Forensic Science and Dentistry: 
An Introduction to the World of Forensic Odontology

Dr. Dirk van der Meer

COURSE OUTLINE
This presentation will include an introduction to forensic science and the important role that dentistry plays in this evolving field. An overview of the various aspects of forensic dentistry will be discussed including bitemark analysis, age estimation and identification of human remains. Historical and present day case presentations will explore the methods, materials and science involved in forensic odontology casework. Special emphasis will be focused on disaster victim identification (DVI), including discussion of international DVI responses and current training courses. An update on local forensic odontology activities in British Columbia will also be discussed. This course is open to dentists and all members of the dental team.

Dr. Dirk van der Meer received a Bachelor of Science degree and a D.M.D. degree from the University of British Columbia, and completed a Fellowship in Forensic Odontology from the Center for Education and Research in Forensics (CERF) at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA). His forensic training includes the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) Emerging Forensic Technologies course in Bethesda, Maryland and Medicolegal Death Investigation training at the St. Louis University School of Medicine. He is a member of the American Society of Forensic Odontology (ASFO), the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and the Canadian Society of Forensic Science (CSFS). Dr. van der Meer is also an Adjunct Technical Officer with the Bureau of Legal Dentistry (BOLD) Lab at the University of British Columbia and he is the Training Officer for the British Columbia Forensic Odontology Response Team (BC-FORT). Dr. van der Meer has published forensic articles in the Journal of Forensic Sciences and the Journal of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science. Dr. van der Meer works with the British Columbia Coroner’s Service to help in the identification of human remains. He also works with police agencies in the analysis and comparison of bitemarks and in the estimation of age. Dr. van der Meer was a member of the Canadian forensic team that was deployed to Thailand to help in the identification of victims of the 2004 Asian tsunami. Dr. van der Meer is actively involved as an instructor in disaster victim identification training courses for Canadian and international identification specialists.