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IMPRESSUM

PRESIDENT OF THE IOFOS
Professor Hrvoje Brkic
DMD,MSc, PhD
University of Zagreb,
School of Dental Medicine
Department of Dental Anthropology
Chair of Forensic Dentistry
Gundulićeva 5, HR-10000 Zagreb
e-mail: brkic@sfzg.hr
web page: www.brkic.eu

EDITOR OF THE NEWSLETTER
Associate professor Marin Vodanovic, DDM, MSc, PhD
University of Zagreb, School of Dental Medicine
Department of Dental Anthropology
Gundulićeva 5, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia
e-mail: vodanovic@sfzg.hr
web page: www.marinvodanovic.com

PROOF READER
Dr Zephné Bernitz
BVSc (Pret)
P.O.Box 1276
Middelburg
Mpumalanga
1050 South Africa
E-mail: bernitz@iafrica.com

COVER PHOTO: Basilica di sant’Antonio di Padova, Italy - detail from an exhibition dedicated to immigrants (May, 2018)
Dear Readers,

I wish you a warm welcome on pages of the new issue of IOFOS newsletter. The period from our last issue released in December 2017 was very fruitful and rich with various activities of our members. In this issue you can find some reports from forensic meetings held in the last months in different parts of the world. Details about future forensic meetings in Australia, Brazil, India, and the Netherlands are also provided. Regarding a meeting in India, organized under IOFOS patronage for September this year, IOFOS ex president, prof. Vilma Pinchi will lecture on quality assurance in forensic dentistry and will organize a preconference workshop on age estimation with dr. Giulia Vitale.

It is nice to see that School of Dentistry of RibeirãoPreto, Brazil celebrated the graduation of more than 100 forensic odontologists enrolled in the Forensic Odontology Specialization. This programme is coordinated by Prof. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva. Forensic dentistry in Brazil has a bright future and this good practice should be analysed and if possible applied in other countries worldwide. Unfortunately forensic community lost one of its members. Dr. Nazar Hag Mahmoud "the Godfather of forensic dentistry" in Sudan who passed away in January this year.

The next issue is planned to be released in December 2018. I kindly invite all of you to submit your contributions related to forensic and IOFOS activities up to November 15th 2018. Thank you!

Yours
Marin Vodanović

Instructions for authors

IOFOS newsletter is published biannually in June and December. Contributions should be sent by e-mail to vodanovic@sfzg.hr not later than the end of the month before the month of publishing. All contributions should be in English as Microsoft Word documents. Do not include images in text. If any, images should be at the end of the text. All information about forensic dentistry such as meeting reports, news from national societies, forensic activity reports, future forensic meeting announcements, etc. from IOFOS members and member societies, as well as from other contributors are welcome. If you want to be included on IOFOS mailing list and receive the newsletter by e-mail please write to vodanovic@sfzg.hr.
Dear Readers and Members of IOFOS,

It has been nearly a half-year since we issued our past newsletter. During that time, IOFOS Board has been trying to keep up with all past developments in the field of forensic odontology.

To popularize our work, we have opened our pages on social networks Facebook and LinkedIn. We are trying to exchange all the latest news with colleagues around the world through these social networks. The number of 'likes' and page views from day to day is getting bigger.

Protocols for Quality Assurance have been completed for the following disciplines: Body identification in single case, Body identification in mass disasters, Age estimation, Dental injuries and Forensic odontology report. The protocols were placed on the IOFOS web site, and we subsequently sought to incorporate some suggestions into recommendations. The final protocols are to be published soon in the Supplement of JFOS.

The initiative of me as president and colleagues in the Executive Board has resulted in the idea of writing a university textbook "Forensic Odonto-stomatology". All the authors, about thirty of them from all over the world will write the textbook which will be divided into chapters dwelling on topics on which they built their careers. They are academics who work with students almost on a daily basis and the textbook will help students learn and download new information from the field of forensic odontology. Writing, editing and publishing of this university textbook is expected in two years. Its presentation to the wider public is envisaged during the IOFOS international conference in Dubrovnik, September 2020.

Furthermore, we were present at several international and local conferences from our area: IOFOS was the patron of the Forensic Odontology symposium Alpe Adria Pannonia during the international Forensic Medicine meeting in Croatia.

