The Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies
University of Cambridge

The Duckworth Laboratory policy on human remains
The Duckworth Laboratory is one of the world’s largest repositories of human remains, numbering approximately 18,000 individuals. These range from blood samples, to hair bundles, single bones, complete skeletons, mummies, decorated skulls, and death masks, and are widely used for teaching and research.

In the last few years, there has been increasing concern regarding the conditions under which human remains are kept and used by museums and universities, and in particular, about the principles that govern the practice of de-accession of material, whether for reburial, repatriation, or disposal. This concern culminated in the publication of the document *Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Museums* by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in October 2005, which sets out a series of recommendations on best practice regarding human remains in museum and university collections in the UK, and complements the provisions of the Human Tissue Act 2004 on the care of human remains older than 100 years.

Human remains represent an important element in the study of humans and their societies, much like archaeological and ethnographic artefacts, differing from the latter only in the extent to which there is an overlying psychological and cultural significance assigned to material that was once a living human being. This has created a tension between those who object to the use of human remains in science (particularly of those remains which they consider as belonging to their kin), and those who see the scientific importance of the study of human remains to generally override such individual or cultural views.

It is the position of the Duckworth Laboratory, as well as its parent institutions the Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies and the University of Cambridge, that the study of human remains provides unique and invaluable information on human evolution and history, human biological diversity, the history of disease, as well as cultural differences in relation to the body, death, burial and belief systems. As such, their preservation in museum and university collections should be protected. Equally, the Laboratory recognises that this position may not apply to all the human remains in its care, and that a general code of practice would be beneficial to all. With this view, the Duckworth Laboratory made a number of presentations and written contributions to the DCMS Working Group on Human Remains between 2001 and 2003, and held meetings with the then Minister of Science (D Sainsbury) and Minister for Culture (T Jowell). As a result of the Working Group’s recommendations, the DCMS published a consultation document (*The Care of Historic Human Remains*) in 2004, to which the Director of the Laboratory submitted a response. This consultation led to the realisation that a formal national Code of Practice for the care of human remains was necessary. A working group was established by the DCMS in early 2005 to draft this code. The views of the Duckworth Laboratory were represented in this working group by Prof Foley, and as such it endorses the Code of Practice established by that group and published in October 2005 (*Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Museums*). Following these recommendations, the Duckworth Laboratory has extended and adjusted its policy on human remains, set out in this document.

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Director of the Duckworth Laboratory
Cambridge, January 2008
The Duckworth Laboratory policy on human remains

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Part I – Human Remains and the Duckworth Collection

The Duckworth Collection was established in 1945 by DWL Duckworth, who amalgamated the University of Cambridge’s collections of human remains and actively acquired new materials to be added to the existing ones. Thus, the formation of the Collection spans a long period of time - some of the human remains were acquired as early as the mid 19th Century. The collection continues to add to its holdings of human remains, mainly through the donation of skeletons found in the city of Cambridge either in the course of archaeological excavations or real state developments.

The collection is composed of approximately 18,000 human skeletal remains, 350 non-human primate skeletal remains, hair samples, and biological samples (blood, saliva) for human genetic studies, collected during the 20th century and being added to today.

Part II of this document is concerned with the principles of curatorial care and academic use of human remains, principles that also apply to the remains of non-human primates and other animals held in the Collection. Part III of this document lays out the procedures adopted by the Duckworth Laboratory and the University of Cambridge to deal with claims for the repatriation of human remains to individuals and/or institutions. The latter apply to claims for human remains that fall under the definition of such by the DCMS Code of Practice.

I.1 – Definitions of ‘human remains’

Definition of ‘human remains’ in accordance with the DCMS Code of Practice 2005

Human remains represent the parts of bodies of once living people of the species Homo sapiens (defined as individuals who fall within the range of anatomical variation of living and recent human beings). This includes osteological material (whole or partial skeletons, individual bones and teeth, or fragments of bones and teeth), soft tissue (including organs and skin), embryos and slide preparations of human tissue. The definition of human remains also includes any of the above that may have been modified in some way by human skill and/or may be physically bound-up with other non-human materials to form an artefact composed of several materials. In line with The Human Tissue Act 2004, the definition of human remains by the DCMS Code of Practice 2005 does not include hair and nails.

