

# Mecklenburg County M E Office

3440 Reno Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28216

Telephone 7043362005

Fax 7043368353

## REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

### DECEDENT

**Document Identifier** B201604753

**Autopsy Type** ME Autopsy

**Name** Nia Hantzopoulos

**Age** 65 yrs

**Race** White

**Sex** F

### AUTHORIZATION

**Authorized By** James R. Lozano MD

**Received From** Mecklenburg

### ENVIRONMENT

**Date of Exam** 12/28/2016

**Time of Exam** 09:30

**Autopsy Facility** Mecklenburg County M E Office **Persons Present** Mr. Jacob May

### CERTIFICATION

#### Cause of Death

Blunt force injuries of the head due to assault.

**The facts stated herein are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.**

#### Digitally signed by

James R. Lozano MD 08 March 2017 12:57

### DIAGNOSES

Blunt force injuries of the head

Gaping laceration on parietal-occipital scalp with underlying open depressed skull fracture

Radiating, depressed skull fractures to left temporal, left parietal, frontal, and occipital bones

Left-sided subgaleal, subdural, and subarachnoid hemorrhages

Lacerations of the left hemisphere of the brain

Frontal scalp laceration

Abrasions on forehead and bridge of nose

### IDENTIFICATION

#### Body Identified By

Papers/ID Tag

### EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

**Length** 62.5 inches

**Weight** 161 pounds

**Body Condition** Intact

**Rigor** None

**Livor** Posterior

**Hair** Blonde with White roots

**Eyes** Hazel

**Teeth** Natural, in fair repair

Received is the body of a well-developed, well-nourished elderly white woman appearing compatible with the reported age of 65 years. The body is received wrapped in an inner and outer trace recovery sheets, a blanket, two large black plastic garbage bags on the upper body and a black plastic garbage bag and cloth drawstring bag over the lower body. There is a cut black tee shirt tied around the decedent's waist. The decedent is dressed in a blood soaked white sweater, a bra, underwear, black jean pants, and white socks. Yellow metal earring studs are present in each of the decedent's

ears; no other jewelry is present. There are no significant identifying marks, tattoos, or scars on the body. There is no evidence of medical intervention.

## **INJURIES**

There is a 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 3/4" gaping laceration over the right parietal-occipital to left occipital scalp. Skull fragments and brain matter are visible through the laceration. Reflection of the scalp reveals extensive subgaleal hemorrhage over the left parietal, occipital, and left temporal scalp. There are extensive radiating depressed skull fractures over the left parietal, left temporal, and occipital bones. There is visible laceration of the left hemisphere of the brain with embedded skull fragments. The wound is associated with extensive subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhage over the left temporal, parietal, and occipital lobes. The hemispheres of the brain are swollen with flattened gyri and narrowed sulci. The wound is associated with extensive hemorrhage present in the scalp hair and on the victim's clothing.

There is a 3/8" laceration surrounded by abrasion on the frontal scalp. Reflection of the scalp reveals subgaleal hemorrhage over the area underlying the laceration and abrasion. There is a depressed skull fracture underlying the area of laceration. The wound is associated with small subdural hemorrhage over the left and right frontal lobes.

There is a large contusion on the left temporal scalp. There are abrasions on the forehead at the midline and over the bridge of the nose.

There is left periorbital ecchymosis. A healing contusion is present on the right upper thigh.

## **DISPOSITION OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND EVIDENCE**

### **The following items are released with the body**

None

### **The following items are preserved as evidence**

Clothing, jewelry, breast swabs, neck swabs, buccal swab, hand swabs, right and left fingernail swabs, right and left sexual assault kit, inner and outer trace sheets, blanket, upper body garbage bags, lower body garbage bag and cloth bag

## **INTERNAL EXAMINATION**

### **Body Cavities**

The pleural and peritoneal cavities contain no significant fluid. No adhesions are present. The organs are in their normal anatomical positions.

### **Cardiovascular System**

**Heart Weight** 325 grams

The pericardial sac is free of significant fluid and adhesions. The coronary arteries arise normally, follow the usual distribution and are widely patent with mild atherosclerosis and no evidence of thrombosis. The chambers and valves bear the usual size-position relationships and are unremarkable. The myocardium shows no evidence of acute infarction, scarring or focal lesions. The aorta and its major branches are intact without significant atherosclerosis.

