- knowledge about the importance of taphonomy in the context of interpreting skeletal defects;
- an understanding of the role of post-mortem computed tomography (PMCT) in the context of analysing and interpreting skeletal trauma; and
- awareness of the limitations when giving evidence in court related to skeletal trauma.

Course Dates

Monday 20th June - Thursday 23rd June 2022.

Cost

Registration fee:
\$2,200 Full / \$1,800 Student (includes GST).

Includes

- a course manual
- a site visit to the Victorian Police Forensic Services Department,
- morning tea, afternoon tea, lunch
- a certificate of completion
- group dinner.

Location

Pleuckhahn Theatre,
The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.
65 Kavanagh Street,
Southbank, Melbourne, VIC, 3006.

Please Note: There is no on-site parking available. Please visit our website to find nearby parking and accommodation: <https://www.vifm.org/contact>

How To Register

To register please visit: <https://shop.monash.edu/analysis-and-interpretation-of-skeletal-trauma-shortcourse-2022.html>

For more information or any queries please contact short.courses@vifm.org

This course is eligible for 28 Scientific hours / Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points.

Course Convenors

Professor Soren Blau



Senior Forensic Anthropologist,
Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

Dr Samantha Rowbotham



Forensic Anthropologist,
Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

Terms & Conditions Course will only run if COVID situation permits

Registrations are limited to 25 attendees and are allocated on a first come first serve basis. Registrations will close once this quota has been reached. Should the course fail to attract more than 10 registrations 2 weeks prior to the start date, the course will be cancelled. In the event of a cancellation full refunds will be processed. In the event that you are unable to attend registrations can either be transferred to another party or a refund issued. Refunds need to be requested in writing and sent to short.courses@vifm.org. All refunds will be subject to an administrative fee of \$150. The program is accurate at the time of publication. It may be subject to change. If there are substantial changes the participants will be notified.

Course Programme

DAY 1 Monday 20th June 2022

- 09:00 - 09:10 Welcome and introduction
- 09:10 - 10:15 Setting the scene for understanding the analysis and interpretation of skeletal trauma
- The analytical process
- 10:15 - 10:45 MORNING TEA
- 10:45 - 12:00 The biomechanics of skeletal trauma
- 12:00 - 12:45 Terminology
- 12:45 - 13:35 LUNCH
- 13:45 - 15:30 Blunt force trauma: introduction and case studies
- 15:30 - 16:00 AFTERNOON TEA
- 16:00 - 17:00 Blunt force trauma: perspectives from the forensic pathologist

DAY 2 Tuesday 21st June 2022

- 08:30 - 09:30 Site visit: Victoria Police Forensic Services Centre, Macleod
- 09:30 - 10:30 Weapon characteristics: general introduction
- 10:30 - 11:30 Tour of the Victoria Police Forensic Services Centre
- 12:30 - 13:00 LUNCH
- 13:00 - 14:30 Principles and the effects on bone of high velocity projectile force trauma
- 14:30 - 15:00 Principles and effects on bone of low velocity penetrating trauma
- 15:00 - 15:15 AFTERNOON TEA
- 15:15 - 16:15 Principles and effects on bone of blast injuries (explosions, bombings)
- 16:30 - 17:15 Ballistic trauma: perspectives from the forensic pathologist

DAY 3 Wednesday 22nd June 2022

- 09:00 - 10:00 Principles of sharp force trauma Case studies on sharp force trauma
- 10:00 - 10:45 studies on sharp force trauma
- 10:45 - 11:15 MORNING TEA
- 11:15 - 12:15 Sharp force trauma: perspectives from the forensic pathologist
- 12:15 - 13:00 LUNCH
- 13:00 - 15:00 The interpretation of timing skeletal trauma
- Taphonomic processes: interpretation of skeletal defects
- 15:00 - 15:30 AFTERNOON TEA
- 15:30 - 16:00 Medical imaging
- 16:00 - 17:00 Expert evidence
- 18:30 Group Dinner - Blue Train Southbank

DAY 4 Thursday 23rd June 2022

- 09:00 - 10:15 Practical
- 10:15 - 10:30 MORNING TEA
- 10:30 - 11:30 Practical
- 11:30 - 12:15 LUNCH
- 12:15 - 14:45 Presentations / discussion
- 14:45 - 15:00 AFTERNOON TEA
- 15:00 - 15:15 Summary and course conclusion