Definition of ‘human remains’ in accordance with The Human Tissue Act 2004

As defined by section 53 of The Human Tissue Act 2004, human remains (or “relevant material” under the terms of the Act) means material, other than gametes, which consists of or includes human cells, with the exception of “(a) embryos outside the human body, or (b) hair and nail from the body of a living person”.

As most of the material contained in the Duckworth Collection falls outside the remit of The Human Tissue Act 2004 because of the time of acquisition, age, and its non-identifiability (see section III.2), the definition of ‘human remains’ used throughout this document is largely that of the DCMS Code of Practice 2005.
I.2 - Types of human remains curated at the Duckworth Laboratory

The Duckworth Collection contains human remains of different nature, as well as age and geographic origin\(^1\). These fall into six main categories:

1. Osteological remains, i.e. the skeleton or part of the skeleton of individuals. These form the vast majority of the Collection’s holdings, and include the skeleton or part of the skeleton (including cases of single bones) of approximately 18,000 individuals.
2. Dried soft tissue remains, i.e. the dissected remains of skin and muscle of a small number of individuals, usually attached to the bones they were attached to in life.
3. Mummified remains, i.e. intentionally preserved or dissected body, or part of a body, of a person, of a small number of individuals.
4. Human skeletal remains modified intentionally after death, including decorated bones and skulls, or the transformation of a human bone into a cultural implement.
5. Thin sections of human bones and teeth, some of which are mounted in slides for microscopic observation.
6. Blood samples obtained as part of the British Biological Survey (BBS) in the mid-20\(^{th}\) century.

With the exception of blood and saliva samples obtained for scientific purposes with prior individual consent in the last three years, all the human remains curated at the Duckworth Collection were existing holdings in 2004 (see below), when the Human Tissue Act came into force. Furthermore, the vast majority of these human remains consist of individuals who died more than 100 years ago (i.e., individuals who died prior to 1908).

I.3 – Legal considerations

A small number of osteological human remains, as well as the blood samples from the BBS, represent the remains of persons who died in the last 100 years (in the case of the osteological remains and some of the blood samples), or who may possibly be still alive (in the case of some of the blood samples). The storage and use of these human remains for the purpose of display, teaching and research did not receive individual prior consent. Nevertheless, under the guidelines of the Human Tissue Act 2004, most of these are exempt of such consent because (1) they were acquired before The Human Tissue Act 2004 had come into force, and (2) the Collection is not in possession of information from which the person from whose body the material has come can be identified, even though it may not be 100 years since the death of the person.

The Human Tissue Act 2004 requires that human tissue stored and used for regulated activities (such as display, teaching and research) has been obtained from an individual who gave prior consent, unless:

- “it has been imported” (section 1.5.a and 1.6.a);

\(^1\) The Collection also has hair from an estimated 500 individuals, collected mostly during the first half of the 20\(^{th}\) century. This material falls outside the definition of ‘human remains’ covered by the DCMS Code of Practice 2005, and are not considered further in this document. However, given recent advances in genetic research that allow the extraction of DNA from such material as hair, the Laboratory considers them important source for scientific research and includes them under its guidelines for destructive use of existing samples.
• “it is the body of a person who died before the day on which this section [of The Human Tissue Act 2004] comes into force and at least one hundred years have elapsed since the date of the person's death”\(^2\) (section 1.5.b) or “it is material which has come from the body of a person who died before the day on which this section comes into force and at least one hundred years have elapsed since the date of the person's death” (section 1.6.b); these two conditions also exempt any material from the remit of the Human Tissue Authority (section 14.3) and its licencing regime (section 16.4);

• it refers to “existing holdings”, in which case regulated activities are lawful without consent as long as the “existing holdings” are composed of:
  
  (a) the body of a deceased person, or

  (b) relevant material [as defined in section 53] which has come from a human body held immediately before the day on which section 1(1) comes into force” (section 9).