### **Respiratory System**

**Right Lung Weight** 500 grams

**Left Lung Weight** 450 grams

Examination of the soft tissues of the neck including strap muscles and large vessels reveals no abnormalities. The hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages are intact. The larynx is clear. The upper and lower airways are free of debris and foreign material. The lungs are normally formed. The parenchyma shows moderate congestion without obvious consolidation or focal lesions. The pulmonary arteries are free of thrombi or emboli.

### **Gastrointestinal System**

The gastrointestinal tract is intact throughout its length and is unremarkable. The stomach contents consist of 150 ml of partially digested food.

### **Liver**

**Liver Weight** 1300 grams

The capsule is intact and the parenchyma is unremarkable. The gallbladder is present and grossly unremarkable.

### **Spleen**

**Spleen Weight** 125 grams

The spleen is normally formed. No focal lesions are present.

### **Pancreas**

Normal size, shape and consistency without focal lesions.

### **Urinary**

**Right Kidney Weight** 125 grams

**Left Kidney Weight** 125 grams

The kidneys are of normal size and shape. The capsules strip with ease from the underlying smooth cortical surfaces. The renal architecture is intact without focal lesions. The bladder contains urine.

### **Reproductive**

Grossly unremarkable.

### **Endocrine**

The thyroid gland and bilateral adrenal glands are grossly unremarkable.

### **Neurologic**

**Brain Weight** 1350 grams

Reflection of the scalp reveals the previously described injuries. There are multiple skull fractures as described. The leptomeninges exhibit hemorrhage. The cerebral hemispheres exhibit the previously described blunt force injuries.

### **Skin**

Except as previously noted, is grossly unremarkable.

### **Immunologic System**

Grossly unremarkable

### **Musculoskeletal System**

Except as previously noted, is grossly unremarkable.

## **MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION**

### **Microscopic Comment**

Histologic examination is not performed.

## **SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION**

The decedent was a 65-year-old white woman who was found in the trunk of her car with multiple injuries to her head.

Autopsy examination reveals two lacerations on the parietal-occipital scalp and the frontal scalp that are associated with skull fractures, cerebral lacerations, and subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhage.

Ethanol is not detected in the decedent's blood. Please see separate report (T2017-00139) for toxicology details.

Based on the history, autopsy findings, results of postmortem toxicology, it is my opinion that the cause of death in this case is blunt force injuries of the head due to assault. Manner of death is homicide.

