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Impressum

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Dear Readers,

The first Newsletter of 2015 will inform you about several activities of the IOFOS and the national organizations. In the last month since publishing the previous last newsletter, tragedies took place all over the world. The crash of the Germanwings flight in the Alps of France and the severe earthquake in Nepal were two of the most prominent incidents. Several other accidents took place. The identification of the victims is an important part of the work afterwards. The specialists in forensic odontology play an important role and prove the need for expert qualification in this field. In the next few years the development of forensic genetics will advance rapidly. DVI missions will become a great interaction of several specialists. So the annual meeting of the Interpol Standing Committee on DVI in Lyon is a very good place to get transfer of news, new developments and to establish a strong network between the several national DVI-Teams. A report of the last meeting is included in this newsletter.

The most recent meeting of the International Academy of Legal Medicine in Dubai shows that forensic odontology covers other fields too, e.g. malpractice f. The newsletter provides a short report back about this meeting. Information about the IALM meeting in Venice next year is included at the end of this newsletter. Last but not least the colleagues from Australia are inviting you to an interesting meeting in November this year when it is spring time on the other side of our globe.

Yours,

Ruediger Lessig
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I’d like to open the President’s page with the usual welcome the new IOFOS members: I’m pleased to communicate that ABOL (Brazilian Association of Forensic Odontology) has recently joined the IOFOS family.

During this newsletter preparation the editor asked the presidents of IOFOS member societies to describe their annual activities and some interesting reports following.. I warmly recommend this regular reporting since the forensic odontology community is small and sparsely distributed worldwide so maintaining contacts and sharing information is vital. Member Societies that have not yet reported are invited to send their reports for the next IOFOS newsletter. Regular reports and announcements or information about international and national conferences are strongly encouraged and IOFOS will be happy to disseminate the information.

At the moment IOFOS is expanding connections with other international societies of forensic and legal medicine and committed to organizing an intense program of conferences and symposia that will involve IOFOS in 2016 and 2017. IOFOS will hold a one-day conference during the intersocietal symposium promoted by IALM that will be held in Venice 21-24th June 2016. Moreover IOFOS will organize a workshop dedicated to expert witness and testimony in court of the forensic odontologist. The next IAFS symposium will take place 21-25th August 2017 in Toronto and the theme is “Inter-Professional Collaboration in Forensic Science”. IOFOS is traditionally involved in the IAFS meeting and further information will be regularly given through the IOFOS website and newsletters. Moreover IOFOS under the leadership of Patrick Thevissen is planning the triennial IOFOS international conference that will be held at the Leuven Catholic University, 14-16 September 2017. Some workshops dealing with the most relevant topics of forensic odontology will take place and we hope that numerous colleagues and delegates have already saved the date on their agenda.

A restyling of IOFOS website is on-going and I invite all member societies to check their reference data and to communicate possible updates to our webmaster who is struggling to complete the construction of the website..

