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1. Policy

The Forensic Anthropology Unit (FAU) responds to consultation requests received from OCME personnel and, on occasion, from external agencies. The FAU shall ensure proper processor, examination, and analysis of remains following acceptable practices within a field of Forensic Anthropology.

2. Scop

The roce's soutlin apply to all FAU personnel.

3. Anthropologic ratory Analyses

There are a relatitude examination of the remains, and the type of analysis requested. The following section briefly summarizes the types of anthropological examinations offere by the FAU.

- Determine if remains are osses thuman, and of medicolegal significance.
- Estimate the Minimum Number of Ind. Luals (MNI).
- Estimate the biological profile: x, ance xy/portation affinity, age at death, and stature.
- Describe and interpret pathological conditions and amount all variants.
- Describe and interpret trauma to include anterestem, primortem and dismemberment.
- Describe and interpret taphonomic changes, including portorem day ge.
- Estimate the Postmortem Interval (PMI).

4. Cleaning Remains and Specimen Removal

4.1 **Cleaning/Macerating Remains:** Remains submitted for anthropological analysis are processed based on their overall condition. The following section summarizes some of the appropriate methods that are available. Information about cleaning or macerating remains shall be recorded on the Basic Case Information Form or an Analytical Notes Form.

Note: All current FAU forms can be found on the Anthropology network drive.

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- Skeletal Remains Devoid of Soft Tissue: The remains may be brushed to remove excess dirt/debris. Skeletal remains that are muddy but are devoid of soft tissue may be wet brushed. Once the remains are sufficiently cleaned, they should be dried in one of the secure pology Labs.
- Sk etal Material with Soft Tissue: Remains with adherent soft tissue may be dearticulated and submerged in warm water with detergents or other appropriate dution as needed. Prior to putting the remains in water, the Forensic Anthropologist FAC about remove as much soft tissue as appropriate. The remains should be left to soak in a heart of until the remains are devoid of soft tissue or until the soft tissue can be more easily removed from the pot and rinsed off. Any excess soft tissue adhering to the reletal elements is removed manually. Once processing is finished the skeletal elements are left in one of the secure Anthropology labs to air dry.
- Cartilaginous Renal. Cart ginous specimens shall be placed in an evidence container filled with formal. Be re attenting to conduct analysis, the specimen should be soaked under runing wat the Appendix A: Lab Health and Safety, for the policies and procedures on handling and working with formalin.
- 4.2 **Specimen Removal:** The medical examiner day request the assistance of the FAU in the removal of specimens. Specimens can be amoved of a variety of reasons including but not limited to, adult or sub-adult age determination traumer and pathology. See ANTH-001 Evidence Security and Management for the resedure of the ubmitting/receiving evidence from the OCME Evidence/Mortuary Departments.
- 4.3 **Health and Safety:** When cleaning and macerating chains, and during specimen removal, FAU personnel are responsible for following the tealth and safety p cautions outlined in Appendix A, including but not limited to, wearby the appropriate tivel of personal protective equipment (PPE).

5. Examination Methods

Anthropological consultation requests may require various types of examons. The following section outlines typical techniques used by the FAU:

- <u>Macroscopic Examination:</u> Macroscopic examination refers to a visual (gross) examination of remains.
- <u>Microscopic Examination</u>: Microscopic examination refers to a visual examination using magnification provided by a microscope.

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- <u>Metric Analysis:</u> Measurements using calipers, osteometric boards, threedimensional coordinate measurement machine/system (digitizer), and tape measures are taken using the appropriate method.
 - <u>Rediographic Examination:</u> Examination of remains using medical imaging chiques.
- Note: AU ersonnel are not responsible for taking radiographs. The OCME Radiography Logartment is responsible for taking radiographs for casework.
- <u>Éxamina ton of digital images:</u> Examination of remains through the review of digital potograph

6. Anthropological La oratory Analysis

Based on the compleeness of the remain and/or the examination requested, the analyses outlined below may be performed. When referring to the types of analyses, the FAU shall use appropriate and accepted methors and references. See Appendix B for a current list of the most frequently used research by the FAU. There is no authoritative body in Forensic Anthropology, however only colished methods shall be used during anthropological laboratory analyses. The FAU does not develop in-house quantitative test procedures nor use non-standard methods for examination of casework.

