



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY

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Impressum

URL: <http://iofos.eu>

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Editor's Page



Dear Readers,

I believe you will find some spare time to browse through the first small volume of the new IOFOS Newsletter. You may find some new and interesting information or you may be inspired with new ideas that you would like to publish in one of the following editions.

In this volume we are addressed again by the president of IOFOS, Professor Vilma Pinchi; we bring you some news from the national societies; and there is the information on the founding of the section of the Forensic Dentistry in Dental Association of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Some conferences on the forensic dentistry around the world have already been held, and there are announcements of the conferences that are yet to be held in the following months. I would like to pick out the IDEALS Congress in cooperation with the Department of Dentistry, section Forensic Odontology Catholic University of Leuven, the Flemish Society of Dental Experts and the Flemish Society of Health Law - 9th International Congress on Dental Law and Ethics, Leuven, Belgium, August, 22-24, 2012.

The closing date for the next newsletter is September 15, so please send all your suggestions, information on your work and on the work of the national associations, notifications on courses as well as information on interesting case studies to me by e-mail. In order that all the information reaches everybody interested in forensic odontology, kindly forward this newsletter to all your colleagues interested in cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experiences on a global level.

I wish you a pleasant and successful summer.

Yours,

Hrvoje Brkić


President's Page



It seems incredible to me that only few months have passed since the new Board started its adventure facing the challenge for the next years and I'm pleased to communicate that some good things have already happened in the IOFOS home. With the prompt help of the fellow societies the IOFOS database has been updated as a tool to strengthen cultural exchange and contacts. Two new national societies of Forensic Odontology started their process to become member of IOFOS and I hope we will soon welcome them into the IOFOS family.

I must highlight the great job done by Patrick Thevissen and Stefano Garatti, who have worked hard for a total restyling of Journal of Forensic Odontostomatology. An electronic format of the journal and web-based submission of papers are now available on the website of IOFOS, and such changes aim to improve and to facilitate the publishing process (submission, peer-reviewing, etc.), but also the accessing of articles. It is a great pleasure for Patrick and I to inform you that almost all of the JFOS Editorial members have gracefully renewed their willingness act as reviewers, and two new members from AAFS have recently enriched the list of members of Editorial Board. I'm sure these changes of JFOS will be welcomed by the authors that gracefully and regularly submit to JFOS, and also to the readers who follow it.

As you know the international IOFOS meeting is organized every three years and the next will be held in Florence, 29-31 August 2013. In the further pages of this newsletter the first announcement of the Congress has been included and updated information will soon appear on the IOFOS website. I'd like to take this occasion to invite the fellow societies to feel free to contact me or the IOFOS Board to make recommendations or to give advice about the scientific profile of the Congress.

In the next months some International Congresses will offer us the opportunity to meet each other and to keep in touch.

Best regards

Vilma Pinchi

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vilma Pinchi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "V".

From the National Societies

News from the Norwegian Society of Forensic Odontology

The Norwegian Society of Forensic Odontology is one of the oldest in the world and was founded in 1962, 50 years ago by Dr. Ferdinand Strøm. The society has a variable number of members, at the moment about 80. Only few are active in forensic odontology. Most are members for their own interest.

We have through the years arranged a number of courses mostly concentrating on identification. In the later years we have recommended that our members attend the IOFOS one week course in identification, and a number have done so. We have also arranged similar courses for military dentists in Norway. The military dental services have been most interested in identification and to train military dentists to be able to perform identifications. We have had good support from military dentists in identification commissions both in Norway and abroad. The last time was after the tsunami in Thailand where the military immediately sent 6 dentists to help us.

The society has changed the seat of the executive from Oslo to Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø in North Norway over the years. Until fall 2011 it was in Trondheim. Then Oslo was voted as place for the executive and I took over as leader. We hold elections every second year in connection with the meeting of the Norwegian Dental Association in early October. The present executive consists of:

1. Leader: Tore Solheim (solheim@odont.uio.no)
2. Vice leader: Mojgan Mirtaheri (mojgan_mir@hotmail.com)
3. Secretary and editor of Newsletter: Wencke Stene-Johansen (wenckesj@online.no)
4. Treasurer: Tanya Franzen (tanyaf@odont.uio.no)
5. Web master: Gregor Løvlie (gregorlovlie@hotmail.com)

All are living in the Oslo area and thus it is easier to meet for discussions. The society has always been a keen member of IOFOS and I have also acted as both President and Vice - President of the organisation in the past. We have also participated in the organisation by teaching the IOFOS Nordic course in Human Identification by Dental Means. This year we are planning the 9th course in Oslo, June 25 to 30. It is not only the teaching, but also all practical arrangements around the course which take time.

