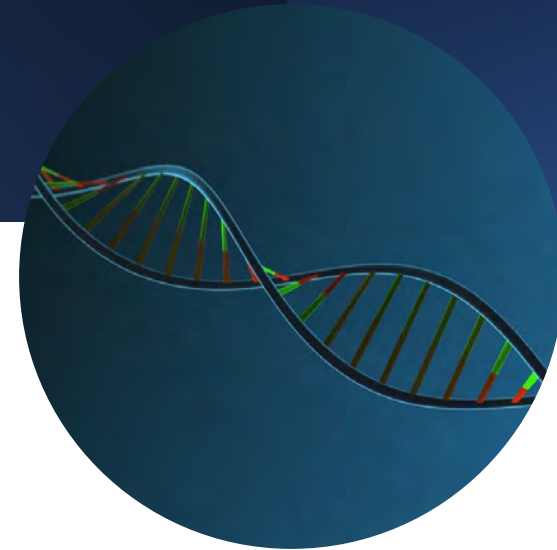


Pioneering Africa's First Forensic Pathology Institute with Holistic approach to Human Identification



Dr Tumi Molefe

Forensic Pathologist

Western Cape Department of Health & Wellness

Forensic Pathology Service

Observatory Forensic Pathology Institute

University of Cape Town



Overview



Context of West
Metro Forensic
Pathology Service
(FPS), Cape Town

Burden of
unidentified
bodies

Observatory
Forensic Pathology
Institute (OFPI)

UCT – OFPI
Molecular
Research
Laboratory (digital
tour)



Salt River Mortuary is one of 16 FPS facilities

WC FPS facilities: body admission ≈ 12,000/year

Western Cape Population ≈ 7 212 142

≈ 74% of case load in Metro (2018)

City of Cape Town Metro ≈ 4 758 433 (2021)

West Metro Forensic Pathology Service, Cape Town



35-38% of provincial case load

Attached to the University of Cape Town

Admission rate $\approx 2.04/1000$ population (ref. 2020)

Old, debilitated

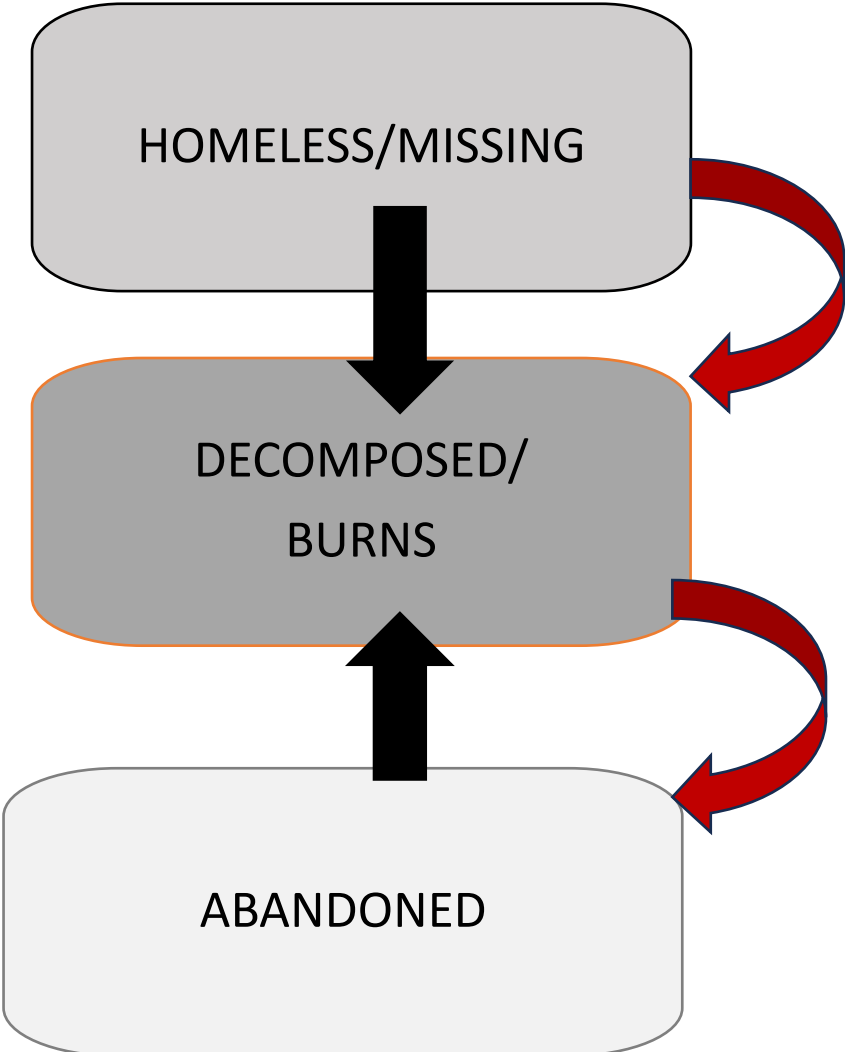
Being replaced by new Institute (OFPI)

