

Editorial: Science “Before the Forum” in The Open Forensic Science Journal

The word “forensic” derives from the Latin adjective “forensis” meaning *of or before the forum*. During the time of the Romans, a criminal charge meant presenting the case before a group of public individuals in the forum. Both the person accused of the crime and the accuser would give speeches based on their side of the story. The individual with the best argument and delivery would determine the outcome of the case. Basically, the person with the sharpest forensic skills would win. This origin is the source of the two modern usages of the word “forensic” - as a form of legal evidence and as a category of public presentation.

In modern use, the term “forensics” in place of “forensic science” is now so closely associated with the scientific field that many dictionaries include the meaning that equates the word “forensics” with “forensic science”.

The “Eureka” legend of Archimedes (287-212 BC) can be considered an early account of the use of forensic science. In this case, he determined that a crown was not completely made of gold (as it was fraudulently claimed) by determining its density by measuring its displacement and weight, as he was not allowed to damage the crown.

The earliest account of fingerprint use to establish identity was during the 7th century. According to an Arabic merchant, a debtor's fingerprints were affixed to a bill, which would then be given to the lender. This bill was legally recognized as proof of the validity of the debt.

In our time, forensic science besides its relevance to the underlying legal system, encompasses the accepted scholarly or scientific methodology and norms under which the facts regarding an event, or an artifact, or some other physical item (such as a corpse, or cadaver, for example) are to the broader notion of authentication whereby an interest outside of a legal form exists in determining whether an object is in fact what it purports to be, or is alleged as being.

In this day and age, the Open Forensic Sciences Journal aims to serve as an international online consistent journal for the publication of most recent, original research reports, articles and current developments on all aspects pertaining to the multidisciplinary forensic science, reviewed by the most proficient scientists in, inter alia, medicine, pathology, toxicology, chemistry, biology, firearms, drug abuse. Furthermore, all related and interactive areas of expertise, such as forensic medicine, forensic pathology, forensic toxicology, human identification, and topics evolving from the realm of DNA and its effects and utilizations on the domain of forensic science shall also be comprised. The fact that the Open Forensic Sciences Journal is an online journal bestows a great advantage for its readers in comparison to other, also highly reputable journals which are published on a printed form, as being online provides greater accessibility to its entire content thus, to knowledge and to all the latest scientific developments directly, at all places and at all times.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation in advance to all members of the Editorial Board for their contribution and great endeavor, aiming to the development, progress and success of the Open Forensic Science Journal and invite them to solicit and review articles and particularly submit state of the art review articles in the field of their expertise.

My prime aspiration is to play an active and committed role as the Journals' Editor-in-Chief so that the Open Forensic Science Journal shall succeed to the achievement of a major impact factor to its field, and consequently be abstracted in Forensic Sciences Reviews, Current Contents, EMBASE, Toxnet, Web of Science, SCI and SCOPUS and, to contribute to the establishment of the Open Forensic Science Journal as a principal systematic domus where all forensic science researchers and readers worldwide, shall promptly be recipients of the most coherent, ample, comprehensive and progressive work in forensic sciences.

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