Despite the torrid summer in Europe, I add my warmest regards

Vilma Pinchi
In the previous months the software used to manage the evaluation and publication process of manuscripts submission for publication in the Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology failed to work. The biggest issue was that a considerable time elapsed before recognizing that a problem existed. The system failed to alert the appropriate persons that new submissions had been received. At the moment we are still working to find a solution to the problem. Therefore I would like to sincerely apologize to those of you who have recently submitted a manuscript which, for the reasons outlined above, will unfortunately be subject to a delay before consideration for publication. We are doing our utmost to solve the problem and it is our aim to get things back on track at the latest by 15th July 2015. Please contact me after this date at patrick.thevissen@med.kuleuven.be if you suspect that your submission has not been acknowledged and processed by then. Despite and because of this serious problem we are trying to upgrade the status of the Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology. Firstly the editorial tasks became easier to handle since Dr. John Rosie, United Kingdom, became Assistant Editor of JFOS. Secondly, by extending the editorial board with three new international members the reviewing process will be improved. Dr. Sang-Seob Lee, National Forensic Service, South Korea, Dr. Salem Altalie, Medical Examiner’s Office, Abu Dhabi Police GHQ and Dr. Ademir Franco, Department of Oral Health Sciences Forensic Dentistry KU Leuven, Belgium and the School of Health and Biosciences Stomatology Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paran, Brazil, were willing to join the editorial team. Each of them has provided short Curriculum Vitae reproduced below. Thirdly, continuous efforts are made to provide our journal with a significant “impact factor”. Contacts with Thompson and Reuters have been established by our secretary Dr. Francesco Pradella. Fourthly, to improve the technological profile of the website on-line publishing contacts with professional providers will be considered. In the same context possible connection with international editors (Springer, Elsevier, e.g.) will be researched. Regarding the current submission process, I want to stress that many of the corresponding authors are not submitting their manuscripts according to the required format. For the current reviewing process it is an absolute must that 2 separate word files are uploaded! Please carefully read the related instructions at http://www.iofos.eu/?page_id=98. Finally I would like to express, again, my apologies to all potential authors who were "victims" of our software problems, and I wish to all of you warm summer holidays.

Patrick Thevissen Editor JFOS
CV Dr. Salem Altalie
Dr. Salem Altalie is a Forensic Odontologist Specialist at the Medical Examiner Office, Abu Dhabi Police GHQ. He received his BA in Chemistry and Biochemistry with Honours in 2002. Thereafter, he completed his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree in 2006 at the West Virginia University, USA and practiced general dentistry in Dubai Health Authority, UAE until 2009. In 2012, he obtained his master’s degree (MSc) in Forensic Odontology at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. He gained his Fellowship in 2013 at Australasian College of Legal Medicine (FACLM), Australia. He is the representative of UAE in IOFOS and a member of Forensic Odontology Working Group in Interpol DVI. He is certified lecturer at the Police College, Ministry of Interior. He is a member of UAE DVI team and an active member of many committees such as Regional Autopsy Center at Abu Dhabi. In addition to his work he contributed to scientific research, workshops and presentations internationally.

CV Dr. Sang-Seob Lee
Sang-Seob Lee was born in Sockcho, South Korea and graduated from the Dental College of Yonsei University in 2001. He completed his Master of Dentistry at Yonsei University in 2004 and PhD in Medical Sciences at Catholic University of Korea in 2011. In 2007 he started his professional career in National Forensic Service of Korea (NFS). He was guest professor at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven from Dec 2014 to May 2015.
He is Section Head of Forensic Odontology in NFS and his territory includes the whole of South Korea where forensic odontology is involved.
He is member of many scientific societies including the Korean Society for Legal Medicine and has written more than 20 scientific articles.

CV Dr. Ademir Franco

Ademir Franco is a Dentist, Doctor in Dental Sciences (DDS – Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Brazil), Master in Forensic Odontology (MSc – Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium), and Doctoral researcher in Biomedical Sciences (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) and Stomatology (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Brazil). He is a visiting professor at the Brazilian Dental Association (ABO-GO) and state consultant to the Brazilian Association of Forensic Odontology. Currently, he is an editorial board member and reviewer of international scientific journals of forensic and basic sciences. His research and publications are focused on forensic odontology and anthropology.

Report on the Congress of the International Academy of Legal Medicine

The 23rd Congress of the International Academy of Legal Medicine took place in Dubai from the 19th - 21st of January 2015. The president of the congress Professor Fawzi Benomaran invited the participants to the modern “Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Center”. Over 900 delegates from more than 50 countries took part. After a half day opening ceremony the scientific program began with topics such as New Trends in Forensic Medical Education & Training for Undergraduates, Post-Graduates and Expert Witnesses” or “Transnational Crime Control and Security, Focus on Explosives and Drugs” and many others. Various workshops were presented, examples including “Ancestry estimation in forensic
anthropology” and “Violence against Women”. Our president Vilma Pinchi organized a session with the topic “Dental Malpractice and Liability: Ascertainment and Evaluation Criteria”. The session had very good resonance and fruitful discussion. An important point for IOFOS was the presentation of the new Medicolegal Odontology Working Group within the IALM. This is a new milestone as result of the successful work of the IOFOS in the last years. It has to be pointed out that Dubai also is interesting from tourism point of view and has not only the tallest skyscraper, the Burj Khalifa, but also the largest shopping mall in the world.