- 6.1 **Determining Osseous/Dental versus Nea-osseou Non-dental:** The material shall be examined by macroscopic visual examination, microscopic camination, or evaluation of digital images to assess the presence or absence of transfer or structures that characterize osseous and dental material to include overall size and morph logy, a dmarks, cortical or trabecular structures, density, and color. The material may be evaluated by radiographic examination or submitted to another units agency for other instrument specific procedures.
- 6.2 **Determining Human versus Non-human:** Osseous material shall be examined by macroscopic visual examination, microscopic examination, or through the evaluation of digital images to assess morphology, looking for features or la limarks that are characteristic of human or non-human species based on the examiner attaining and experience in comparative osteology. The osseous material can be compared to information or data from published literature and/or from the FAU comparative non-human skeletal materials.
- 6.3 **Determining Medicolegal Significance:** Determination of medicolegal significance is based on taphonomic and/or contextual indicators. Human remains may be determined not to be of medicolegal significance when they are from historic/prehistoric

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archaeological contexts, disturbed cemeteries, or anatomical teaching collections. The FAU analyst shall assess the evidence and document the features and/or context used in making their determination.

- In alyse An analysis of the minimum number of individuals (MNI) shall be completed to check or committeling. If commingling is found, the MNI may be estimated by counting the next repeated to ment or portion of an element. Observations concerning condition, articulation pair-matching, morphology, taphonomy, context, and features of the biological professor that lemains also aid in estimating MNI.
- 6.5 Age at Death estimation relysis of age at death is based on skeletal and dental development is substant aging, and on degenerative skeletal and dental changes for adult aging. Outline below are so le of the most frequently used methods for estimating age at death. The arelyst determines the appropriate method and technique based on the material provided and the condition of the remains.

6.5.1 **Developmental Aging Tho**

- **Dental Development:** Dental cheloppe at and the timing of tooth eruption are utilized for assessing sub-act age radiographs are taken of the maxilla and mandible to assess unerupted eith and root morphology. The teeth are typically compared to standard denta development tables and figures. Whenever possible, the appropriate methods can table for specific ancestral groups may be used.
- Metric Analysis: Long bone diaphyses develor and grow at predictable rates until the proximal and distal epiphyses fuse to the daphysis. Here are accepted metric methods that utilize measurements of the long bases to accurately estimate skeletal age in immature remains.
- Assessing Epiphyseal Appearance and Union: Appearance and John of epiphyses also occur at predictable rates and is an accumeans of estimating skeletal age in individuals under 25 years. All applicable epiphyses are evaluated to develop a "composite" age estimate. The resulting age estimate may either be reported as terminal (e.g., <18) or as an interval (e.g., 16-20).
- **Medial Clavicles:** The medial clavicles are assessed for the stage of epiphyseal fusion to determine age in teenagers and younger adults.

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6.5.2 **Degenerative Aging Methods:**