I believe that this Newsletter will be browsed over and read with pleasure in peace as it brings us a number of interesting contributions and reports from the national societies“.

With kindest regards

Hrvoje Brkic

Hrvoje Brkic

President of IOFOS

University of Zagreb
School of Dental Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia

brkic@sfg.hr
www.brkic.eu
Report on the activities of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (IAFO)

June 2017 to May 2018

The Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (IAFO) was formed in 2000 and was registered under the Indian Register of Societies in 2002. Over the past 18 years the Association has grown steadily in terms of outreach and membership and currently has 421 members. The IAFO Executive usually meets once every three months and it has met four times in the last year—twice in Bengaluru (formerly known as Bangalore) and once each in Goa and Salem.

The IAFO has an almost decade-old official publication — the Journal of Forensic Dental Sciences (commenced in 2009 and on the verge of publishing its 10th issue) — which is available at http://www.jfds.org.

Since 2002, the IAFO has been organising National Conferences almost every year, and in 2017 the 15th National Conference was held on 9-10 September at Bengaluru in southern India and attended by over 400 delegates from across the country and abroad. In addition, several workshops on forensic odontology have also been organised by various dental institutes under the patronage of the IAFO.

The National Forensic Odontology Registry (NRFO), proposed by IAFO President Dr. T. Samraj, and intended to serve as a database of oral health records for use in post-mortem dental identification, has expanded in 2017-18. These oral health records are accessible only to the IAFO when required for such a purpose, in

Figure 1: 15th national conference of the IAFO (2017) – ceremonial lamp.
INVITATION TO IOFOS MEMBER SOCIETIES

The next conference of the IAFO is its 1st International and 16th National Conference and will be organised in Goa on 29-30 September 2018 and has been accorded patronage of the IOFOS (the IAFO is a member-society of the IOFOS since 2011). All members of member-societies of the IOFOS are invited to the conference.


Collaboration with willing dental practitioners and dental colleges from across India. A Memorandum of Understanding drafted for developing the NRFO has received support from several universities and private dental practitioners.

Apart from this, members of the IAFO have also been lecturing and serving as source facility in workshops and training programmes, further disseminating practical know-how amongst dentists and forensic professionals in India, as well as contributing to forensic dental case work across the country.

Figure 2: 15th national conference of the IAFO (2017) – delegates.
Figure 3: 15th national conference of the IAFO (2017) – Inauguration.
March 2018 was a special moment to USP – School of Dentistry of Ribeirão Preto, particularly to the Forensic Odontology Specialization Program coordinated by Prof. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva. After the graduation of the 9th Group, the cited Program reached the milestone of the graduation of more than 100 Forensic Odontologists. In Brazil, the Specialization Programs are regulated by the Ministry of Education and, specifically in Dentistry by Brazilian Council of Dentistry that require the maximum number of 12 students per group. So, at this moment, the history of the Forensic Odontologists qualifying from USP – School of Dentistry of Ribeirão Preto is illustrated in Figure 1.

The Program’s curriculum includes activities in all fields related to Forensic Odontology, with theoretical and practical activities, as well as some subjects related to general Criminal Sciences, so that in Brazil, the qualified dentist can work as Forensic Odontologist (in criminal, civil, labor and administrative court) and as Criminal Expert. Dentists, after their undergraduate degree, can seek a specialized degree in Forensic Odontology. Our course lasts 18 months, with activities one week per month, totaling more than 800 hours.
To commemorate this special moment, a gift pin with the phrase “We are more than 100” was prepared for the students and former students that attended the ceremony on March 24th and a special tribute was presented with the photographs of all the Forensic Odontologists who graduated at USP – School of Dentistry of Ribeirão Preto. This tribute was shared in the social media related to the Forensic Odontology Specialization Program (Facebook: @odontolegalforpusp --- Instagram: @ricardohenrique_odontolegal --- LinkedIn: Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Number of Forensic Odontologists</th>
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<td>1st Group</td>
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<td>9th Group</td>
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Figure 2, illustrates some moments of the program.

Figure 1: Forensic Odontologists graduated per Group in the Forensic Odontology Specialization Program (USP – School of Dentistry of Ribeirão Preto).

