



## OSAC Research Needs Assessment Form

**Title of research need:** Modeling of MFI missing person and victim data

**Keywords:** Disaster victim identification, victim accounting, missing persons, mass fatality

**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 anticipate the volume and variety of data that result from, and must be managed following a mass fatality incident. The existing assumptions are anecdotal and based on a small number of incidents. The volume of data (missing persons call centers, victim information centers, hospitals, law enforcement etc.) available from previous incident after action reports should be used to systematically develop reliable expectations for medicolegal operations.

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

None

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

The development of reliable expectations for the volume and variety of data involved in a mass fatality incident will allow local medicolegal jurisdictions to develop more informed planning documents and build the appropriate capabilities for managing data (call centers, data management systems, etc).

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

The lack of existing expectations results in either the absence of preparedness or preparedness efforts focused on anecdotal or inaccurate expectations at the local, state, and federal level. This research would provide the subcommittee with information to develop scientifically supported standards and best practices for jurisdictional adoption.

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

Accurate expectations will contribute to determining more efficient, effective, and accurate means of managing incident data, ultimately contributing to the positive identification of decedents during a mass fatality incident.

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

|  | Major gap<br>in current<br>knowledge | Minor gap<br>in current<br>knowledge |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| No or limited<br>current research<br>is being<br>conducted | <b>I</b>                             | <b>III</b>                           |
| Existing current<br>research is being<br>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.)*