- **Pubic Symphysis:** Observing the degenerative changes to the pubic symphysis is a common method used in estimating age at death for adults. The analyst will document the condition of the symphyseal surface and any effect it may have on the age estimate.
- 4th **xibs** ternal Ends: Adult aging using the sternal rib end was designed for with the 4th rib sternal end, however when both 4th ribs are unavailable or cannot be sessed the 3th and 5th-9th ribs can be evaluated instead. In cases when an afternate rib is utilized the analyst will document the rib number in the se note
- 6.5.3 Additional bethods for age Assessment: Sections 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 summarize the most free ently used technic es for sub-adult and adult aging; however, the analyst may boose to include other techniques or methods in their age assessment that are viewed at the OCME FAU as reputable and accepted by the scientific community (i.e., published in an accepted journal/book).
- Age Constructing the Age interval imation requires an assessment of developmental and degenerate charges from various age indicators. Certain methods are more reliable for particular per ds of life, while others provide a e char more general indicator of age. The analyst enstructs the age interval based on a composite of the available age indicator The anyst will note which age indicators were used for their assessmen nnal age ate is a matter of expert judgment by synthesizing all available including the rmatio appropriateness of the reference data, familiarity method, condition of the remains, etc.
- Ancestry/Population Affinity Estimation: Both cranial and Ast-cranic non-meter and metric traits are evaluated for ancestry estimation. Results of ancesty estimation may include groups such as, European (White), African (Black), Histonic, Asian, ative American, or the results may be Indeterminate. Outlined below are the office most frequently used methods for estimating ancestry; however, the analyst determines the appropriate method and technique based on the material provided and the condition of the remains.

<u>Note</u>: The field of Forensic Anthropology is currently transitioning from the estimation of "ancestry" to the estimation of "population affinity". In lieu of this change, and given the relationship between the two terms, the FAU shall use both "ancestry/population affinity" in notes and reports.

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- 6.6.1 **Non-Metric Assessment of Ancestry**: Non-metric characteristics of the cranium, mandible, and dentition are used when assessing ancestry.
- Notric Assessment of Ancestry: Statistical software programs, such as Fordisc, is used for metric assessment of ancestry. Bone measurements are taken using an approved beference (e.g., UT Data Collection Procedures, Howell's definitions). The prosuments used for the statistical analysis are up to the discretion of the use all steps of the statistical software analysis are retained in the associated log facts with are lept with the case file (either hardcopy or electronic copy). Any measure reconvolving trauma, damage, pathologic condition, or anatomical variant sinclude to bluded at the discretion of the analyst and a comment is made in the approvical note.
- 6.7 **Sex Estimation**: Set estimation is performed by standard non-metric and/or metric assessment procedure that examine exhally dimorphic characteristics of the skeleton. Provided below are standard analyse for sex estimation, however the analyst determines the appropriate method and technique used on the material provided and the condition of the remains.
 - 6.7.1 **Non-metric methods**: Morphogogical focures the pelvis and skull are typically used to estimate sex. In addition, the keletal elements present may be evaluated for overall robustness.
 - 6.7.1 **Metric Analysis**: Estimation of sex can be determined using peasurements of the cranial, mandibular, and postcranial elements.
- 6.8 **Stature Estimation**: Stature can be estimated using mathematical methods (e.g., Fordisc) or anatomical methods (e.g., Fully method). Take measurements as described for the method and select the appropriate demographic categories. A minimum report to 90% prediction interval. Stature may be reported in centimeters, inches, or fax and inches
- 6.9 **Dental examination**: Examine and chart the dentition for inventor purpose Dental analyses regarding age, sex, ancestry, or trauma will be provided in the income sections. Chart the dentition using the Universal Numbering System and document the following:
 - Antemortem tooth loss/agenesis.
 - Postmortem tooth loss.
 - All restorations.

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<u>Note</u>: All dental radiographs are taken by the OCME Radiology Department. In most cases, an OCME forensic odontologist will also examine and chart the dentition for identification purposes.

- 6.10 Pour of cal Conditions: Examine and document characteristics of pathological change.

 a mi mum the following should be documented (when applicable):
 - Affected tements and approximate location.
 - Preserve of the remodeling and extent of healing.
 - Procee of accompanying features.
- 6.11 **Anatomical V. Ta......** Examine the remains for anatomical variants such as abnormal development of notable arms as of normal human skeletal anatomy. Describe the anomaly and leation
- 6.12 **Trauma Analysis:** remains are exampled for trauma in cases where a full skeletal analysis is performed or on specimes removed from autopsy at the request of the medical examiner. Trauma analysis involves examining the remains for antemortem, perimortem, and dismemberme around