Growing population trends \rightarrow to growing FPS case loads





Growing population & increasing violent crime = increasing burden on FPS



destitute/migrants/ human trafficking

any violent deaths

illegal electricity/ loadshedding

fetuses

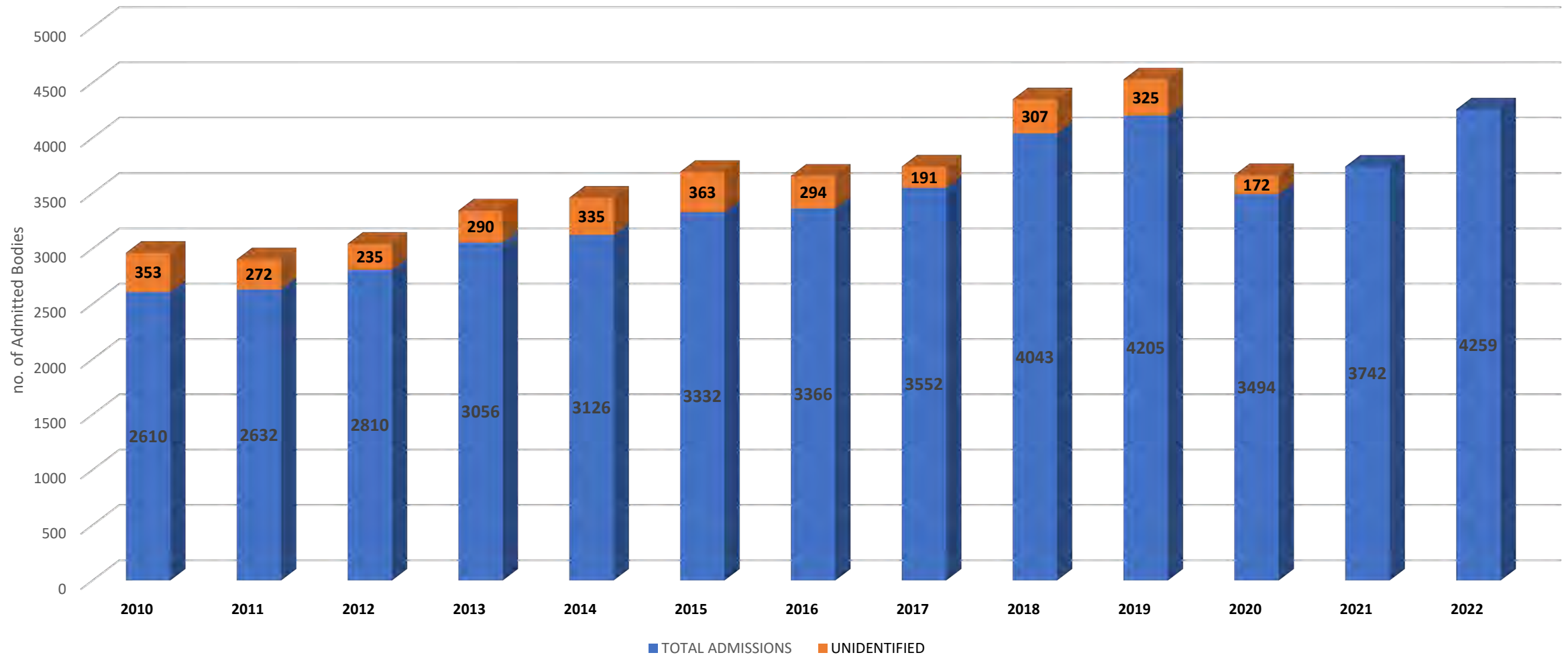
separated families



Increasing burden on FPS over decades



Salt River Mortuary Unidentified Case load- 2010-2020 (n= 3137)