Figure 2: Some activities in the Forensic Odontology Specialization Program.
Figure 3: Tribute to the former students from the Forensic Odontology Specialization Program.
Odontobiography – providing a context

Teeth and the mouth are a rich source of information about an individual. An average dentist is able to observe this information but is usually not trained to put them in appropriate context and the observations remain useless. Someone’s biography based on analysis of the teeth and mouth is called odontobiography. It can be generated for living or dead people including skeletons of archaeological origin. Odontobiography is quite similar to dental profiling in forensic dentistry, but with a significant difference in the aim. The aim of dental profiling is to establish somebody’s identity. The aim of making odontobiography is to reconstruct the life of an individual and to provide as many details as possible of

Figure 1: Prof. Kurt W. Alt and students at the course.
her/his life by analysis of the oral environment.

Recently, the School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb in the English language doctoral (PhD) study programme, a new course entitled “Odontobiography - the basics of stomatognathic system meta-analysis” was introduced in addition to other forensic courses. This course consisted of five hours of lectures and 15 hours of practical work on skeletal materials.

A new generation of students enrolled in this course had their lectures in December 2017 at the Department of Dental Anthropology, School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb. Lecturers included Prof. Kurt W. Alt from Center of Natural and Cultural History of Man, Danube Private University and Institute of Anthropology, University of Mainz. The course was enjoyed by the students, all of them dental practitioners, who learned how to listen when teeth speak.

Figure 2: Practical work at the course.
IX Annual Meeting of SOFIA (October 18-21, 2017 – Huelva, Spain)

During October 18-21, 2017, the Sociedad de Odontoestomatologos Forenses Iberoamericanos (SOFIA) held its IX Annual Meeting at the facilities of Santa María de La Rábida, Universidad Internacional de Andalucía (UNIA), in the city of Huelva (Spain). This meeting was held in collaboration with the Asociación Española de Antropología y Odontología Forense (AEAOF) and within the framework of a new anniversary of the discovery of America, under the motto "Forensic Anthropology and Forensic Odontology, Forensic Sciences in the Service of..."
Justice”. La Rábida represents the starting point of the voyage of discovery of 525 years ago, making it the ideal setting for a new encounter between American and European scientists (Figure 1).

This was the first time that SOFIA held its annual meeting outside of the Americas (SOFIA was founded in Cordoba, Argentina, in 2009), and this congress was a meeting point between colleagues and friends from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, England, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Portugal and of course the host, Spain. The central theme of the different conferences, round tables, oral communications and posters, was the social role of the forensic odontologist and of the forensic anthropologist as experts at the service of the community (Figure 2). The plenary lectures were genuine contributions: Dr. José Antonio Lorente (Spain) inaugurated the event with his lecture "Contribution of Forensic Genetics in the Investigation of the remains of Admiral Christopher Columbus". The President of SOFIA, Dr. Gabriel M. Fonseca (Argentina), presented his lecture "Forensic Odontology: from speculation to practice" with the aim of strengthening the discipline in view of the current prevailing paradigms. Dr. Nicholas Marquez-Grant (England) presented the conference titled "Forensic Anthropology in the 21st Century: Challenges and New Technology". On the other hand, the round tables addressed a wide range of topics necessary for discussion such as "The dentist and the anthropologist in the crime scene"; "Teaching and Research in Forensic Odontology and Forensic Anthropology"; "Great catastrophes"; "Documentation and Protocols in
Forensic Anthropology and Forensic Odontology”; "Expert testimony and valuation of corporal damage in Odontostomatology”; and "Limitations to interpret trauma in Forensic Anthropology", with contributions of experts from the ten participating countries.

The twenty oral communications and the thirteen posters presented demonstrated the intense participation of those attending the scientific activity. In this context, and probably the greatest milestone of the meeting, the inauguration of the SOFIA’s Annual Award “Dr. Mario Cantín”, a tribute established by SOFIA to promote research in young scientists, was presented. After submitting their studies for review by a Committee, finally three exponents made their presentations at the closing of the Congress: "A new method to geometrically represent skin bite marks for comparison to the suspicious dentition" (Ana Molina García, Granada, Spain); "Sexual dimorphism of the human dental arch" (Laise Nascimento Correia Lima, São Paulo, Brazil) and "Attitudes, perceptions and preferences of individuals from Temuco (Chile) about denture marking" (Javier Rojas Torres, Temuco, Chile). The representative of Brazil was finally the winner of the certification and of the 300 euros awarded by SOFIA (Figure 3).