There are not very many forensic odontology cases in Norway. Mostly cases are identifications, of which most are in the Oslo area: about 50 cases a year. In the other centres they may have from 2 to 10 cases a year. The work is basically done by the dentists connected to the Norwegian Identification Team organised and administered by "Kripas", the Central Criminal Police Bureau in Oslo. In Oslo we have a special organisation of forensic odontological services. We have organised 4 teams with a leader and a vice leader which serve the Institute of Forensic Medicine for one month each on a rotational basis. In this way more dentists are involved in doing the work, and they get training in both organizational skills and performing dental identifications. Many dentists are interested and there are usually two dentists at the Institute of Forensic Medicine on each occasion. As it is also common best practice to have two persons sign the final comparison conclusion, it has been possible to allow less experienced dentists to do the practical work. We have thus avoided the protectionism which in many places makes forensic odontology a discipline which is difficult to get into into.

All identifications in Norway both after large disasters and in single cases which may not be solved by simple means (recognition or fingerprints) are under the direction of the Norwegian identification team at Kripas. The advantage of this is that the team functions more or less on a daily basis. When a disaster occurs the team is trained from single cases and knows the tasks of each specialist. In other countries where ID teams are designed to function only after large disasters which happen only rarely, the participants are not sure of their respective tasks and have little or no experience in cooperation. The total number of ID cases per year is roughly about 100 of which about 60 may be solved by dental comparisons by forensic odontologists.

Tore Solheim

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A Report from Founding Meeting of the Section of Forensic Dentistry of the Dental Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina



At the Fifth International Symposium of general dentistry on 31st March 2012, the Section of Forensic Dentistry of the Dental Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina was established. The Dental Association of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has existed successfully for many years provided support for the establishment of this section, although there is no formal specialization in this field in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The motives were a quest for new scientific and clinical knowledge, development of new technologies and a desire to exchange experiences. The Initiative Committee consisted of: Amra Vukovic PhD, Selma Zukić MSc, Anita Bajzman MSc and Aida Selmanagić. The committee and the president of the Dental Association Professor Maida Ganibegović Selimović PhD, appealed to all participants of the symposium, as well as members of the Dental Association, who are involved in areas of forensic dentistry in their scientific or professional capacity, to join this section. Support for the establishment of this section was given by Dean of Faculty of Dentistry in Sarajevo, Professor Sead Redžepagić.

The meeting was held at the Bosnian Salon of the Garden City Hotel of Konjic. There were 29 dental participants and all of them have registered for membership in the section. Electronically, we received registration forms from another 5 colleagues, so we currently have 34 registered members of the Section of Forensic Dentistry from different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The participants were welcomed by the Initiative Committee, and told about the aims of initiating the establishment of this section. Professor Hajrija Konjhodžić introduced forensic dentistry into the curriculum of dental studies in Sarajevo about 12 years ago, and now the section will now bring together dentists interested in forensic dentistry from all over the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moderator of the meeting was Professor Hrvoje Brkic, from the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb.

Professor Hrvoje Brkic introduced everyone to current legislation within the dental profession and the development of forensic dentistry in Croatia. He presented the organisation IOFOS: its new leadership, mission and vision of the organization. He invited

everyone to follow developments and information about upcoming events on the website IOFOS.

On behalf of colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina Amra Vukovic PhD thanked Professor Brkic and Marin Vodanović PhD for their support of this Section and expressed satisfaction with the number of dentists interested in joining. At the proposal of Professor Brkić, office-bearers of the Section of Forensic Dentistry at the Dental Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been elected: Selma Zukić MSc -president, Amra Vukovic, PhD-vice president and Amila Zukanović PhD- secretary general of the Section.

It was agreed that the elected office bearers will prepare the constitution and statute of the Section, plan a work program for the coming year, and will propose an Honorary Committee of the Section. We will prepare a report on the forensic dentistry contacts in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the register of members of the section. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2013.