The Human Tissue Act also takes into consideration the fact that human remains which were not acquired with prior consent may exist in collections, but who are no longer identifiable to the person to whom they once belonged. This is specified in section 1.9.b, where it is stated that “it [the storage and use of material] is to be, or is, carried out in circumstances such that the person carrying it out is not in possession, and not likely to come into possession, of information from which the person from whose body the material has come can be identified”. Section 7.1.b of the Act also states that the Human Tissue Authority may dispense with the need for consent if it is satisfied “that it is not reasonably possible to trace the person from whose body the material has come ("the donor")” (section 7.1.b).

The Duckworth Laboratory is included in the University of Cambridge’s Human Tissue Licence to comply with current legislation regarding the retention, for scientific and teaching purposes, of human remains that are less than 100 years old and which may be identifiable as to donor, including recently obtained blood and saliva samples.

Thus, except those materials obtained with consent in the recent past, the present holdings of the Duckworth Collection are largely outside the remit of the Human Tissue Authority, and their care, storage, use and retention should follow the recommendations made in the DCMS Code of Practice 2005.

I.3 – Position on the scientific use of human remains curated at the Duckworth Laboratory

The most fundamental reason for the existence of collections of human remains lies in the fact that they are a record, a form of library, of humanity, in all its spatial, geographical and temporal diversity. Human remains provide information on how different populations relate to each other, as well as how individuals have adapted to meet the challenges of natural selection in the five million years of our evolutionary history. They also provide us with information about the processes of growth and development through time, and how it came about that humans grow such big brains and mature slowly. They inform us on the diet and occupation of past societies, and the effect these had on nutrition and epidemiology. They open a window into the history of medicine, by recording the first appearance and changing severities of diseases in human history in varying social and environmental contexts, as well as some of the range of medical practices employed. In the context of their burials, they provide

\(^2\) The 100 years are a rolling 100 year period.
information on ethnic traditions related to the deceased, as well as insights into the evolution of our cognitive awareness of life and death. Finally, they provide some rare evidence of the differing concepts of beauty in the past through the preservation of intentional modifications of the body in life which affect the skeleton.

The question of who benefits from this knowledge, who are the stake-holders of this archive of the human past, is one of the most important aspects of the future of anthropological collections of human remains. History has shown that for the majority of people, the excavation and study of human remains is one of the most powerful means of disseminating knowledge about history, about biology, about humanity, and not an affront to human dignity. This is evident in the public appeal and popularity of, for example, television documentaries and programmes including and/or portraying human skeletal remains, ranging in subject from human evolution, ethnology and ethnography, archaeology, and most recently, forensic sciences. The pressure for repatriation comes as part of a justifiable anger on the part of indigenous communities about the way they were and, to some extent, still are treated; as such, the repatriation of anthropological collections of human remains has become a symbol for social justice. However, history shows that what, at any one time, might seem to a particular group of people a justifiable reason for the destruction of information (whether in the form of heretic books or giant Buddah statues) is later regreted. A case could be made that no one generation should have the right to preclude future generations from access to information. It is the case that there already are descendants of indigenous communities who, contrary to the present trend, actively want to learn from the human remains of their own ancestors. Therefore, although decried as relics of a colonial world (which to some extent they are), in our current increasingly multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and globally mobile world, these anthropological collections of human remains are a true archive of humanity’s past.

The Duckworth Laboratory, and its parent institution the Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies, actively promotes and supports scientific research on the human remains under its care. In the present circumstances of both greater concern about curatorial practices and claims for the repatriation of individual remains or groups of remains, this document sets out the Laboratory’s policy for the care, maintenance and repatriation of human remains under its care, the latter under the assumption that, bar very particular circumstances, the collection should remain intact for the purpose of scientific teaching and research.
Part II - Curation, care and use of human remains

II.1 – Inventory

The Duckworth Collection is the result of over 200 years of collecting carried out by different individuals and institutions and by different means of acquisition. Therefore, the original records of the acquisition of each individual or group of remains vary significantly in quality and extent. Most of these original records are in the form of lists of remains contained in 19th century hand-written notebooks, lists of remains transferred from the Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology in the early 20th century, and accession books kept by D.W.L. Duckworth. Many of these were copied at later dates, and the fidelity of such copies is not always perfect, adding a level of uncertainty to the original information. Furthermore, the various re-housing and re-boxing of the remains, as well as un-returned loans, means that not all the items listed in the original notebooks are still physically part of the Collection.