Burden of Unidentified bodies West Metro FPS Cape Town



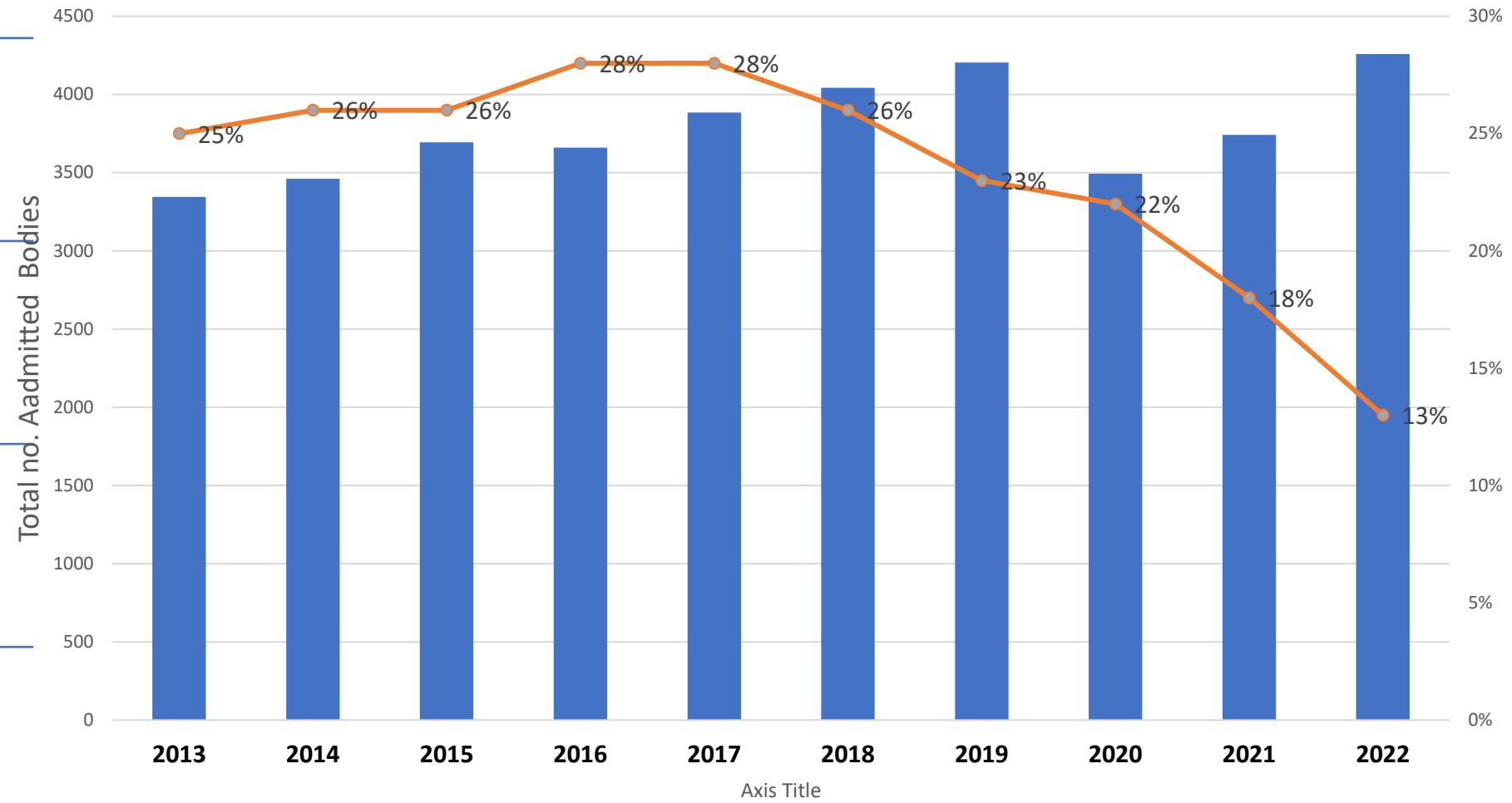
Salt River Mortuary Body Admissions n= 37790

≈ 70% - unnatural

(Homicides, accidents,
suicides)