Encouraged by the response and enthusiasm of current members we invite other dentists to join us and support the work of the Section.

You can contact us by e-mail: forendentbh@gmail.com

Report prepared by

Selma Zukić



From right to left: Hrvoje Brkić, Amila Zukanović, Selma Zukić, Amra Vuković and Marin Vodanović

American Academy of Forensic Sciences

64th yearly meeting of the AAFS (American Academy of Forensic Sciences), Atlanta, Georgia, 20- 25 February 2012

AAFS is in the US a sort of super organization over different special associations for forensic sciences in the same way that IAFS is on an international level. AAFS arrange yearly congresses in February. This year Atlanta was the venue. Next year the congress will be held in Washington DC. There are direct flights to Washington from many European countries and participation is encouraged.

One of the special associations in AAFS is ASFO (American Society of Forensic Odontology). An important part of ASFO is ABFO (American Board of Forensic Odontology). This is the association for all Board Certified forensic odontologists, so called diplomats. There is a requirement for a given number of practical cases, and you have to pass an examination before you are accepted as Board member. Only when you are a Board certified diplomat you can say you are a real forensic odontologist. Other ASFO members are only interested parties, or work to become Board certified. Tuesday February 21st a special meeting of AAFS was held and a separate registration was necessary for existing AAFS members. It is customary for a topic of interest to be chosen for the lectures which are all given by invited lecturers. This year the topic was tooth marks or bite marks as the Americans refer to them. In the middle of the day is a lunch which is included. Then their general assembly with elections is held. They also have a number of subcommittees which seem to function as opposition to IOFOS and which publish reports. Dr Mary Bush was president this past year, and now the incumbent president Jim Lewis, who was elected last year, was confirmed as president for the next year. This arrangement seems to function well. The president elect is responsible for the program of the meeting.

After words of welcome from Mary Bush and introduction of the program by Jim Lewis, lectures commenced. The first was by Jamie Ferrell who is a nurse from Houston, Texas. She has specialized in "Forensic Nursing". They treat all patients where there is something that could be of forensic importance, for example when the patient has been bitten. In 2011 they had 1590 patients with various forensic problems with ages ranging from 2 months to 103 years. For case with tooth marks they used on an average 3.5 hours. They followed the 1999 recommendations and it was these recommendations about which she talked. DNA samples were obtained using the double swab technique

where they first use a moist cotton wool swab, and then a dry cotton wool swab to sample the same area once more. This has been shown to be the most reliable method to obtain DNA samples from a bitten area. Then they make a detailed recording of the marks and compile drawings. The marks are then photographed. Both obvious marks and possible marks are registered. The marks are measured. The advantage is that they focus on tooth marks and other injuries of forensic importance. These are thus discovered and described before evidence is lost or destroyed. There is an urgent need to train nurses in “forensic nursing” all over the US, and other countries too. Too often tooth marks are first discovered at the autopsy after the patient may have been in hospital for some time.

Robert B J Dorion is from McGill university in Montreal, Canada. He is the author of a comprehensive and one of the few books about bite mark analysis. He also runs an internet course in forensic odontology. This type of course may be how future education in forensic odontology will be organized. For such a small discipline as forensic odontology with an uncertain academic basis, specialist education as in other odontology disciplines may be difficult. Dorion spoke about obtaining the evidence and the evaluation. He showed a number of newspaper clips which indicate the frequency with which people bite each other during different circumstances. He also showed animal bites. In human bites he separated so called “Class characteristics” which are characteristics of each type of tooth, “Arch characteristics” which is the dental arch and “Dental characteristics” which are special details in the mark from a single tooth. He warned against DNA contamination and the possible misleading presence of saliva of others which can be found on the body of a person who has been bitten. Especially if it is not found in direct relation to the tooth marks, such saliva does not need to be from the biter. It is important that bite marks are examined as soon as possible as they may deteriorate and heal as time goes. Photographic documentation is necessary, and should include notes on the camera and lens type with which the picture is taken. Sometimes attention to quality during taking of photo's is insufficient. Pictures should be taken perpendicular to the marks and with light from the side. One should also take pictures in UV light, infrared light and so called “alternate light”. This may make it possible to see subcutaneous haemorrhage which may be almost invisible in ordinary light. He also advocated taking serial pictures day after day, as the marks may become more distinct after a few days. He then demonstrated a fine method whereby the skin was fixed to frame by cyanoacrylate glue. Then the skin could be cut out and kept as evidence. Tattoos could also be secured this way. After this it is possible to illuminate the skin from beneath in order for the marks to be studied in translucent light. Impressions and the use

of Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) can give additional information. He showed a case where traces of a textile thread in the marks was found and indicated that it was bitten through clothes. If a person, dead or alive, has been bitten, the whole body must be examined to determine if there are more bites which may provide better evidence. The taking of an oral history in the case of living victims would describe the sequence of events and expound on the relative positions of the biter and bitten. To my mind this is important, but often ignored by American forensic odontologists as they do not want to be biased. It could also be useful to ask if the bite was made through clothes. Finally he warned against accepting too readily that marks are made by teeth. For example, could a cylinder pressed against the skin give a diffuse round mark which could be interpreted as a bite mark?

Paula Brumit from San Antonio, Texas, discussed the treatment of information by the use of "Photoshop". She found Photoshop difficult to use, but could recommend a simple instruction text called "Photoshop for morons" (Ed Photoshop for Dummies) She said it was important to preserve the original pictures intact when working with Photoshop. Then one could try to improve the picture by manipulation. She was also interested in what is called "best evidence". She recommended taking many pictures and selecting the ones that were best. If two semicircles register in the bite (upper and lower jaw), one should concentrate on one at a time. The midline should be defined and life size pictures should be made. To procure overlays one has to flip the picture around so the teeth are seen from the occlusal surface. The overlay can then be placed over the marks. It is important to be aware of from which side one sees the overlays. If more than one suspect is available for comparison she recommended the use of different colours for each. Then it is not so easy to mix the suspects.

Peter Bush (married to Mary Bush) from Buffalo, New York, talked about hypothesis driven forensic odontology research. The essence was that a hypothesis had to be formulated and the studies should prove or disprove the hypothesis. A paradigm is that the research goes in a specific direction. When this changes one can talk about paradigm shift. Based on the NAS report and a report from a subcommittee from the White House, there are 200 different directions in which research is pointed. According to the philosopher Karl Popper (1902-1994) a hypothesis can never be proven only disproved. Peter Bush has been interested in tooth marks and based on a number of experiments he has shown some of the difficulties in comparison of tooth marks with teeth. He thinks that marks from orthodontically treated patients cannot be separated. This may not be completely true as there may still be small differences in tooth position even after orthodontic treatment, however the dental arch will as a rule be even). During

comparison of different surfaces one may calculate the so called “Procruste distance” which will indicate the degree of similarity between them. He pointed out a number of unfavourable factors which may lead to distortions of the marks. He doubted that one should correct for such distortions. As a rule one does not know in which direction the distortion occurred and a correction could be erroneous.

Frank Wright who is past president ABFO discussed the analysis, conclusion and writing of report. He discussed the problem that bite mark comparisons has been called “Junk science”. He referred to an interesting book with the title “Convicting the innocent”. He said that the problem was not the science, but the expert who was not always a real expert. To characterize a bite mark he suggested using: 1 it is a bite mark, 2 it is suggestive of a bite mark and 3 it is not a bite mark. For the conclusion it is important to state whether it was an open population or a closed population. (In Norway we have always presumed the population to be open as we can never be sure whether there could have been other persons in the picture) It will be up to the police and the court to decide if the population really was closed. He also recommended the following conclusions: 1 is the biter, 2 is probable biter, 3 cannot be excluded as biter, 4 can be excluded as biter and 5 it is impossible to draw any conclusion. (In Norway we would use the following conclusion: 1 with all probability the biter, 2 probable biter, 3. possible biter and 4 excluded as biter. We do not use the conclusion that no conclusion can be drawn. However it may be said that such a conclusion could be used in a few cases). As opposed to the situation in countries with inquisitory juridical system (the expert is the expert of the court), he did not want to know anything about the background information. It is believed that the expert may become biased by such information. To avoid bias he suggested that another person examined the suspect and that the expert only made the comparison. It was advisable to obtain a second opinion to prevent bias. Good advice was also to treat the writing of the conclusion as if the suspect were your brother, Would this change the content of your report.? Finally, he believed that the bite mark should never be the only evidence a the case. I personally agree with that, especially in the US where murderers often are sentenced to death.