Two post-congress courses added to the intense scientific activity: "Rehydration of soft tissues in..."
mummified corpses and reversal of putrefaction processes for forensic purposes", presented by Dr. Alejandro Hernández Cardenas (Attorney General's Office of the Chihuahua State, Mexico); and "Dental age estimation", delivered by Prof. Dr. Patrick Thevissen (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium) with the collaboration of Prof. Dr. Stella Martín de las Heras (University of Granada, Spain), Figure 4.

SOFIA also held its Annual Assembly at which its Executive was re-elected: Dr. Gabriel Fonseca (President), Dr. Catherine Sandoval Marchant (Chile, Vice President), Dr. Víctor Tomei (Argentina, Secretary) and Dr. Claudina Avalos (Argentina, Treasurer). This was an opportunity to also introduce the host city of the 2018 SOFIA’s Annual Meeting, the city of Iquique (Chile), next October. Spain was a beautiful occasion where the historical and the novel were combined, leading to the strengthening of the fraternal bonds between colleagues and friends from both sides of the Atlantic. There was not only the desire to continue strengthening Forensic Odontostomatology, but also to build the membership of SOFIA within IOFOS as a global entity of unity in our beloved specialty.

Figure 4: Prof. Dr. Patrick Thevissen starts the post-congress course “Dental age estimation”. This was one of the highlights of the meeting, and a demonstration of the recent approach of SOFIA to IOFOS.
Website: http://www.sofia.lat

President: Dr. Gabriel M. Fonseca
Centro de Investigación en Odontología Legal y Forense (CIO)
Facultad de Odontología, Universidad de La Frontera - Temuco, Chile

presidencia@sofia.lat
gabriel.fonseca@ufrontera.cl

Contact: contacto@sofia.lat
29th INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Conference

9th INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Conference was held in Lyon (France), from 29 - 31 May 2018 and IOFOS was represented by the Vice-President, Ruediger Lessig (Germany), and the General Secretary, Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva (Brazil). During the conference, the Forensic Odontology Sub-Working Group on DVI had its meeting on May 28th and 29th, and in the agenda was included the election for Chair and Deputy Chair. The Vice-President of IOFOS, Ruediger Lessig (Germany) was re-elected as Deputy Chair and Irena Dawidson (Sweden) was re-elected as Chair.
Croatian Association of Forensic Stomatologists and IOFOS

Hrvoje Brkić
President of IOFOS
University of Zagreb
School of Dental Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia
brkic@sfzg.hr
www.brkic.eu

The Congress of Forensic Medicine in the region of Alpe-Adria-Pannonia is held every year in one of the countries that make up this region. This year the 26th Congress was organized by University of Zagreb, Faculty of Medicine, as well as Department of Forensic Medicine, IOFOS and Croatian Association of Forensic Stomatologists.

The Congress was held in Pula from May 29th to June 2nd in a beautiful tourist resort, Park Plaza Histria on the Adriatic coast. Pula is an antic town full of monuments originating from that era, including one of the five most well-preserved Roman amphitheaters - the Pula Arena. This beautiful city hosted 120 participants from all over the world, mostly specialists in forensic medicine. The congress was opened by the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Croatia Mr. Davor Božinović.

In three days, four workshops were held: Research Focus in Forensic Medicine and How to Get This Published by Professor Roger Byard (University of Adelaide), Forensic Medicine Faces Migration by Jose Pablo Baraybar do Carmo (Forensic Coordinator in ICRC), Dental Age Assessment in Adults by Professor Hrvoje Brkić (President of IOFOS), Age Estimation Project by Professor Roberto Cameriere (University Macerata) as well as 67 oral and poster presentations.
On Friday, June 1st, a special session was held under the patronage of IOFOS. Forensic odontologists from Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, FYR Macedonia and Serbia took part in this session.