Prof. Dr. Ruediger Lessig

Report from the Interpol Standing Committee on DVI Meeting

In the first week of May, the annual conference of Interpol Standing Committee on DVI (Int SC DVI) was held in Lyon, preceded as usual by the meeting of the Working Groups of experts. Following the decisions of the last year, there are four Working Groups: Forensic Odontologists, Forensic Pathologists which includes also forensic anthropologists, DNA experts, and Fingerprint experts. The Forensic Odontology Working Group (FOd WG) which will be chaired by Alain Middleton until next year, discussed many relevant issues during two very intense sessions. The Standing Committee meeting chaired by Carlos Palhares Machado, a forensic odontologist from Brazil, had seen presentations, reports and discussion noticeably informative to the audience. Although it is not possible to exhaustively report the impressive amount of information received for different field of forensic activity, this brief summary mentions:

1- Reports about recent mass-disasters. The attendees had the opportunity to listen to very detailed and interesting reports. Air Algerie and Germanwings disasters highlighted the enormous difficulties due to the specific environmental conditions. In the Mali desert (Air Algerie 5017) the temperature, sand storms and the micro-macro fauna caused a massive early destruction of cadavers. Moreover DVI teams had to
work without electricity for some days. On the French Alps (Germanwings) the altitude, slopes of more than 45°, the wind and the possibility of landslips necessitated DVI personnel being harnessed to alpine guides.

Some presenters, including those who reported about MH 17 (Malaysian airlines), highlighted the utility and effectiveness of cards for DNA samples taken with a punch from soft tissues of bodies.

At all disaster sites the application of DVI Interpol procedures and teams composed of multi-experts from different countries handled the identification of dead bodies.

2- **Primary and secondary identifiers and DVI Interpol procedures.** As usual during both WGs’ and Int SC’s DVI meetings a relevant part of presentations and discussion dealt with identifiers, procedures and standards. The role of secondary identifiers in confirming identity was stressed by many commenters as well the need of international standards for primary identifiers. For fingerprints the number of matching points considered sufficient for identifying a subject, was reported to vary in different countries or sometimes from an expert to another. Some presentations reported about mock disasters and exercises that took place in different countries to experiment with procedures, new technologies and to update forensic and police personnel deployed in mass disaster response and DVI activity. Brazil scheduled a series of exercises looking forward to the Olympic Games of 2016.

3- **Technologies.** The meeting offered participants an update about the latest innovations of Plass data software. Worth mention is the new function that allows the upload of fillable forms (pdf file) directly in the software without time-consuming copying down of data from paper forms to software. In the column 2”b” and “c” it is now possible to write unlimited text and Plass data is working to improve the interface for uploading X-rays, specifically 3d X-Rays (CBCT, CT, etc). Some researchers from Korea showed their advancements in developing free software that should be alternative to Plassdata. During FOD WG’s meeting, colleagues from US, reported their efforts in promoting a software interface that allows the exchange between US DVI software (FAST-ID, e.g.) and Plassdata.
4. **Connections.** This year Dr. Calfon, chair of the ISO TC 106/subcommittee 3 was invited to participate in the FOd WG meeting. He underlined that TC 106 is related to “dental terminology” and the subcommittee 3 “Oral identification” aims to establish standards for dental terminology in oral identification. Different opinions were expressed about the involvement of Interpol FOds WG in this process and Alain Middleton was charged to take information through an official enquiry to ISO TC 106/sub Comm.3

Personally I found the meeting very interesting and informative as usual, and the sojourn in Lyon was an even greater delight than in previous years especially because of the excellent dinner at a wonderful restaurant in the historical heart of the city that Susan Middleton organized to perfection. The dinner gave us the opportunity to chat and relax with colleagues and friends that have few chances to meet sometime and somewhere at international conferences or sadly on the site of a disaster.