The information from the original notebooks, log books and accession books is presently being transcribed into a computerized database for the first time. Simultaneously, the content of all boxes is being checked, with the aim of cross-checking the historical and physical record of all the human remains in the Collection for the first time.

Until such a date as this inventory is complete it is not possible to know with absolute certainty the total number of individuals whose remains are part of the Collection. However, when the inventory is complete, it will in itself represent an important source of information on the history of scientific research in this field.

Following the DCMS guidelines, the complete inventory of the holdings in the Duckworth Collection is being made publicly available as its compilation proceeds.

II.2 – Acquisition

The Duckworth Collection is a living collection, in the sense that it continues to acquire material into its care. However, the number of materials, whether human remains or others, acquired in recent years is small.

Human remains will be acquired for the collection if they meet the following conditions:

(a) the remains were obtained lawfully, through either archaeological excavation or donation of an individual’s or an institution’s existing holdings, with no suspicion of illicit trade;

(b) the remains do not represent individuals or parts of individuals who died less than 100 years ago, unless their use for scientific research was consented by the individual to whom they belonged prior to his/her death; such cases will be subject to the legislation set out in the Human Tissue Act 2004, and the Laboratory will be guided by the Human Tissue Authority in this regard;

(c) that the remains are of potential value to the Laboratory and to research.
As currently carried out, the Duckworth Laboratory will occasionally continue to acquire human remains excavated in the UK, largely by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, and occasionally from overseas. Human remains removed in the course of archaeological excavations in the UK are subject to a Home Office licence or directions, and their acquisition by the Laboratory is carried out in accordance with legal requirements and published professional standards of archaeological investigation. Similar considerations are made for those remains originating overseas.

**II.3 – Loans**

The Duckworth Collection will consider the loan of human remains in its care for the purpose of display and/or teaching if the request meets the following conditions:

(a) the request is made by a museum or university department which holds a policy on use and display that does not contradict that of the Duckworth Laboratory (see section II.6);

(b) the human remains requested on loan make a significant contribution to the aims of the exhibition being organised or course being taught;

The historical records of the Collection show that the Laboratory loaned material to individual researchers in the last 100 years. The information on what material was loaned, details of the recipient, or whether/when it was returned is largely incomplete. Many of the individual remains who are listed in the original catalogues but are no longer physically part of the Collection trace their history to such loans. The Duckworth Laboratory shall not loan any material to individuals.

**II.4 – Storage, conservation and collection management**

The human remains that form the Duckworth Collection today were originally part of different University holdings – of the Faculty of Archaeology & Anthropology, the Museum of Zoology, as well as the Anatomical Collections. Since the formation of the Duckworth Collection in the early 20th century that amalgamated the University’s collections of human remains, the collection’s holdings have been housed in various premises. Its original location was in Downing Street, within the premises of the Faculty of Archaeology & Anthropology. As the Faculty divided into three teaching departments, the Duckworth Collection became the responsibility of the Department of Biological Anthropology, and was moved to the basement of the Faculty of Oriental Studies in the Sedgwick Site. In the late 1980’s, under the direction of Professor Robert Foley, the collection was moved to the basement of Keynes House, in the Old Addenbrooks site, where purpose-built rolling racks made the material more easily accessible for research, while a designated working room made it possible to carry out studies on site. At that time, most of the collection was also re-boxed. Although the Keynes House storage area was a major improvement in relation to the earlier conditions, the environmental conditions (particularly the levels of humidity) in that basement proved difficult to control without major investment in refurbishing the area. Given the space and managerial restrictions of that basement, the University supported an application to The Wellcome Trust and HEFCE (under SRIF) submitted by Professor Robert Foley and Dr Marta Mirazón Lahr for the refurbishment of a building in the Old Addenbrooks site which would house the Duckworth Collection in
purposed-designed areas, as well as the offices and laboratories of those directly responsible for and involved in the scientific use of the Duckworth Collection. The refurbishment project was abandoned for the construction of a new building on the site of the previous one. The resulting Henry Wellcome Building in Fitzwilliam Street houses the Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies since January 2006, and within it the Duckworth Laboratory and Collection.

