Final Report

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Project Title: *Preparing a Large Roman Period Skeletal Collection from Austria for Curation in Calgary: Phase II*

1.1 Project Summary

Bioarchaeological research involves the careful analysis of skeletal remains to understand the health, lifestyles, and experiences of past populations. In Canada, many bioarchaeology trainees lack the opportunity to work directly with real archaeological remains, and researchers often travel abroad to study international collections. In close collaboration with the Austrian government and archaeological officials, this project secured the loan of a significant archaeological collection to Dr. Gilmour (Anthropology) for research and instructional purposes. Eventually, Dr. Gilmour hopes the collection will be accessible to qualified bioarchaeological researchers from MRU, across Canada, and internationally.

1.2 Project Outcomes and Impacts

This SSHRC Explore funding was crucial in the development of an archaeological assemblage for both research and teaching at MRU. The project was carried out in close collaboration with Austrian representatives and fosters valuable opportunities for continued research and experiential learning in bioarchaeology. Following the success of this SSHRC Explore grant, Dr. Gilmour (PI) secured an SSHRC Insight Development Grant to further investigate activity and pathology in the assemblage using innovative imaging techniques. Students have been, and will continue to be, involved in the curation and research aspects of this project through Research Assistantships, Honours Theses, volunteer roles, and a newly developed experiential learning course. The SSHRC Explore funding has also indirectly supported numerous research initiatives, many of which have led to national presentations, public outreach and engagement, and will ultimately result in peer-reviewed publications. Thanks to the SSHRC Explore funding, this project will have a lasting impact on bioarchaeological research and education in Canada, providing ongoing opportunities for collaboration, training, and outreach.