**Vilma Pinchi**

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**From the National Societies**

**Report from ProOF (Progetto Odontologia Forense)**

The association Pro.O.F. (Pro.O.F. is the acronym for Progetto Odontologia Forense, or Forensic Odontology Project) is by far the largest Italian society for forensic odontology with a certified number of 300 members. Membership is reserved for those who have achieved the Master Degree in Forensic Odontology at the University of Firenze or those who can show a special and certified competence in the field. The membership can be maintained only following the continuing education program which is offered yearly by the association in the field of forensic odontology and legal dentistry with the participation of renowned Italian and foreign experts.

To cite the most recent and relevant cultural and professional international events set up by the association we can say that after the successful Firenze 2013 IOFOS Congress, as already reported in recent IOFOS newsletters, a two day seminar in Forensic Odontological and Anthropological Age Estimation of the dead bodies and the living was been held in Firenze
in September 2014, with the participation of Prof. H. Brkic from Croatia, Prof. E. Cunha from Portugal, Dr. R. Cameriere from Italy and 150 attendees, a very encouraging number that attests to the value of the cultural project offered by the association and the interest of the colleagues in developing a continuous cultural and scientific update in the subject. In March 2015 a session has been held about the medico-legal issues of Medication Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaws, a very important and scientifically evolving topic.

In June 2015, a course was held in Firenze on Medical and Dental Litigation, with the participation of lecturers from Italy and of Yvo Vermeylen, from the Catholic University of Leuven, who gave a lecture on the Fault and No-fault Legal Systems.

In September 2015 a ProOF event will be held with the topic of Forensic Odontology Identification in Mass Disasters with the participation of foreign internationally renowned experts in the field, namely Dr. P. Sahelangi, from Indonesia, and Dr. S. Knott, from Australia. ProOF is the only scientific society in Italy which offers educational programs in the field of Human Identification for its members. ProOF members regularly take part in the IOFOS DVI courses in Oslo and Reykjavik and are trained in the completion of the DVI Interpol forms and in the use of the software for the AM-PM form comparison.

ProOF cultural activity, however, is not limited to the organization of scientific events but is characterized also by an intense scientific activity and research. ProOF members regularly publish papers in international and national scientific journals and participate in international congresses with oral presentations and posters. Accordingly we remember the AAFS congresses, the IAFS event in Seoul, the IALM congress in Dubai, the recent SSHB meeting in Oxford and the congresses of AGFAD in Berlin.

Prof.ssa V. Pinchi, current president of IOFOS and a very renowned ProOF member, has been appointed as head of the Medico-legal Odontology Working Group of the inter-societal congress of IALM (International Academy of Legal Medicine) which will be held in Venice in June next year (read elsewhere in this newsletter information about this important international event).
Dr. Francesco Pradella

**Turkish Society of Forensic Osteology, Odontology & Identification (ADOK)**

Founded in 2002, ADOK operated in many different forensic sciences such as Forensic Dentistry, Forensic Osteology and Identification in Turkey.

Our President Dr. Hüseyin Afsin and our Vice President Dr. A. Sadi Çağdır participated in international congress of IOFOS in Florence in August of 2013, and later participated in the 16th International Symposium on Dental Morphology (ISDM) and the 1st IAPO Symposium held in Zagreb in August of 2014. On behalf of our association, we would like to thank President Vilma Pinchi and Vice President Hryoje Brkic for these two magnificent meetings.

In 2014, with the collaboration of Ankara University, a 5-day forensic dentistry training course was presented by Dr. Afsin and Dr. Çağdır. Dr. Afsin presented a 4-day applied and theoretical course to the crimescene investigation policemen of the Turkish National Police Criminal Department in Ankara. With the collaboration of the Bar of Istanbul, a malpractice themed meeting was held for the forensic dentists and legal officers.

