**Scottish Student Forensic Research Symposium**

Scrymgeour Hall, University of Dundee

27th March 2015

The SSFR symposium was established in 2014 by post-graduate students at the Universities of Strathclyde and Dundee, with the goal of bringing together students of all levels from all corners of the forensic sciences to share their research and explore their chosen field of study.

With approximately 90 delegates attending from 9 institutions across Scotland, this was the first meeting to hear student-led presentations on a wide array of subjects within the discipline of forensic research. The reception was so positive that the transition to an annual event was unquestionable; indeed, registration was closed early due to the overwhelming uptake.

The 2nd SSFR Symposium was organised by the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification, University of Dundee and the Institute of Biomedical and Environmental Health Research, University of the West of Scotland, and was held at the University of Dundee on 27th March 2015. Once again, this event was organised by a small number of students, with the emphasis on demonstrating the wealth of research being conducted by students in Scotland. It was generously supported by a number of professional bodies and institutions, including the Anatomical Society.

Over 120 delegates attended the event from 14 institutions – including 9 Scottish universities, several international universities and professional representatives from the Scottish Police Authority, VWR International, Dundee Science Centre and more.

A wide variety of research was presented throughout the day, including both oral and poster presentations, from Honours year undergraduate students to early career researchers. Diverse topics were discussed through a series of 10 student-led presentations, ranging from the analysis of illicit diazepam tablets, to the use of DNA methylation in age estimation and the use of soft-tissue measurements of the face to improve forensic facial reconstructions. Fifteen student posters were also presented in two poster sessions, covering an even more diverse range of topics including forensic psychology, histological assessment of bone and the analysis of human bite marks.

In addition to these student presentations, a visiting forensic pathologist from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, gave a guest presentation on the forensic autopsy of a victim of a tiger attack, and Dr Nick Carey, a private fire investigator, who documented his unusual career path from fire fighter to fire Investigator, delivered the keynote lecture.

The event was presided over by the a panel of leading forensic academics, including Professors Sue Black and Niamh Nic Daeid from the University of Dundee, Professor Lorna Dawson from the James Hutton Institute and our keynote speaker, Dr Nick Carey.

The SSFR Symposium 2015 was an interesting, informative and enjoyable day, a success for those involved: the students present were offered the opportunity to see what research was currently on-going within Scotland, and beyond, and the quality of all presentations was exceptional. The day was closed with a brief reception and prize-giving for the best oral presentations (as selected by the academic panel) and the three top posters (chosen by delegate voting throughout the morning).

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Photograph Captions:

Image: “*SSFR Morning.jpg*”

As the morning breaks, students and professionals from across Scotland arrive in Dundee for the 2nd Scottish Student Forensic Research Symposium.

Image: *“Holly Yu Certificate.jpg”*

Miss Holly Yu, winner of the Best Oral Presentation Award, being presented her certificate by Professor Sue Black, director of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification.

Image: *“Keynote Lecture.jpg”*

Dr Nick Carey, Hawkins, presents the rapt audience a fascinating insight into his unusual career path, from fire fighter to forensic fire investigator.