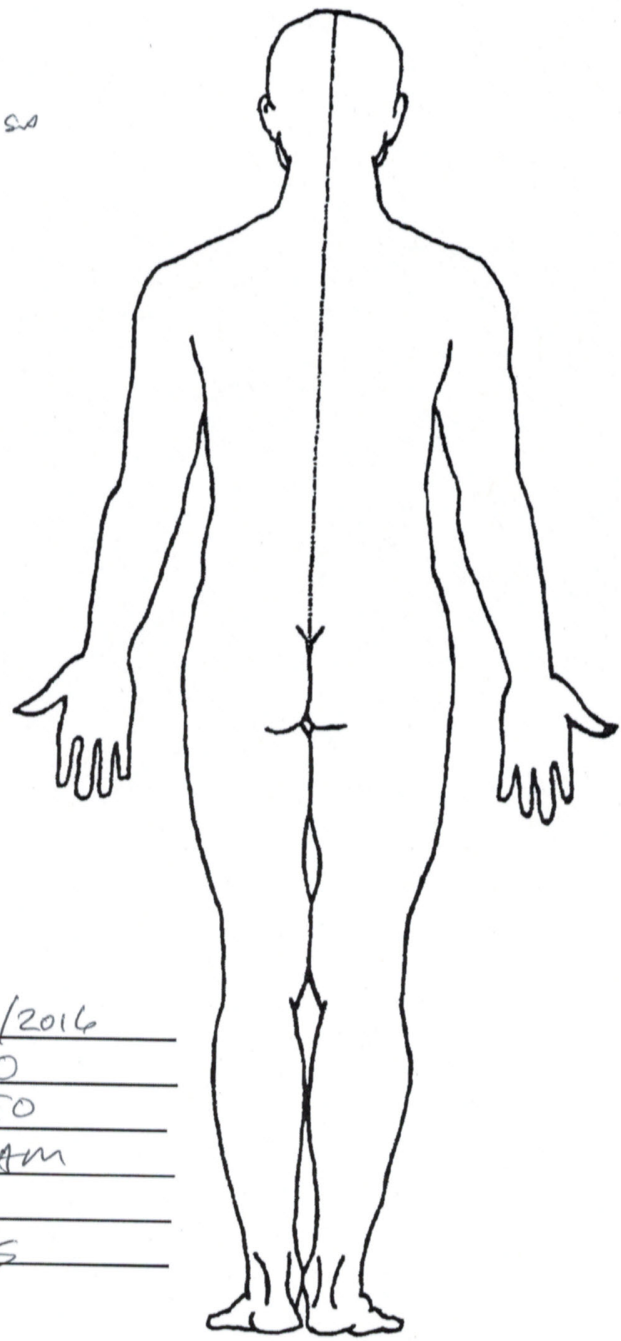
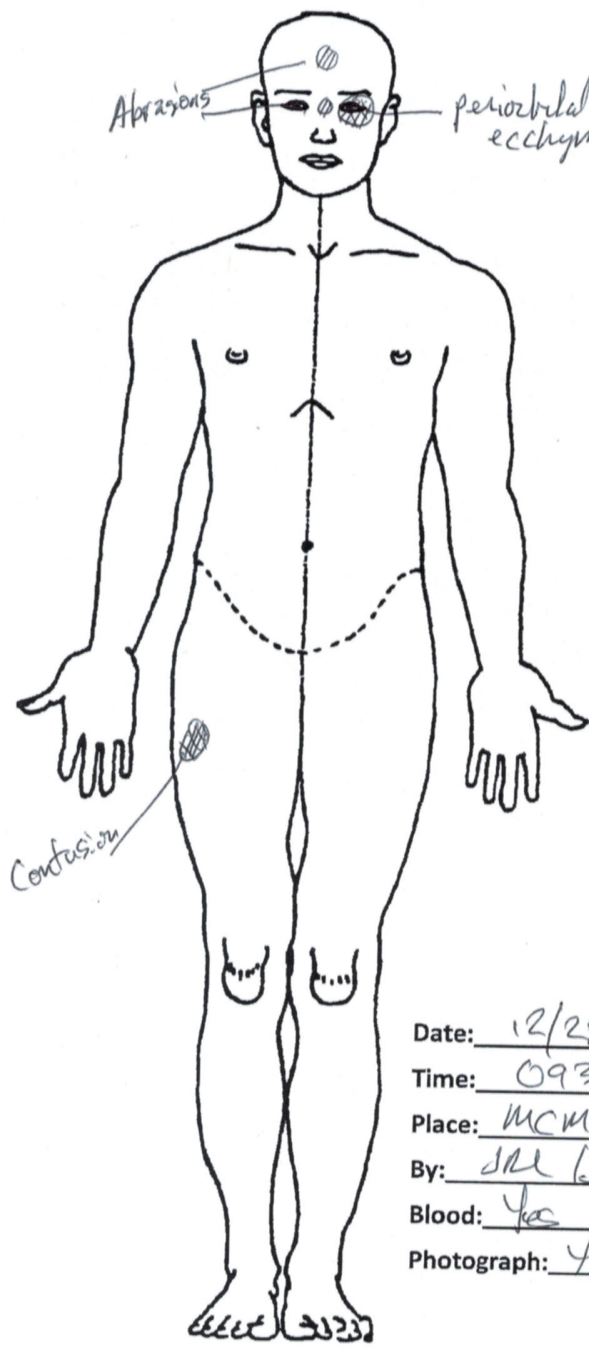
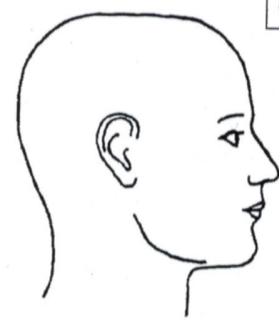
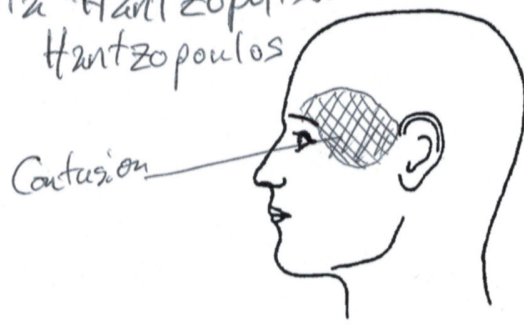
## **DIAGRAMS**

1. BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (FRONT/BACK) - HEAD (LEFT/RIGHT)
2. BODY DIAGRAM: NECK & SHOULDERS

B# 16-4753  
Nia Hantzopoulos  
Hantzopoulos

### BODY DIAGRAMS

Legend:  
A= Abrasion      G= Gunshot  
B= Burn          L= Laceration  
C= Contusion      S= Stab



