



*Consolato Generale d'Italia
Johannesburg*



Italian Research Day in the World

Johannesburg, 9 May 2025

Nicholas Bacci

Biomedical Scientist –
Forensic anthropologist



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND

Dr Nicholas Bacci, is a member of the **Human Variation and Identification Research Unit**, in the Department of Anatomical Sciences.

Nicholas Bacci specialises in craniofacial identification and forensic anthropology. While trained broadly in anatomy, biological anthropology and bone histology, his primary focus is on forensic applications. He has made significant contributions to the field, through multiple publications in **forensic facial image comparison** and **high-energy skeletal diagenesis**. His recent research has helped establish methods for forensic facial image comparison, guiding facial examiners worldwide.

INNOVATION: *Bacci's research in facial image comparison was the first set of large-scale studies to validate the currently employed methods in facial image comparison recommended by the Facial Identification Scientific Working Group (FISWG) as accurate and reliable. In his recent membership with FISWG he contributes to collaborative efforts aimed at advancing facial identification techniques and standards. His research has also garnered attention in the public sphere, with recent media features highlighting the importance of human-based facial comparison in an ever more automated field.*