≈ 24% - Natural

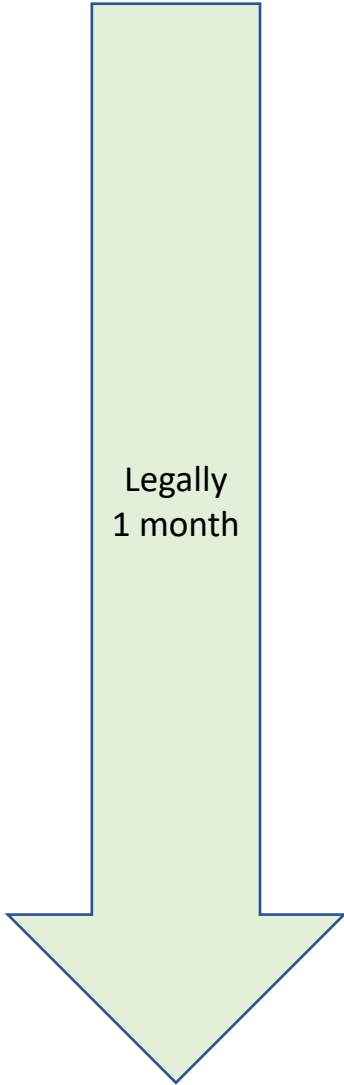
≈ 6% - decomposed/burns



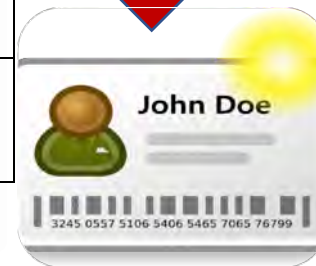
■ % NATURAL



Process of ID in the mortuary



Process followed to determine identification								Date	Only indicate in grey tick box	
Finger Prints taken		Results received Yes/ No							Positive/ Negative	
Clear facial photographs taken										
DNA Taken:	Blood FTA	Swab	Tissue	Teeth	Bone	Nails	other			
Full Body LODOX Xray scan										
Anthropologic profiling										
Odontology profiling										
Details entered into unidentified register										
DNA Collected by SAPS.										
DNA Profile obtained/handed in at Lab.										
1 st Notification sent to Investigating officer.									E Mail	
2 nd Notification sent to detective Head.									E Mail	
Final communication, notice of intent to bury.									E Mail	
Longer than 30 days after the last process										
Authorisation to bury given by detective: Yes/ No										
Signed:										
Date:										





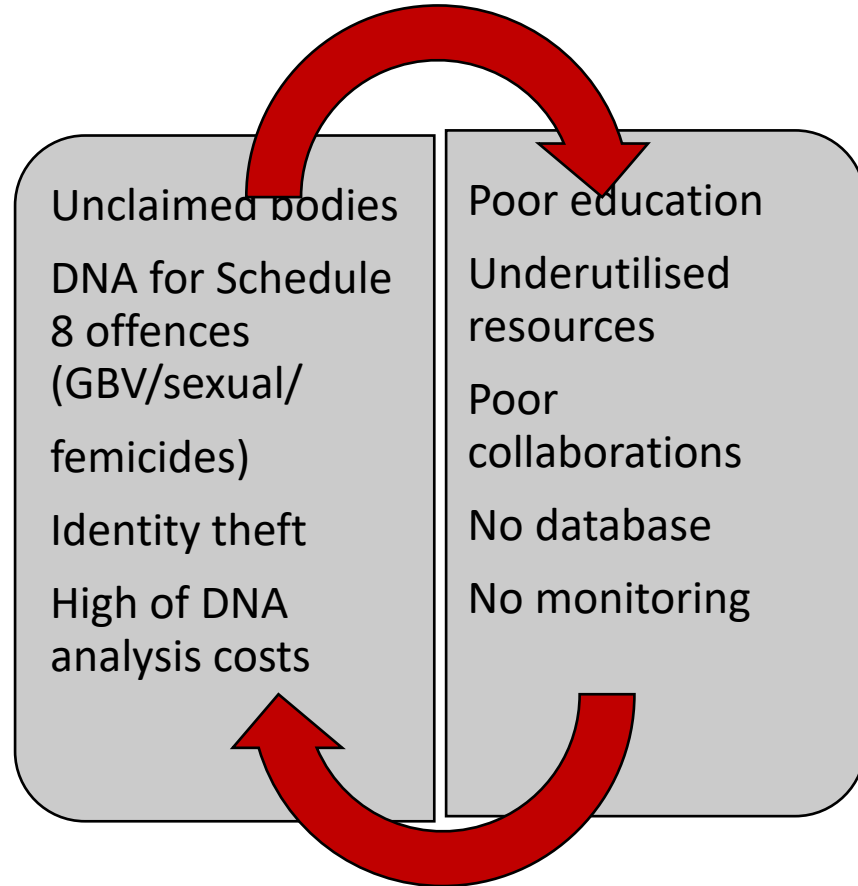
Challenges with unidentified bodies in Metro West



