



## OSAC Research Needs Assessment Form

**Title of research need:** Validation of the “Physical Stability of Facial Features of Adults” document

**Keywords:** Facial Features, Physical Stability, Aging

**Submitting subcommittee(s):** Facial Identification **Date Approved:** 01/29/16

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

### Background information:

#### 1. Description of research need:

1. A literature review of relevant studies [scientific, medical, academic, and professional] regarding the physical stability of the facial features of adults detailed within the current Physical Stability of Facial Features of Adults document.
2. In addition to the literature review, the conclusions reached based on relevant research should be presented to the subcommittee in layman’s terms for incorporation into the document.

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

To be developed by researchers after consultation with the subcommittee.

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

The research would provide a scientific foundation on which to base informed conclusions by facial comparison experts using the Physical Stability of Facial Features of Adults document. It would also be a valuable addition to training programs for facial image examiners, which stands to improve their overall efficiency and accuracy.

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

This research would validate or refute the opinions of the authors of the Physical Stability of Facial Features of Adults document, provide reference documentation, and allow for appropriate revisions based on scientific data.

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

This research would add accuracy, objectivity, and validity to expert testimony in the field of facial identification.

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

II

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

*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: 29Jan2016

*(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: 06/15/16

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