
EDITORIAL

Against the background of the rapidly approaching date for the start of the triennial IOFOS International Conference on Forensic Odontology 2017, Leuven, Belgium, a request for presentations, either oral or poster, and corresponding research papers was sent out. The response to this request was beyond expectation, demonstrating that the field of forensic odontology is both global and diverse particularly in terms of research projects. The vast majority of forensic odontologists take on their forensic work in addition to existing clinical commitments. The inference is that the field of forensic odontology is more of a passion and a calling rather than merely an occupation or profession. This is borne out by the fact that the majority of the 150 international delegates attending the conference in Leuven will be present by virtue of their personal financial commitment to attend. This personal commitment will inevitably result in an interest to further progress the discipline of forensic odontology particular in terms of contributions to future research and best practice.

Thank you to all of the presenters and the authors for sharing their work and experiences. The common theme is one of a creative mind and a critical approach. This is evident in all of the contributions and will hopefully serve as an example to inspire and motivate all forensic odontologists particularly our new or younger colleagues. These and future odontology projects will hopefully arouse the interest of a multi-disciplinary audience including among others, forensic scientists, dentists, medical doctors, lawyers, magistrates, non-governmental organization members, and the police. "Joined up" forces are needed for an optimal approach in every case.

Striving to achieve quality assurance will be a highlight of the 2017 conference. New IOFOS working groups were set up in June 2016 to review the previous IOFOS quality assurance recommendations established in 2008. The result of each IOFOS working group will be presented and discussed throughout the 2017 conference in Leuven.