Average length of stay till release \approx 427 days (124 in 2013).

FPS partnered with Victim Identification Unit (VIC) \rightarrow DNA analysis & facial reconstruction

Burden feeds into backlog of all Forensic DNA analysis





Whole of Government-Society Approach



Strategic outcome-based

Client Centred

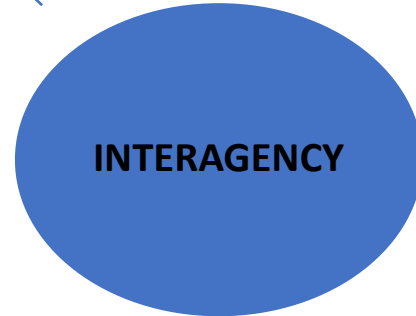
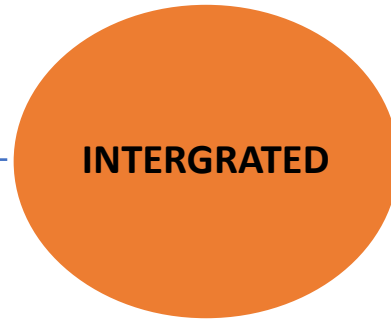
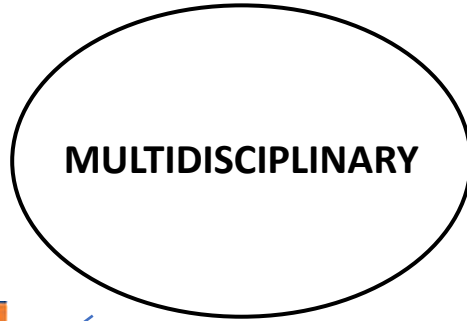
Quality Care

Indicators responsive to time

Multi-agency case flow management

Clinical oversight

Quality assurance



- Forensic Clinical/ Pathology
- Molecular
- Anthropology
- Odontology
- Forensic radiology
- Entomology
- Victim Identification Board
- MOU
- Database/registry
- Police
- FPS
- Home affairs
- Social welfare
- NGOs



Africa's First Integrated Scientific Forensic Institute

The OFPI



- 3- storey facility, boats 4500 sqm
- 287 million, near entry to Groote Schuur Hospital
- Energy- secure
- Integrated mortuary and laboratory complexes
- Quaternary (specialised support) health services to 15 WC Province facilities
- Tertiary health services to the West Metro population.
- Academic and research service to UCT
- Centre of excellence for scientific FPS in Africa