Steve Marshall who is attorney in Alabama gave an interesting lecture about how he viewed bite marks from the lawyer’s point of view. He started with a rhetorical question whether an ethical person could be an ethical attorney. The decisive fact for admissibility of bite mark in the court was if it was accepted by the scientific society. He thought that this was not generally the case, and was critical of the error rate: one does not know how often it is wrong. He referred to a report from the National Academy of Science (NAS) in the US where it is said that much research is necessary before bite mark comparison

could be accepted as a reliable science by the courts. The rules varied from state to state as to whether bite marks could be accepted as evidence in the court.

Tom David who is president of ABFO talked about how to prepare for a court case where you are the expert in a bite mark case. To be an expert witness requires special competence and knowledge. It is important to go through one's own report in detail and also to study others' reports in the case. All letters of correspondence should be re-read. Assess whether all is scientifically sound. Let a non dentist read your report to see if anything is difficult for a lay person to understand. In the US they have a so called "pre-trial" conference. This is important as it will be decide which parts of the experts evidence will be cross-examined in the real case. At the same time the attorney and defence lawyer get a better understanding of the value of the evidence in the expert's reports. He recommended that in response to questions one should answer first, and then give the reasons. In response to cross examination you should do the opposite; give the reasons first and then the answer. This was because the opposing party could stop the line of questioning after you have answered and you would not be allowed to give your reasons. The answer could appear to be hanging in the air and not appear trustworthy.

At the cross examination it is not wise to argue with the lawyer. Be well prepared and try to anticipate the questions. You may read what you have written in the report. A correct answer is more important than a quick answer. The lawyer may try to urge you to express yourself in a different way than in the report. It is however, recommended to stick to your explanation and not change it. A few good tips included the following:

1. Be your self
2. Work within your own personality
3. Be honest
4. Make sure your written report is correct
5. Keep to the evidence
6. Admit simple mistakes
7. Use a good analysis
8. Look at the jury/judges
9. Do not cross your arms

Bob Barsley is forensic odontologist and "president elect" of AAFS. He is a past-president of ABFO. He attempted to put bite marks into perspective. He has 35 years experience and bite marks analysis has only a 40-year history in the US. He has experienced most trends. Guidelines have been introduced and vanished. Today is the emphasis on education and ethics. In his opinion you need at least 10 000 hours of work

to become a real expert. Today information technology has completely changed both the investigations and presentations. He finally recommended that one ought rather to use bite marks to yield reasons for inclusion or exclusion of a suspect.

Adam Freeman is chairman of the bite mark committee in ABFO. He related that recently the minimum number of cases handled before one could be assessed for the Board examination to become a diplomat, was increased from 2 to 7 cases. All Board certified diplomats must now be tested every 5 years to maintain the license.

Tore Solheim

Italian Association of Forensic Odontology

A REPORT FROM THE FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY SYMPOSIUM – 24-26 NOVEMBER 2011, FIRENZE, ITALY

The Italian Association of Forensic Odontology - ProOF (www.proofweb.eu) and the Italian National Association of Dentists - ANDI (www.andi.it) organized a symposium on forensic odontology in Firenze from 24-26th November 2011. The president of the meeting was Prof. Gian-Aristide Norelli, who is president of ProOF and Chair of the Italian Committee of University Professors of Legal Medicine. The symposium was held under the patronage of the University of Firenze, of the SIMLA (Italian Society of Legal Medicine), and with the participation of eight dental scientific societies.