The topics of the presentations were as follows: Identification, Dental Age Assessment, Education of Forensic Odontology, Legal Aspects, Criminal Legal Aspects and Dental Examination of Torture Victims.

On Saturday all participants went on a field trip to the inner part of the Istria peninsula where they had the chance to see the Višnjjan observatory, and to visit private ranches where wines and olive oils of great quality are produced.
When West meets East

During the 24th meeting of the International Academy of Legal Medicine conference held in Fukuoka Japan from the 5th to the 8th of June 2018, Forensic dentists from the West and East shared academic experiences while enjoying fellowship and making new friends.

The meeting was attended by 600 delegates from around the globe. All aspects of forensic and legal medicine were addressed at the many lecture and hands-on sessions that were presented during the meeting.

In the session dedicated to age estimation and personal identification the invited speakers Prof’s Schmeling,
Ubelaker and Bernitz gave informative overviews in their respective fields. It was heartening to see full auditoriums during their lectures. Several other lectures and posters were presented by forensic dentists, mostly from Asia.

On the Wednesday evening of the conference a special dinner was organised for all the forensic dentists. A great time was had by all.

Although the general theme of the conference was “The new stage of Legal Medicine - From Asia to the World”, most key note speakers dedicated their talks to aspects of Human Rights and Quality Control. The message was clear, no one should be practicing forensic science in violation of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (1948 General Assembly resolution 217A) and carrying out any procedures which are not in accordance with Best International Practice and internationally recognised quality control parameters.
Dr. Nazar Hag Mahmoud
The Godfather of forensic dentistry in Sudan
“Gone but never forgotten”
12 January 1975 – 15 January 2018

Dr. Nazar Elsheikh Hag was born in Bara, Northern Kordofan State, Sudan in 1975. During his early educational years, Nazar was one of the brightest students in his school. He completed his dental degree in University of Khartoum. Upon his graduation in the year 2001, Nazar was awarded the prize for best academic performance in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Nazar worked as a general dentist in Khartoum State for three years before travelling to the United States of America in 2004. He passed the American National Board Dental Examination then returned back to Sudan in 1975. During his early experience in Khartoum. His passion for new experiences and obtaining new knowledge had always motivated him. Nazar never forgot about his home town, so when he got a chance to have a dental center he insisted on establishing it there in El bied city, his first love, and it’s called “Kordofan Dental Center”.

Nazar was clear about his interest in forensic odontology. He never stopped seeking an opportunity to train until he was accepted as a master student of...
forensic dentistry at the University of Western Cape, South Africa where he spent three years of training till he graduated in 2013. He was the first Sudanese dentist to specialize in forensic odontology. The Sudan Medical Council, in a historical moment, registered him as the first forensic dentist in Sudan.

Nazar had always believed in forensic odontology and always promoted for the new field in Sudan. Leading a campaign to shed light on the field, not only was he a leader but a mentor, guide and great supporter to every dentist involved in this field (beginning with myself!) As forensic odontology was a new field in Sudan, he decided to spend his life as an academician to share his knowledge with others. He taught at three universities. Also he liaised with the police by teaching in the Forensic Evidence Institute. Inspite of his busyness, his craving for learning never stopped. He obtained many certificates of training in many disciplines of forensic science. He also served as a vice president of the Sudanese Association of Forensic Odontology, and was a member of many different regional and international forensic odontology associations.

In November 2017, Nazar participated in a forensic conference in Saudi Arabia but returned suffering from a viral infection. Suddenly, his health deteriorated rapidly and he was hospitalized. No one saw what was coming, as no one could have expected this to be the beginning of the end. It was painful and heart breaking to see the man who spent his whole life helping and supporting people lying in an ICU bed struggling with death with only poor medical care but the support and many prayers of his friends all over the world. On Monday, 15th of January 2018, at the age of 43, Nazar passed away peacefully, just like he lived, leaving behind a pregnant wife and two children.