After the tragic coal mine disaster in Manisa’s Soma district in 13th of May, 2014, a DVI unit took part in the identification of victims under the leadership of Dr. Yalcin Buyuk.
A Turkish Atlas of Dental Age estimation was completed by Dr. Afşin and his co-authors and will be published by ATK (Council of Forensic Medicine) this year. As ADOK, we will hold a national meeting on identification with the collaboration of Forensic Scientists Foundation in May of 2016.

Dr. Hüseyin Afşin Ph.D.
President, Society of Forensic Osteology, Odontology & Identification (ADOK)
The 16th International Symposium of Dental Morphology and the first conference of the International Association for Paleodontology (ISDM IAPO 2014) were held in Zagreb, at the Westin Hotel, between 26th and 30th August 2014.

During these conferences, a satellite symposium in Forensic Dentistry was also held. The conference organizers were the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, the International Association for Paleodontology – IAPO and the Croatian Association of Forensic Stomatologists. The principal initiator and president of the organizing board was the head of the Department of Dental Anthropology Assistant Professor Marin Vodanović.

This year the conference was integrated for the first time with the satellite symposium in paleodontology and with the symposium on forensic dentistry, which has drawn numerous experts in those areas. Professor Tore Solheim - past president of IOFOS, Professor Vilma Pinchi - president of IOFOS, Helen Liversidge from UK, Roberto Cameriere from Italy, Sven
Richter from Island, fellow forensic scientists from Norway, Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia- all these esteemed colleagues actively participated in the Symposium on forensic dentistry.

The conference main topic was *The Importance of Teeth Morphology in Identification and Construction of Dental Profile*. There were 206 participants at the conference from 36 countries: dentists, forensics, anthropologists, paleontologists and archeologists. A total of 80 lectures and 70 posters were presented. Apart from this rich and diverse scientific and professional programme, all sorts of social events were also organized, such as welcome cocktails at the Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb, paleoparty in the courtyard of the Archeological Museum, visit to the Krapina Neanderthal Museum, and gala dinner in the Mimara Museum.

On 22 November 2014 the Croatian Association of Forensic Stomatologists and School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, held a one-day symposium with the following title: *How to prevent objections and complaints of patients*. The symposium was intended for lifelong education of dentists. Lectures were presented by forensic odontologists, judges, ethicists and representatives of the health insurance fund.

Hrvoje Brkic
brkic@sfzg.hr

Professor Vilma Pinchi and professor Tore Solheim as moderators of scientific presentations on ISDM IAPO 2014
French Association of Forensic Odontology

It has been a particularly intense year in terms of tragedy for our country and for the AFIO.

- The 24th of July 2014, the Ouagadougou to Algier 5017 flight crashed in Mali, with 116 victims, including 54 French persons. The Institute of Criminal Research of the Gendarmerie Nationale and the Police immediately provided ante mortem and post mortem committees respectively in the city of Rosny-Sous-Bois and in the Malian desert. It was a real “DVI in a war zone”.

115 of the 116 victims were rapidly identified, mostly thanks to genetic and odontologic information.

- The AFIO’s Congress gathered a large qualified assembly in Orleans on the 18th and 19th of September. The presence of the odontology team from the Judicial Sciences and Legal Medicine’s laboratories, with Doctor Dorion, specialist in bite mark analysis from Montreal and also Professor Lessig from Halle and the AKFOS president were particularly appreciated.

- The AFIO has been represented:
  *In Locarno, Switzerland, during the annual meeting of the Italo-Belgo-Franco-Suisse Legal Medicine’s Association, on September the 18th and 19th,
  *during the IAFS/IOFOS Congress in Seoul, on the 12th to the 18th of October, with the participation of two speakers and the election of a new committee,
  *At the AKFOS Congress on the 18th of October, in Mayence, where we paid tribute to our departed colleague Doctor Rötzscher,
  *At the Dental Association Congress in Paris at the end of November to represent the activities of our association at the AFIO stand,
  *During the odontostomatological identification days in Munich from the 2-5 December
  * During the UIO’s day (Odontologic Identification Unit) on February the 5th, at the Dental Surgeon’s National Conseil de l’Ordre, in Paris,
  *At the Montreal Congress on May 2015, we participated at a training of Dental Law, during a day, organized by Doctor Sylvain Laforte.