The Collection is currently divided between the two sites (Keynes House basement and the Henry Wellcome Building) until the move and parallel verification of contents is completed. Most of the human remains are already stored in the basement of the new Henry Wellcome Building, including all the series from the Americas, the Pacific, Asia, and Africa. The storage is in the form of rolling metal racks, where the material is organized geographically. Some 1,000 cranial remains have also been re-boxed in the past four years, using purpose-designed boxes for the human remains collection of the Musée de l’Homme in Paris, which comply with current recommendations on humidity and damage protection. Storage is actively managed and monitored to meet the highest standards of security and access management, and particularly when the re-boxing of the material is completed, also of environmental protection and care.

Most of the human remains that make up the Duckworth Collection have identifying numbers written in ink on the bones. This has been standard practice in Museum and University collections, and minimises the risk of loss of provenance or dissociation of parts. The DCMS guidelines require that consideration is given to those cases in which this basic curatorial practice is not acceptable for those from other cultures. Accordingly, the Laboratory will seek to minimise the writings on the actual remains that are acquired from this date; although an identifying number will continue to be written on the bones for the reasons above, this will be small and in a discrete position.

II.5 – Public display

The Duckworth Laboratory gives careful thought to the reasons for, and circumstances of, the display of human remains. Human remains from the Duckworth Collection are displayed in two circumstances, teaching and exhibits. In the first case, human remains are publicly shown during teaching sessions to University undergraduate and graduate students, as well as special teaching occasions to groups of students from outside the University. The purpose of these are to both illustrate what is being taught, and for the students to acquire first-hand experience in the study of human remains (see section II.6 below). The second case is in the form of temporary exhibits in the display cabinets of the Seminar Room of the Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies. The purpose of these exhibits are to illustrate either aspects of human diversity, normal and pathological, as well as of cultural practices that involve the post-mortem modification of human remains. These displays of human remains are accompanied by explanatory and contextual information.

II.6 – Access Policy
As has been the policy for the last 100 years, the Duckworth Laboratory provides access to its collections of human remains for education and research.

Human remains from the Duckworth Collection are used for teaching purposes by academic staff of the Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies in those cases where the use of actual remains (instead of scientific replicas) is considered critical for the student’s learning process. In these cases, measures are taken to protect the remains from damage, and students handling the material are requested to treat them with care, dignity and respect.

Human remains from the Collection are available for scientific research by students and bona fide researchers worldwide. Those interested in studying material held as part of the collection are requested to submit a detailed application form, project and letter of reference if applicable, upon which permission may or not be granted. Special consideration is given before applications to carry out destructive sampling are approved, weighing the benefits of the scientific information to be obtained against the costs of the material destruction of samples. The Duckworth Laboratory reminds all those working with material under its care of the ethical obligations with regard to human remains.

The Duckworth Laboratory receives approximately 30 national and international research visitors every year, and its collection of human remains has played a major role in the development of our current knowledge on human evolution and diversity, comparative anatomy, and the history of medicine. The Laboratory will strive to continue to play this role in the context of current developments in scientific techniques and interests, promoting the use of archival information, the deposition of data in publicly available databases, and the sharing of existing data through its current project of a 3D e-library of the Collection’s holdings.

The Laboratory considers all the human remains under its care as part of its long-standing collection until their status legally changes. As such, all remains, even those with a pending repatriation claim from a potential descendant or community of descendants, are available for scientific study following the procedures described above until such a claim is resolved.

Access to view, handle and study human remains in the Duckworth Laboratory is granted solely to those researchers engaged in a research project that is consistent with the broader ethical research framework of the Laboratory and its parent institutions, the Leverhulme Centre for Human Evolutionary Studies and the University of Cambridge. No researcher who has intentionally contributed, or whose project has the intention to contribute to research agendas considered racist, sexist or unethical will be granted access to the collection.

