



## OSAC Research Needs Assessment Form

**Title of research need:** Understanding cognitive bias in DVI operations

**Keywords:** Disaster victim identification, mass fatality, cognitive bias

**Submitting subcommittee(s):** Disaster Victim Identification **Date Approved:** 8/24/2016

*(If SAC review identifies additional subcommittees, add them to the box above.)*

### Background information:

#### 1. Description of research need:

There is a lack of understanding of the degree of cognitive bias that may be associated with high throughput disaster victim identification operations. There are two closely associated research needs:

- Determine if cognitive bias exists in current DVI operations
- Develop effective mitigation strategies

#### 2. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need:

None

#### 3a. In what ways would the research results improve current laboratory capabilities?

Understanding the presence (and extent) of cognitive bias and its potential impact on postmortem processing of human remains and victim identification is essential for developing strategies to mitigate any negative impact of bias.

3b. In what ways would the research results improve understanding of the scientific basis for the subcommittee(s)?

The subcommittee will benefit from this research by enhancing the DVI community's understanding of the role and extent of cognitive bias in DVI operations. With these research results, the subcommittee can develop standards and best practices to support medicolegal jurisdictions in their attempts to reduce the introduction and limit the effects of cognitive bias in DVI management.

3c. In what ways would the research results improve services to the criminal justice system?

Implement additional protective and quality assurance measures to reduce or eliminate cognitive bias in disaster victim identification.

4. Status assessment (I, II, III, or IV): I

	Major gap in current knowledge	Minor gap in current knowledge
No or limited current research is being conducted	<b>I</b>	<b>III</b>
Existing current research is being conducted	<b>II</b>	<b>IV</b>

*This research need has been identified by one or more subcommittees of OSAC and is being provided as an informational resource to the community.*

Subcommittee

Approval date:

*(Approval is by majority vote of subcommittee. Once approved, forward to SAC.)*

SAC

1. Does the SAC agree with the research need? Yes  No

2. Does the SAC agree with the status assessment? Yes  No

*If no, what is the status assessment of the SAC:*

Approval date:

*(Approval is by majority vote of SAC. Once approved, forward to NIST for posting.)*