The following general information show be recorded when describing and interpreting trauma:

- A determination of the trauma as are morten perimortem, or dismemberment, if possible.
- The location of the trauma.
- If antemortem, a description of any healing and of me can intervention, and if possible a relative age of injury.
- Description of the type of trauma, if possible (each blue sharp, high velocity projectile).
- Notes on whether a reconstruction of the specime is required per rm the analysis.
- Notes on relevant postmortem damage.
- Notes on any relevant pathological conditions that may be essociated with the trauma.
- 6.12.1 **Blunt Force Trauma:** The following is specific information that should be recorded for blunt force trauma analysis:
 - Description of the fracture(s) including anatomical location.
 - If possible, notes on the direction of force, specific impact sites, and fracture patterns.
 - If possible, a determination of tool class characteristics, minimum number of impacts, and sequence of impacts.

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- 6.12.2 **Sharp Force Trauma:** The following is specific information that should be recorded for sharp force trauma analysis:
 - Descriptions and/or drawing of the location of the defect.
 - Any relevant measurements.
 - Descriptions of specific characteristics of the defect (e.g., incomplete cuts, wall, kerf floor, striation patterns).
 - Notes on the progression of the weapon through osseous and cartilaginous structure, when applicable.
 - Ven a propriate, casts of the tool mark (see section 6.12.4).
 - I possible, determine tool class characteristics, minimum number of spacts a sequence of impacts.

Note: In son circumstances, it may be necessary to expose the cut surface (kerf floor and/or valls) by cutting the cartilage or bone to open up the defect for examination. Then this occurs the newly cut surface must be noted in the analytical notes so it can be contified as an examination modification.

- 6.12.3 **High Velocity Projectile Traun.** The following is specific information that should be recorded for high velocity projectile to the specific information that
 - Descriptions and/or drawing of the overall shape and anatomical location of the defect (wound) with a ociated actures.
 - Measurements of the size of the defects).
 - Descriptions of specific character ties—the defect and notes on the trajectory, if possible.
 - Statements of the minimum number of defects d seque se of defects, if possible.
- 6.12.4 **Tool Mark Casting:** FAU analysts may choose to coate cast impossion to aid in examination of tool mark characteristics. A polyving loxary (e.g., Accords) or similar casting material is used to create tool mark casts all casts should be placed in bags labeled with the unique case number and description of the cast. Tool mark casts created during analysis are considered evident are an effective shall follow the policies and procedures documented in Evidence Security and Management (see ANTH-001).
- 6.13 **Postmortem Interval and Taphonomic Changes:** Examine the remains and record any information from the scene that may aid in the assessment of the postmortem interval and taphonomic processes. Describe the condition of the remains, and if possible, the probable interval between death and discovery.

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- 6.14 **Postmortem Damage:** Postmortem damage refers to any damage to the remains after death and can sometimes be misconstrued as perimortem trauma. The following is specific information that should be recorded for postmortem damage, when possible:
 - Decumentation of the location of the damage in the analytical notes or, if the essary, in a diagram.
 - escription of the extent, pattern, and possible cause of the damage.
 - Notes or phonomic changes to the remains (e.g., color changes, animal activity, water amas
 - Notice on damage resulting from standard autopsy protocol, which are included within a post porten damage description, when applicable.

7. Verifying New Method

Any newly pure shed bethods shall go through a verification process prior to being used on casework. The Field shall verificate all analysts are competent to use the new method by having the analysts independently prform the method on the same sample(s) and compare their results. Verification is considered complete and the new method can be used on casework when all the chalysts' results are in agreement. If there is a disagreement between results that, as a rough the FAU shall review all results, as well as the procedures for the method to ensure a malysts understand how to appropriately use the method. Continued testing of the method will occur until all analysts are in agreement.

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Appendix A Healt and afety

Policy and Sco

FAU personner, interns an existing scientists are responsible for following the health and safety policies and procedure outline to OCME Health and Safety Department and the safety precautions provided in this accordance.