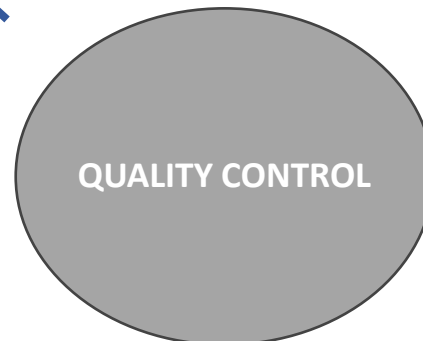
OFPI Forensic Molecular laboratory



STANDARDISED
PROCEDURES



INTEGRITY & SAFETY

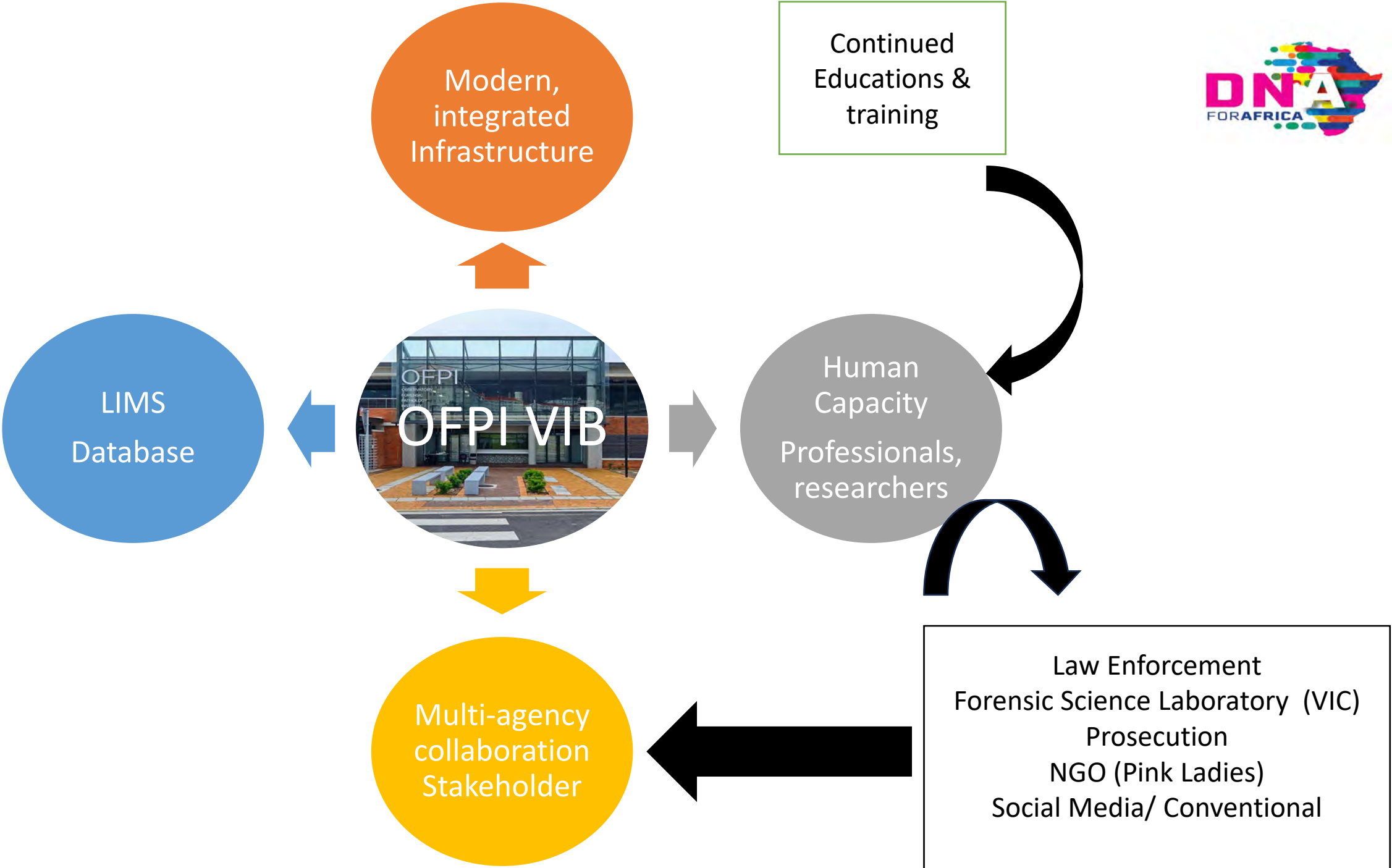


QUALITY CONTROL

- Uniform protocols & SOPs
- Evidence-led, international Std.
- Comply with legal statutes, include. Forensic Procedures DNA Act, 37,2013

- Security -biometric access control, CCTV, alarm system
- Only authorised (appropriately trained & vaccinated) persons are permitted
- BSL2-3
- PPE

- Credible results through uniform SLA & protocols & SOPs developed
- LIMS
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation
- Accreditation



