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7/7/12

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To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: Acceptance of Miss Stacey Lander's masters protocol**

This letter is to confirm that Ms. Stacey Lander presented her MSc research proposal to the School of Anatomical Sciences, Faculty of Health Science, University of the Witwatersrand in April 2012 and that it was subsequently accepted.

Ms Lander's project is entitled 'A study of the diagenetic alteration of bone from the Crown Mines in Johannesburg, South Africa'. The research that she is proposing to do is of great importance to archaeologists, physical anthropologist, and forensic anthropologists amongst others. When skeletal remains are found in an archaeological or forensic context, skeletal analyses are carried out to compile a biological profile to assist with the identification process. The biological profile consists of the estimation of age-at-death, sex, ancestry and stature. To do this, good bone preservation is needed, however, if the bone preservation is poor, histological analyses can be used. The skeletons exhumed at the Crown Mines consisted of very poorly preserved skeletal remains that hampered the identification process. As a number of graves are still to be exhumed the current study proposed to examine the histology of these bones to explore an avenue for future identification. The degradation of bone is affected by many factors such as soil, moisture, bacteria, and fungi, and understanding this process in South Africa is of great importance. Currently all the scales used to assess bone degradation are based on American and European data.

The research proposed in this protocol is scientifically sound and supported by the School of Anatomical Science, University of the Witwatersrand. Please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Manger', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Prof. Paul R. Manger.