



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE  
OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER**

Charles S. Hirsch, M.D., *Chief Medical Examiner*

World Trade Center Operations

520 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016

WTC Hotline: (212) 447-7884 Fax: (212) 779-1223

---

January 17, 2006

Dear Families and Friends:

In April 2005, we announced that we had exhausted the limits of DNA technology and had reached a pause in the identification process. Our commitment to identify your loved ones continues and we are happy to announce that there has been a new development in DNA technology from research undertaken at the Bode Technology Group in Virginia. The new development is an improved method to extract DNA from bone samples and, during the pilot tests, bone samples that previously did not yield results have now yielded DNA profiles. This development is an exciting step forward in our efforts to identify your loved ones and we are pursuing the advantages of the new technique on a large scale.

In April, we also sent out a Notification Request Form to inform us of your wishes should new DNA technology yield new identifications. Our dedication to you and your wishes continues in this new phase of testing. Unless you have already done so, please sign and return the completed form to us.

Please do not hesitate to call (212-447-7884) or visit if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Hirsch, MD  
Chief Medical Examiner