Nazar’s body may have left us, but his soul, passion, thoughts, smile, dignity, wisdom and dreams are still living within us, buried deeply in our hearts. He will always be remembered by us as the man who opened the door for all Sudanese who have chosen forensic odontology as a career. It was if he knew that he would be leaving us so early, hence his concerns and steps towards helping and supporting young dentists and promoting forensic dentistry among them, which make him remembered as a legend that will be honored. He truly deserved to be described as the Godfather of forensic dentistry in Sudan.
Course in computer identification and age estimation at Svalbard (Islands close to the North Pole)

Dear colleagues

We have decided to arrange a Nordic and an International IOFOS course at Svalbard again. The first was summer 2017 and was full and we think successful. Internet did in fact function as well at Svalbard as in Norway. The course is based on the Interpol DVI program “DVI system international” ver. 5, which may be used through Internet.

The course folder will be published on IOFOS Internet site and if the editor allow in this Newsletter.

The course will be in the end of February into March 2019. Then it is still winter at Svalbard but so much day light that it is possible to this unique arctic nature. The course will be held at Gjestehuset 102 as the previous. A number of excursions will be arranged, the most exclusive a snowmobile tour to the Russian mining society Barentsburg. For those who want to take the age estimation course, a dog sledge tour on the glacier will be included. We also hope conditions will be favourable to see the Northern light (aurora borealis).

The meeting fee includes the course, hotel, food and excursions. However, each participant will have to book his

Tore Solheim
Faculty of dentistry
Institute of Oral Biology
Pathology and Forensic Odontology
Oslo, Norway
solheim@odont.uio.no
own flight to Svalbard, which is not included. As you may see from the folder, there is a special arctic nature and atmosphere

This the second time a course for dentists is arranged at Svalbard. As the teachers are all emeritus, it is not sure it will be repeated. If you ever consider visiting Svalbard in connection with a course, this is the time to do so. Early registration is recommended as the course is open for everyone and as the attendance is limited, it could be fully booked early... In addition, to get cheap air ticket to Svalbard early booking may be the only way.

With kind regards from

Tore Solheim.
Fourth International Continuing Course in Forensic Odontology

Longyearbyen, Svalbard (Spitsbergen)
February 27th to March 6th – 2019

Course 1. The computer program DVI System International ver. 5
Course 2. Medical age estimation – state of the art

Lecturers:

Assoc. Professor emeritus
Svend Richter, Iceland
svend@hi.is

Professor emeritus
Tore Solheim, Norway
solheim@odont.uio.no

Inst. of Oral Biology
Box 1052 Blindern,
0316 Oslo, Norway

Professor emeritus
Håkan Mörnstad, Sweden
hakan.mornstad@forodont.se

Information from and application to:

Professor Tore Solheim
Telephone: +47-22840378
Mob: +47-41447336
Fax: +47-22840302
E-mail: solheim@odont.uio.no

APPLICATION

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION BY COMPUTER PROGRAM DVI SYSTEM INTERNATIONAL
Longyearbyen, Svalbard, February 27 to March 6, 2019
Please send the following information by e-mail to: solheim@odont.uio.no
Family name:
First name:
Postal address:
E-mail:
Home phone no:
Office phone no:
Mobile phone no:
Education:
Earlier IOFOS ID-course:
University affiliation, if any:
Course 1 only:
Course 1 and 2:
Hotel:

Want single room:
Come with spouse:

Language: English
Fee: Course 1: € 1500 Wednesday
February 27 to Monday March 4.
Course 2: € 400 Monday March 4 to
Wednesday March 6
Fee covering course expenses, accommodation, excursions and meals
Deadline for application: December 15, 2018
Hotel cancellation cannot be done after this date.
IDEALS Congress 2018 "The Importance of Dental Ethics and Law" (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)
Date: 23-25 August, 2018

1st International & 16th National Conference of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (Goa, India)
Date: September 28th – 30th 2018
More info: https://www.iafo2018goa.com/

14th Brazilian Meeting of Forensic Odontology (João Pessoa, PB, Brazil)
Date: October 18th - 20th, 2018
More info: https://contatoabol.wixsite.com/cbol2018

3rd Meeting of the Brazilian Society of Forensic Sciences (Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brazil)
Date: November 4th – 8th, 2018
More info: http://www.sbcf.org.br/congresso/

AuSFO Symposium 2019, (Sydney, Australia)
Date: October 24th – 26th, 2019

As an IOFOS member you are invited to announce your forensic dentistry meeting. For more information please write to the IOFOS newsletter editor at: vodianovic@sfzg.hr