



## OSAC Research Needs Assessment Form

**Title of research need:** Composite quantification of contextual decedent ID criteria

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

**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 currently no means to quantify the individualistic value of contextual identifiers, and thus no measure of confidence associated with contextual decedent identifications. There is a need for development of population-level likelihood values for human characteristics/circumstances that are regularly used in support of identification methods (including scars/marks/tattoos, body location, etc).

2. Key bibliographic references relating to this research need:

None

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

The proposed research would help with interpretation of the various disparate identification data during the reconciliation process of a DVI response.

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

The research would provide quantitative support of the individualistic value of contextual identifiers.

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

The development of population-level likelihood values for human characteristics/circumstances would provide scientific support for the use of contextual identifiers for human 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: 8/24 2016

*(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.)*