

20 Years Anniversary of the Chair of Forensic Dentistry at University of Zagreb, 1997 . 2017

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ORAL PRESENTATION
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ABSTRACT

Chair for Forensic Dentistry at the School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb was founded in 1997 as a result of abundant experience gained during the identification of the victims of the Homeland war in Croatia (1991-1995), education at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm (1994), and with the support of the head of the Department of Dental Anthropology (professor Zvonimir Kaić at the time), and the Dean of the School of Dental Medicine (professor Vjekoslav Jerolimov at the time).

According to the current trends in the forensic sciences, the dental school curriculum was changed in a way that the subject "Forensic medicine and criminology" was substituted with "Forensic dental medicine". The subject had 30 hours of teaching, and was based on the guidelines of Scandinavian and American schools with local (Croatian) experience.

From the founding until today, the Chair is led by the same person (professor Hrvoje Brkić), but during the twenty years it was enriched by three more teachers (Assistant Jelena Dumančić in 1999, Assistant Marin Vodanović in 2005, and Assistant Ivana Savić Pavičin in 2012). Visiting professor Tore Solheim from the University of Oslo took part in the education of the whole staff from 2008 until 2012. Today, the Chair and its teachers take part in three study programs: integrated undergraduate and graduate program Dental medicine, postgraduate specialist program and postgraduate doctoral program. Courses and trainings in forensic dental medicine is a part of a lifelong learning of doctors of dental medicine. Scientific and publishing activities of the Chair are based on scientific projects and include identification techniques, dental profiling and expertise in dentistry. Founding of the Croatian Association of Forensic Dentists 20 years ago and the activities of the staff had contributed to the international recognition inside the International Organization of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology.

The presence of the Chair for the last 20 years was proven as needed in the education of dental medicine students, their graduation theses, and in solving cases from the field of forensic dentistry as well.