OCME Health and Safety Department: The OCME Health and Safety Department is responsible for the health and safety of all Of the employees. FAU personnel are responsible for following the health and safety putties are procedures that apply to their duties. OCME health and safety policies and procedures are that are not the COME intranet under Libraries/Health and Safety.

FAU Safety Officer: The FAU Quality As rance (A) Specialist is the designated Safety Officer for the unit (see the FAU organization charts QM-0 : Personnel). The QA Specialist is the primary liaison between the OCME Health (a) Safety Department and the FAU. The QA Specialist is responsible for making sure the FAU follows the OCME health and safety policies and procedures as well as the policies and procedures exploited stated in appendix. The QA Specialist is also responsible for chemical hygiene and safety issues.

Note: The duties and tasks associated with maintaining health and safe compliance can be divided among FAU employees.

FAU Personnel: It is the responsibility of FAU personnel to comply with an inforce the ealth and safety standards created by the OCME Health and Safety Department and outlined I this Appendix.

FAU Laboratory Safety Precautions:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): FAU personnel, interns and visiting scientists are responsible for wearing the appropriate level of PPE required when working in the Anthropology Laboratories. The appropriate PPE may vary depending on the task at hand. PPE may include, but is not limited to lab coats, scrubs, disposable aprons, disposable gloves, shoe covers, eye protection, and respiratory protection. In addition to PPE, FAU personnel shall follow the OCME Laboratory Dress Code policy. Closed toed shoes should be worn when entering the morgue area, working with hazardous materials, or working with sharp instruments. The OCME

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Laboratory Dress Code policy is located on the OCME intranet under Libraries/Health and Safety.

PPE in Autopsy Suites: At minimum, FAU personnel shall wear appropriate lab attire and 100 or equivalent face mask upon entering the autopsy suites when autopsies are sing proformed. The minimum PPE required when working in the autopsy suites may include out is not limited to, a lab coat, disposable apron, disposable gloves, shoe covers, and 100 equivalent face mask. All PPE, except lab coats should promptly be removed as discarde when exiting the autopsy suite or morgue area. Disposable PPE should be discarded in the designated red biohazard bins.

PPE for Work ag in Archaelogy Laboratories: When working in the Anthropology Laboratories, Laurence on the tasks wear PPE appropriate to the task. The type of PPE will vary depending on the tasks) being performed (e.g., maceration may require additional PPE that is not necessary when conducting skeletal analyses). Disposable gloves worn to handle processed specifies (i.e., dry bones) can be discarded in the lab garbage bins.

Note: Let maceration pots con before and or use the oven mitts when handling heated pots.

Sharps Safety: FAU personnel using sharp in tuments 2.g., scalpels and bone saws) with possible exposure to body fluids are required to wear conglover aderneath their disposable gloves.

Formaldehyde/Formalin Exposure: When working with form an fixed specimens FAU personnel shall follow the policies described in the NYC OCME memical Safety Plan. The most up-to-date version of the Chemical Safety Plan is located on the OCME is a set under Libraries/Health and Safety.

When working with formalin fixed specimens the following procedure ould be adhed to whenever possible:

- Prior to examination the specimen(s) should be soaked under running water
- At minimum wear a lab coat or disposable apron and disposable nitrile gloves.
- To avoid inhalation of formaldehyde fumes all containers filled with formalin should be closed at all times, except when removing or returning specimen(s) to the container.

Chemical Hygiene: Chemical hygiene refers to working with and handling chemicals in a hygienic or clean manner. FAU personnel are responsible for handling and using chemicals properly from initial receipt to final disposal.

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All hazardous chemical containers shall be initialed and dated when received and first removed from their shipping containers. A proper notation in the "Chemical Inventory Form" shall be completed for each chemical received. The QA Specialist shall review this form as part of his/her annual audit of hen deemed necessary. Additionally, the QA Specialist shall make sure that Safer at Sh. its (SDS) for hazardous chemicals are accessible to all FAU personnel.

