BIOGRAPHY

Michele Harvey-Blankenship is an MD, PhD in forensic pediatrics. Her work as a molecular geneticist spanned the fields of cancer genetics, developmental genetics, to be galvanized in the area of forensic genetics. As a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Washington in Seattle, she worked in the laboratory of Dr. Mary-Claire King using genetic techniques to identify victims of international human rights violations. Among the cases were the genocides in Rwanda and Screbrenica, as well as political mass murders in Haiti, Ethiopia, and Honduras. In addition, genetic techniques were used to assist in the identification of children who had been kidnapped, disappeared, and trafficked in El Salvador and Argentina. Michele completed her medical degree at the University of Toronto, and is now at the University of Alberta focusing her academic forensic pediatric research and practice on the effect of violence on children both locally and internationally.