After the Charlie Hebdo’s attacks and before the Bardo’s in Tunis, 2 broadcasted tragedies gathered many members of the AFIO’s association.
- The first one was the air crash that occurred during the recording of “Dropped” a reality show, on March the 10th in Argentina. The 10 victims included 2 Argentinian pilots, 3 famous athletes and 5 reporters and technicians from the French television channel TF1. Once again, thanks to the organization of an ante mortem committee in Rosny and the presence of a team on site, the victims’ identification was confirmed speedily.

- On March the 24th, some days after the above tragedy, the Germanwings 4U-9525’s flight crashed in the Massif of Trois Evêchés, in the Haute Provence Alps, with 150 victims of 18 different nationalities. As with the previous disasters, the same emergency procedure was been applied. Within weeks, a particularly efficient team was busy in Rosny while a second one was on the spot in Seyne des Alpes, as part of an international corporation, especially with our German and Spanish homologs.

- The 150 victims were identified and their bodies returned to their families. Once again, we note the efficiency of genetic methods, digital prints, odontology and the importance of the international and interdisciplinary Corporation.

Dr. Guy COLLET
Dr. JM.HUTT

**Australian Society of Forensic Odontology**

Dear All,
I would like to remind you about the Australian Society of Forensic Odontology Symposium being held in Darwin Australian from 5th - 7th November 2015. We have a fabulous line up of speakers including Dr David Senn, Dr Bryan Found, Dr Sigrid Kvall, Dr Helena Ranta, Prof Carol Henderson and Ms Anna Davey. I am sure that you are familiar with many of these names.

Dr David Senn is the Director of the Center for Education and Research in Forensics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and is the Chief Forensic Odontologist for the Bexar County (Texas) Medical Examiner’s Office. He is a Diplomate and Past President of the American Board of Forensic Odontology (ABFO), a Fellow in the
Dr. Senn is the co-editor of Forensic Dentistry, 2nd Edition (2010) and the co-editor of the Manual of Forensic Odontology, 5th Edition (2013). He has published multiple journal articles and book chapters in the field of forensic odontology. He has taught regional, national, and international forensic courses and has testified as a forensic odontologist in criminal and civil cases in state and federal courts in the United States and before the Supreme Court of Norway. November is a perfect time to visit the northern Territory in Australia.

For further information please visit our website www.asfos.com.au

Dr. Jenny Ball
We concisely report the activities of the German Society of Forensic Odontostomatology (AKFOS). The German Society was involved in several DVI missions in the first month of this year. One DVI mission took place after the Germanwings crash in the French Alps. Several colleagues of our society participated as members of the DVI Team to support our French colleagues in collecting and transferring the dental AM-data from the German victims. A second mission was necessary after the earthquake in Nepal. At the beginning of May a small DVI Team was sent out to Kathmandu after possible German victims were found. It was a really different mission, but successful at the end.

Prof. Dr. Ruediger Lessig
The 2016 Symposium of the International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM) will be held in Venice 21-24 June, at Lido di Venezia Congress Center whilst workshops will be held at San Servolo Congress Center on San Servolo island.

With the main theme Medicine and Justice. Innovation-Unitariness-Evidence, the symposium will be articulated in sessions on very interesting subjects, and among which forensic pathology and anthropology on the dead person, clinical legal and forensic medicine on the living, damage evaluation, malpractice, personal identification and forensic odontology.

IOFOS officially participates in the event as one of the scientific partners and by organizing a one-day conference dedicated to Forensic Odontology and a Workshop on “Expert Witness and Writing a Report in Forensic Odontology - Body Identification and Age Estimation”. The IOFOS Board invites all forensic odontologists to attend the symposium and submit abstracts before the established deadline of 31st December 2015.