

A personal journey through forty years of Forensic Medicine

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The speaker describes his personal account of forty years in forensic medical practice and discusses his involvement in a number of high profile cases which have been the centre of media attention or the consequences of developments in world events and also gives some insights into the future of forensic practice.

One of the most tragic, yet intriguing events, was the death of Princess Diana. The investigation of her death is discussed and theories of how she may have come to her death are considered.

The latter part of the 20th Century and beyond has been witness to many atrocities. Forensic medicine has played its part in the investigation of mass graves where genocide is suspected citing personal experience in the Balkans and Rwanda. In Cyprus there have been many deaths resulting from civil strife and the author describes two cases occurring in 1996 which were investigated under the auspices of the United Nations.

Human rights and deaths in custody are also discussed with reference to cases from Palestine and Malaysia.

The author concludes with some thoughts on the future of forensic autopsy practice with reference to the development and adoption of the digital autopsy to replace current practice