



UNT Center for Human Identification

DNA Lab Fast Facts

- UNT Health Science Center's DNA Lab has identified more than 340 people using DNA matching – 36 “cold” hits, 193 “warm” hits, and 111 identifications.
- Recent estimates state remains of more than 14,000 missing persons are unidentified
- DNA reference samples from the missing person or members of the missing person's family are necessary to identify remains
- Using DNA samples in the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database, the lab can resolve many missing persons cases
- The lab also conducts all missing persons DNA analysis for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to help identify remains of children who have been reported missing
- Proper handling of DNA samples is imperative in maintaining its integrity, both for identification and prosecution purposes
- Our DNA Lab is one of only three in the nation dedicated to identifying missing persons using DNA analysis, and we are the only academic center approved to upload missing person case DNA information to CODIS
- Our lab is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the State of Texas to provide DNA analysis services free of charge to law enforcement nationwide and to families with missing loved ones
- Cases in which our lab made identifications of missing persons have been featured in local newspapers across the country as well as national publications such as *U.S.A. Today* and national television shows such as *The Investigators* on Court TV
- Our lab is led by DNA identity pioneer Arthur Eisenberg, PhD, a long-term consultant to the FBI on human identity testing
- Dr. Eisenberg and his work in the DNA lab was featured in *The 'CSI' Experience*, an educational exhibit based on the popular CBS series and includes the stars of the *CSI* shows; the exhibit opened at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry in May 2007 and will remain on a nationwide tour of science museums for seven years
- Law enforcement entities from across the nation have sent missing persons and family reference samples to our lab for inclusion in CODIS
- The UNT Center for Human Identification has helped solve missing person cases from Hawaii to New York and everywhere in between

For more information about the UNT Center for Human Identification's DNA lab at the UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth, contact the media office at 817-735-2446.

Last updated 3/6/2009

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University of North Texas Health Science Center

The University of North Texas Health Science Center comprises the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the School of Public Health, and the School of Health Professions. Key research areas include aging and Alzheimer's disease, cancer and physical medicine. This year, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine was named a top 50 medical school in primary care by *U.S. News & World Report* for the seventh consecutive year. "Fort Worth's medical school and more" contributes \$500 million to the Tarrant County and Texas economies annually. For more information, go to <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/>