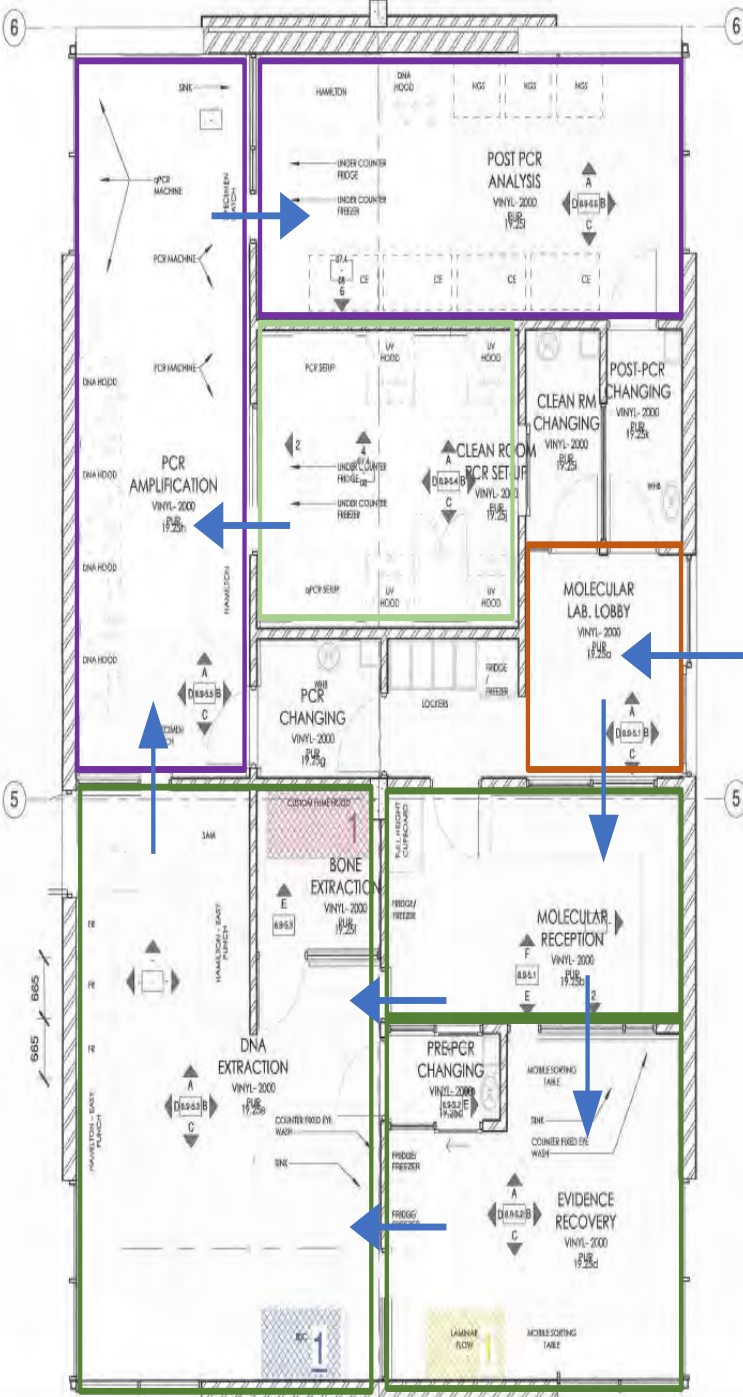


Photo Album

By Dr Itumeleng Molefe
 Narrated by A/ Prof Laura Heathfield



Acknowledgement & Thank you

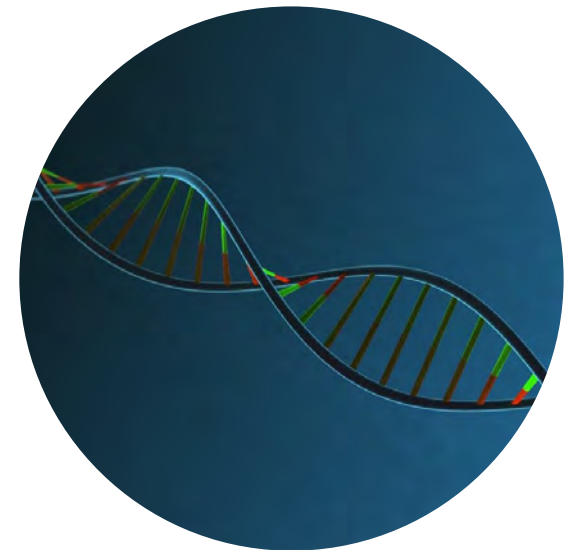
Prof Lorna J Martin- visionary behind the OFPI

Assoc. Laura Heathfield for the laboratory equipment pictures and narration

Director Ms Vonita Thompson

Department of Health and Wellness, WC

Mr Wayne Mitten – Salt River Mortuary, OFPI Facility manager



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