Date: 12/28/2016  
Time: 0930  
Place: MCMEO  
By: JRL LAM  
Blood: Yes  
Photograph: Yes

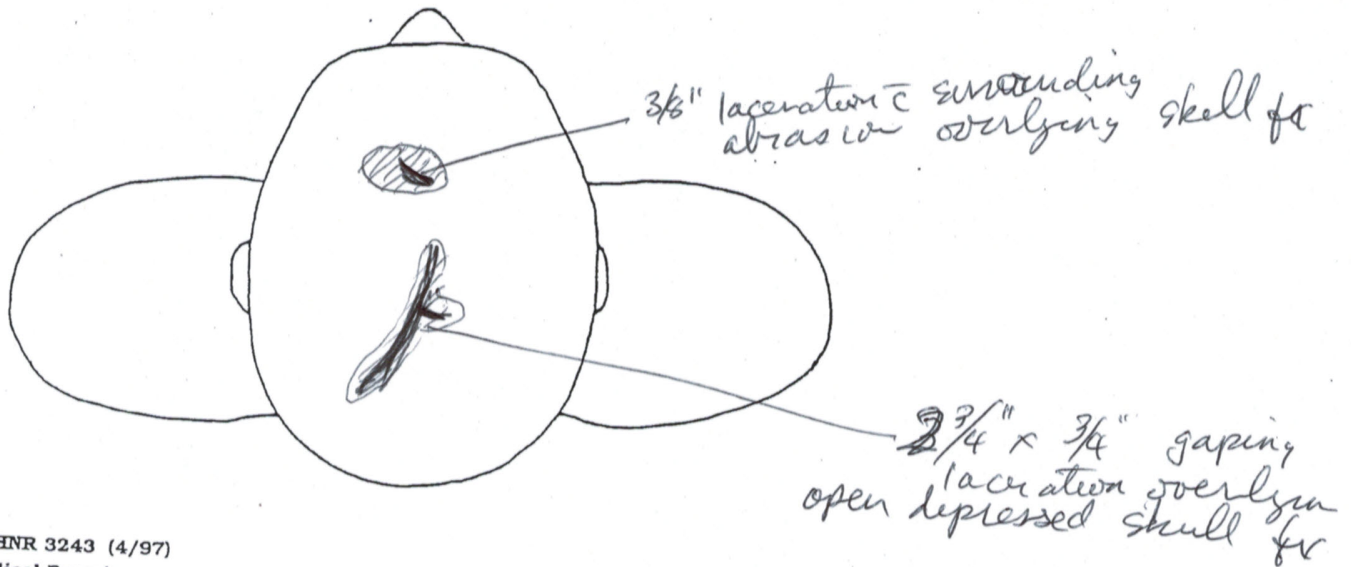
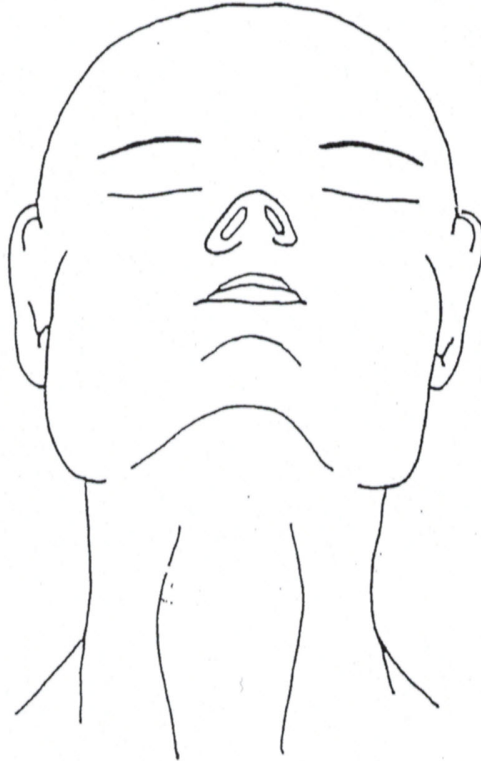
1 of 2

Indicate nature, location and measurements of wounds and other lesions (scars, tattoos, medical therapy, etc.) on these diagrams (Not to scale)

State of North Carolina  
Mecklenburg County Medical Examiner's Office  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

Name of Decedent: Hantzopoulos  
Nia Hantzopoulos  
Autopsy # B16-4753  
Examined By: JRL Date: 12/28/2016

**BODY DIAGRAM: NECK & SHOULDERS**



DEHNR 3243 (4/97)  
Medical Examiner

PAGE 2 OF 2

This form may be photocopied.