Handling Lard & Chem als: FAU personnel shall:

- Wear preser Parto ay d skin/eye contact with hazardous chemicals.
- Wash their hand a handling chemicals.
- Be familiar with the SD to be a hazardous chemicals used. These sheets are available online and in the FAV chemical Accords Binder.
- Put hazardous chem als back into the chemical storage cabinet after use (see Chemical Storage).
- Dispose of hazardous emicals programy (see Chemical Disposal).

Chemical Storage: Hazardous chemical shape stred in the FAU chemical storage cabinet. The FAU chemical storage cabinet is located in Anthropology Laboratory located on the 4th floor (room 424).

Chemical Disposal: Expired or deteriorated chemicals or gremicals no longer utilized shall be disposed of properly. The OCME Health and Safety Department should be consulted prior to chemical waste disposal and an OCME Chemical Waste Jemoyol racking Sheet shall be filled out and forwarded to Health and Safety prior to disposal

Chemical Records: Records related to FAU chemicals such as the Chemical Inventory Form, OCME Chemical Waste Removal Tracking Sheet, and Safety Day Sheets wall be montained by the QA Specialist. A chemical inventory shall be completed by the QA Special to be annual audit.

Incident Reporting: Any accident with injury shall be resolved first and ben reported to the Forensic Anthropology Director (Director) and the OCME Health and Safety a partial. When reporting an incident, the Director and injured personnel shall follow the steps out ned on the OCME Injury or Illness at Workflow chart. The most current version of the Injury and Illness at Workflow chart is located on the OCME intranet under Libraries/Health and Safety.

Housekeeping: Each FAU employee is responsible for the cleanliness of his/her workspace and jointly responsible for the Anthropology lab/office spaces.

The following procedures apply to the housekeeping standards of the laboratory:

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- The Anthropology labs shall be kept clean and orderly. Any spills or messes shall be cleaned immediately.
- All lab equipment shall be kept in their assigned storage areas, except when in use.
- All chemical and biological waste shall be disposed of properly.
- Poway, doorways, fire-extinguishing equipment and any other emergency equipment all relain unobstructed.

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Revision History

| REV. | DATE | SUMMARY OF CHANGES |
|----------|------------------|--|
| 0 | 26 January 2018 | New document. |
| Y | 18 O ober 2018 | Document Control No. changed from ANTH-003 to ANTH-002. 6.0- Added the following statements: "There is no authoritative body in Forensic Anthropology, however only validated and published methods shall be used during anthropological laboratory analyses. The FAU does not develop in-house quantitative test procedures nor use non-standard methods for examination of casework. |
| 1 | 18 October 2018 | Created Section 7. Verifying New Methods: Any newly validated, published methods shall go through a verification process prior to being used on casework. FAU analysts hall perform verification of a new method by practic ag/testing the method on sample(s) and comparing the outcome to the results from one of our already proved a placeal methods. |
| 2 | 27 February 2020 | Appendix A: Edited the colowing statement in the PPE in Autopsy Suite section. "All PPE, except lab costs should promptly be removed and discarded when easting the excepts suite or morgue area. Disposable PP should be discarded in the designated red biohazard bins. Added the following statement to be PPE or working in Anthropology Laboratories action. "Disposable gloves worn schandle processe dispecimens (i.e., dry bones) can be discarded in the lab ac page ins." |
| 3 | 23 March 2021 | Removed the following sentence from clay 4.2 "all spections removed shall be submitted to the Evident Department Removed the word "validated" from clauses And 7. In Appendix A, under the Formaldehyde section and mird bullet point was removed. In Appendix B, several references were added to the citation list and the Howell 1973 citation was removed. |
| 4 | 14 March 2022 | Added term "population affinity" to section 3 – the third bullet point and section 6.6. Additionally, a note was added to section 6.6 to explain why population affinity was added. |