

THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON POST MORTEM EXAMINATIONS

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26 May 2005

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POST MORTEM RADIOLOGY
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - SEPTEMBER 11th - 12th 2005**

I am writing to enlist your organization's assistance in relation to a conference being held in Sydney, Australia from September 11th - 12th, 2005 on the topic of "New Advances in Post Mortem Radiology" details of which are contained in the attached "Call for Papers".

The assistance sought is that you might distribute the call for papers and initial notification of the conference to your members, perhaps through your website.

It is also asked that you might permit the inclusion of a statement of your support for the conference in the conference literature.

The Organising Committee has been established for over ten years. As you will see, it represents a broad spectrum of community groups. The purpose of the Committee has been:

1. To ensure that invasive post mortems are not carried out in circumstances where to do so would cause distress to the family unless such a procedure is truly necessary in the public interest.
2. That if such examinations are to be conducted, they should only be conducted to the extent necessary.
3. _ If such procedures are to be carried out, they are carried out in a manner which accords, as much as possible, dignity to the deceased and the family. In this regard, the dealings with retained organs are a matter that is now considered quite differently to that which used to be the case.

jl744pm

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS:

Rabbinical Council of N.S.W. : N.S.W. Fellowship of Jewish Doctors :
N.S.W. Society of Jewish Jurists and Lawyers : Sydney Chevra Kadisha :
St. Thomas More Society : Western Suburbs Islamic Society : Silent Hearts Inc. :
N.S.W. Islamic Council : Sakya Tharpa Ling

The Committee has been successful in its endeavours in that:

1. It has been instrumental in bringing out legislative change.
2. It has helped bring about the introduction of protocols for use by forensic pathologists, coroners and the police service.
3. The Committee, through its legally qualified members, has conducted litigation on behalf of the families of deceased persons (gratis) for the purpose of preventing unnecessary post mortem examinations. Included in such cases are those which have now proved to be seminal in the development of the law in this regard (see *Deitz v Abernethy* 39 NSWLR 701; *Deitz v Hand*, (unreported) per Woods CJ at CL, 23/04/99, BC9902322).
4. The Committee provides assistance in negotiating particular cases with the Coroner. In this regard, the vast majority of cases are resolved by the gathering of appropriate medical information and discussions with the Coroner's representative.

Recent developments in post mortem radiology have provided a valuable means of dealing with some of these areas of concern. The consequence of this technology has been to enable conclusions to be reached in many cases as to the cause of death by virtue of non-invasive techniques.

Moreover, the radiological approach, which of course was developed with scientific/forensic objectives in mind, has demonstrated itself to be a very useful tool in the aid of forensic pathology.

In addition, the technology has permitted the development of the ability to transmit findings into courtrooms in the manner not previously possible.

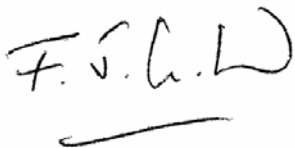
It is in these circumstances that this Committee decided to facilitate a conference of all of the leading experts in this field in the holding of the first international conference on the subject.

The conference will be devoted to the scientific and legal aspects of the process.

Lawyers having interest in forensic matters will find that the learning of this new process and its effect upon the manner of proving facts of a forensic nature in cases where such issues are important to be invaluable.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully



Managing Director, Conference Action Pty Ltd

pp GRAHAM SEGAL, O.A.M.
Barrister-at-Law



new advances in . . .

POST-MORTEM radiology

11 – 12 September 2005, Avillion Hotel, Sydney, Australia

SPECIAL FEATURE *WORLD FIRST*

The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine has recently installed the world's first 16-slice helical CT scanner situated within a mortuary. To discuss the implications and practicalities relating to this investment will be three leading VIFM experts:

- **Dr David Ranson**
Assistant Director
- **Dr Jodie Leditschke**
Mortuary Manager
- **Dr Chris O'Donnell**
Radiologist Consultant

THESE WILL BE SESSIONS YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS!

A Conference for medical practitioners, lawyers, coroners, police and other parties interested in the latest techniques available for post mortem examination and use in the legal process.

call for papers



new advances in . . .

POST-MORTEM radiology

Recent advances in post mortem radiology provide new opportunities to determine the causes and manner of death. In some cases this technology will avoid the need to undertake the traditional autopsy which is often distressing to families and is time consuming. In other cases this technology provides valuable additional insights into the issues.

The technology enables images from different perspectives to be delivered into court rooms and be made available to all concerned with the process.

The Conference, the first of its type, will explore this technology, its practical uses and applications. The topics covered will attract all sectors concerned with forensic medical issues, including radiologists, forensic pathologists, coroners, judges, lawyers and police officers.

The Conference has already confirmed the participation of leading practitioners in the sector including:

- **Dr Charles Hirsch**, Chief Medical Examiner of New York
- **Dr Rob Bissett**, Consultant Radiologist, Manchester General Hospital, UK
- **Dr Michael Thali**, Institute of Forensic Medicine, Bern, Switzerland
- **Dr Alistair Parker**, Department of Health, UK
- **Dr Jocelyn Brookes**, Radiology Department, The London Clinic, UK

The conference is supported by the Royal Australian College of Radiologists and is facilitated by the NSW Joint Committee on Post Mortem Examination, a community body representing diverse cultural interests.

The conference organising committee is calling for abstracts for keynote addresses, sessions, presentations and workshops for the following suggested topics:

- Future technological developments
- Post mortem imaging and scanning
- Forensic pathology and radiology
- Imaging and scanning in a culturally diverse society
- The legal, coronial and police perspective
- Directions in research
- Economics of various post mortem techniques
- The relative advantages of CAT scanning and imaging
- Delivery of imaging into courtrooms

Other topics broadly based on the theme of the conference will also be welcome.

TIMELINE

Closing Date for Abstracts	31 May 2005
Notification of Reviewers' Decision	7 June 2005
Draft Program	14 June 2005
Final Full Papers Due	29 July 2005

ABSTRACT FORMAT

- Abstracts should not be longer than 300 words and may only be submitted via email.
- Please email your abstract as an attachment ie in Microsoft Word to francis@conferenceaction.com.au, ensuring that your email is clearly marked: 'ABSTRACT SUBMISSION POST MORTEM RADIOLOGY CONFERENCE'.
- The program committee will review abstracts based on content, presentation and relevance to the conference themes.
- Detailed guidelines will be given to accepted speakers.
- Submission of abstract implies the author's agreement to provide a full paper for publication.

Included in your abstract please provide the following information:

- Name, title or position, affiliation/organisation, postal address, telephone and fax numbers, email address, title of paper, workshop, indicate "topic" to be addressed
- All presenters must register for the conference.
- Normal registration fees apply.

Expression of interest

To receive further information on the conference, please complete this form and return it to the Conference Secretariat

- Please send me a copy of the registration document when it becomes available
- Please send me further details regarding sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

Post Mortem Radiology 2005 Conference Secretariat
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NAME _____

POSITION _____

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