Following the DCMS guidelines, a publicly accessible research register has been created. This will contain information on all research carried out in the Duckworth Laboratory, including the name of the researcher, project title, research objectives, whether the research involved sampling, the date the research was carried out, any databases in which the collected data are held, and reference to resulting publications. Access to the collection will be granted upon agreement on the inclusion of this information in the research register from January 2008.
Part III - Procedures for dealing with claims for the return of human remains

Part III.1 – General considerations

Following the guidelines of the DCMS and the practice established by the Trustees of the British Museum, the University of Cambridge believes that its collection should remain intact for the benefit of present and future generations throughout the world, but will give serious consideration to repatriating human remains that were buried or were intended for burial, if

(a) they are less than 100 years old and a claim for their return is being made by a genealogical descendant;

or

(b) they are less than 300 years old, and

(b.i) the claim is normally made by a source community which displays a biological and cultural continuity with the remains in question, and

(b.ii) where, after taking any relevant independent advice on questions which they formulate as needing an answer to help them make a decision, it is in their view likely that the cultural and religious importance of the human remains to the community making the claim outweighs any other public benefit.

• objects made from human remains that have been modified for a secondary purpose (e.g. made into a musical instrument) or are ‘separable’ (e.g. made from hair or nails) are regarded as falling into a different category from human remains that were intended for burial, and so are unlikely to agree to any claim for their repatriation.

• claims are unlikely to be successful for any remains over 300 years old, and are highly unlikely to be considered for remains over 500 years old, except where a very close geographical, biological and cultural link can be demonstrated.

• The University will consider a claim for repatriation from a community when it is made through the relevant national government or national agency, but will not normally consider a claim from a national government unless it is made on behalf of a genealogically identified source community or individual.

3 Following the policy of the British Museum, the phrase ‘human remains that were buried or were intended for burial’ includes 1) human remains that were modified for this purpose (e.g. cremated) and 2) human remains that were used or intended for any other form of mortuary disposal, as appropriate to different societies.
For any claim to be considered, the claimant would have to establish a sound evidential base for a *prima facie* claim.

**Part III.2 – Procedures**

The Duckworth Laboratory and the University of Cambridge have an open and transparent procedural policy for considering claims for the repatriation of human remains held in the collection to individuals or communities of origin. The procedure, described in greater detail below, consists of five steps:

1. a claim is received by the Registrary of the University, whose office acknowledges its receipt;

2. a copy of the claim, together with its supporting information, is passed to the Director of the Duckworth Laboratory, who will put together the existing information on the remains being requested for repatriation, and make an assessment of their scientific value;

3. upon initial discussions with the Director of the Duckworth Laboratory regarding the time necessary for the internal assessment of the remains being claimed, the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research will convene a meeting of the University of Cambridge’s Human Remains Advisory Panel and communicate the date of this meeting to the claimants;

4. the Human Remains Advisory Panel will meet to consider the *prima facie* status of the claim on the basis of its supporting information, the existing information in the archives of the Duckworth Collection, and the assessment of the scientific value of the remains being claimed carried out by the Duckworth Laboratory. This consideration of the *prima facie* status of the claim can have three outcomes:
   
   i. the claim being rejected as not meeting the necessary conditions for repatriation;
   
   ii. the claim being accepted on the basis that the case for repatriation outweighs the scientific case for retention, and that no other potential rightful claimants may exist;
   
   iii. the information available regarding either the case for repatriation, or the case for retention, or the existence of other potential rightful claimants is insufficient for a recommendation to be made.

In the first two cases, the Human Remains Advisory Panel will make a recommendation to the University Council whether to reject or accept the claim. In this case:

5. after the meeting of the University Council, the Registrary will communicate the University’s decision to the claimants and the Director of the Duckworth Laboratory.

In the case that upon consideration of the *prima facie* case the Human Remains Advisory Panel decides that further information and/or consultation is necessary for a recommendation to be made, they will specify the nature of the information needed. In this case:
(6) the Registrar will put in place the measures to obtain the information requested by the Panel, and will communicate with the claimants to indicate how long it is likely to take to process the claim and who will be consulted in the process;

(7) the Human Remains Advisory Panel will meet again to consider the additional available evidence in the context of the DCMS guidelines for best practice and make a recommendation to the University Council;

(8) after the meeting of the University Council, the Registrar will communicate the University’s decision to the claimants and the Director of the Duckworth Laboratory.

In case of a repatriation claim being granted:
The decision of the Human Remains Advisory Panel to accept a claim for repatriation of human remains may involve either:

(a) the immediate return of the remains, or

(b) the return of the remains after a defined period of research for the collection of information deemed of scientific significance.

In the first case, the transfer of custodianship of the remains will be considered to take effect immediately (even if not physically), and all use of the remains for educational and scientific purposes that may be under way will cease at that point.

In the second case, the Human Remains Advisory Panel will determine the period of collection of information it deems necessary, and communicate this to both the claimants and the Director of the Duckworth Laboratory. The latter will seek to have the information collected as possible.

III.2.1 – Detailed procedures

(1) Submitting a claim for repatriation to the University of Cambridge
All claims for repatriation of human remains held as part of the Duckworth Collection should be addressed directly to:

The Registrar
The Old Schools
Trinity Lane
Cambridge CB2 1TN

The request should include as much information as possible about the human remains being claimed, the individual or community submitting the claim, the reasons for making the claim, and the evidence that substantiates the claim.

The claim will be formally acknowledged in writing, and a copy sent to the Director of the Duckworth Laboratory, who will lodged in the Collection’s records. The
Director of the Duckworth Laboratory will initiate the process of gathering all existing information in the Duckworth Collection archives regarding the remains being claimed, and making an assessment of the scientific value of the remains being claimed.

(2) Collation of information for the prima facie case for repatriation
The Registrary will establish the time-frame for the gathering of the information on the remains being claimed internal to the University. This information will be gathered by the Director of the Duckworth Laboratory, and include:

i. whether the remains being claim are held in the Duckworth Collection;

ii. the archival information available regarding the geographical origin of the remains, their biological and cultural affinities, and the accession of those remains by the Collection;

iii. an assessment of the age and scientific value of the remains.

The Office of the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research convene a meeting of the Human Remains Advisory Panel to consider the prima facie case for repatriation on the basis of the claim, its supporting information, and the information provided by the Director of the Duckworth Laboratory.

(3) Consideration of a claim by the University’s Advisory Panel
The University’s Human Remains Advisory Panel will meet to consider the prima facie case for repatriation of the human remains being requested. At this meeting, the Panel may consider the information sufficient for making a recommendation.

The Panel may, alternatively, deem the information insufficient for making a recommendation, and request that further consultation takes place. This may take the form of expert advice regarding the standing of the claim on legal and scientific grounds from individuals within and outside the University, including expert scientific advice other than the scientific assessment carried out by the Duckworth Laboratory, consultation with either or both the claimants and the Director of the Duckworth Laboratory, and the national government and diplomatic representatives of the country in which the claimants normally reside. Particular attention will be given to the existence of other rightful potential claimants.

After consideration by the Advisory Panel, the dossier of the case will be made publicly available as recommended by the DCMS guidelines, giving an opportunity for all with an interest to comment. Any advice requested by the Advisory Panel or comments made to them will also be made available publicly.

(4) The University’s decision
The final recommendation of the Advisory Panel will be passed to the University Council to make a decision.
In the case the University of Cambridge decides to accept the claim and give the human remains requested to the claimants, the University will further consider whether this should take immediate effect, or whether a period for the study and collection of scientific information should precede it. In the latter case, the University Council will establish the duration of that period. The Director of the Duckworth Laboratory will then be responsible for ensuring that the scientific study of the remains to be repatriated takes place within the period and conditions established. The physical repatriation of remains will take place following practical considerations on the part of both the claimants and the Duckworth Laboratory. A written report will be prepared that explains how the final decision of the University was reached. Claimants will be informed of the decision in writing, and at the same time the decision will be published on the Duckworth Laboratory’s website in order to provide all interested parties access to the information.

Dr Marta Mirazón Lahr
Director
Duckworth Laboratory
March 2011