The meeting was structured as a consensus conference and the scientific sessions were dedicated to two important and relevant subjects: age estimation in sub-adults and the specific issues that have arisen due to the dental treatment of patients exposed to Biphosphonates. Two different working groups, which had been active in study and research for more than one year, participated and presented to the symposium a final document containing recommendations in respect of the two topics of the meeting. Thirty speakers and some keynote lecturers contributed to the congress proceedings. The scientific sessions dedicated to age estimation included participation by two very well known expert forensic odontologists and members of IOFOS: Prof. Tore Solheim, from Oslo, gave a presentation on age assessment in adults and reported about IOFOS guidelines for quality assurance; Prof. Patrick Thevissen, from the Catholic University of Leuven, gave a lecture on the extensive research performed at his university on dental age estimation in sub-adults. Following these presentations, Prof. Ivan Nicoletti, from the University of Firenze, lectured about skeletal age assessment for judicial purposes; Prof. Vilma Pinchi, also from the University of Firenze, analyzed the legal and ethical issues related to the age estimation procedures. Then, Prof. Roberto Cameriere, from the University of Macerata, as a discussant, and Vilma Pinchi as a chairman, led in depth round table discussion which enabled many speakers and registrants to share experiences, ask questions and express opinions. It became evident that in Italy, age estimation is often relegated to the mere evaluation of the hand and wrist bone maturation, even in the cases where it is necessary to assess the achievement of the threshold age of 18 years. At the end of the scientific sessions, a final document concerning the age assessment in living sub-adults was approved by the Congress (see

below). As has been made clear in the introduction to the recommendations, the procedures indicated must be intended as a minimum standard in the procedure for the age estimation of children and sub-adult individuals.

Some excellent shared meals in Firenze presented a great opportunity to establish contacts and share ideas within the forensic odontology community.

Vilma Pinchi

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE AGE OF SUBADULTS (translated by the Author)

1. The age assessment of a young sub-adult should aim to assess:
 - The most probable age of the individual
 - The achievement of a specific age threshold if required
 - The compatibility with the declared age or other available age, if any
2. All the biological and documentary evidence useful for the purpose of age assessment should be investigated
3. The presence of actual or previous pathological conditions which could affect the growth and the age assessment procedures and results should be considered.
4. When possible, a physical examination of the individual should be performed to estimate the degree of physical development and to collect a thorough anamnesis aimed at disclosing any possible pathology affecting the growth process
5. A radiological estimation of the skeletal and dental age is always necessary in all cases excepting in those cases in which radiological examination is contraindicated for medical reasons.
6. The choice of the body parts to examine and the estimation methods to be applied must be appropriate and scientifically based
7. It is advisable to adopt two different methods for the estimation of the skeletal and the dental age in all cases as this procedure can decrease the standard deviation or increase the probability that an age threshold will be accurately estimated.
8. The operators who provide the estimation must be adequately trained and experienced in age estimation procedures and methods.

9. The final report of the investigation for the age estimation directed to the Applicant must clearly indicate: the separate results of the dental and skeletal estimations; the methods applied; the error affecting the applied methods (SD, inter-operator variability, possibility of false negatives and positives, etc.); presence of conditions which can possibly decrease or affect the reliability of the methods applied (ethnic origins, nutritional or environmental factors, development pathologies, etc.); the probability of the estimated age and the compatibility of other available ages (registered or declared – see recommendation 1) with the examined biological evidences.
10. A final and overall estimation of age as a synthesis of the age estimation derived from the skeletal and dental evidences should be provided if possible.

Meetings in 2012



21th INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON FORENSIC MEDICINE ALPE – ADRIA – PANNONIA

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In behalf of Organizing Committee and Department of Forensic Medicine, Sarajevo, I'm pleased to announce that the 21st International Meeting on Forensic Medicine Alpe-Adria-Pannonia will be held from 30th May to 2nd June 2012 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The issue of missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to burden their families and affect the reconciliation process. Significant progress has been made in locating and identifying missing persons. However, thousands of families remain without information about their beloved relatives. Forensic medicine experts are facing this problem and its large part of our job. Therefore we decided that the main topic of the Meeting will be:

Exhumation-Examination-Identification

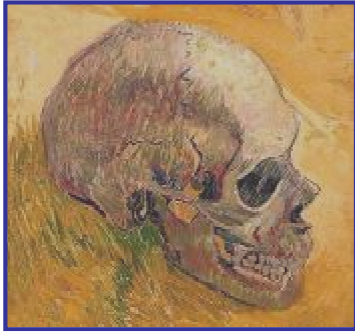
Besides the main topic, topics from all other forensic fields are welcome.
The official language will be English.

Updates of information can be found on our webpage:

<http://www.forensic-sarajevo.org/aap2012/>

Nermin Sarajlić

President of the Organizing Committee



9th International Course in Forensic Odontology - Personal Identification by Dental Methods

June 25th to June 30th 2012, Oslo, Norway

This course will take place in Oslo, Norway June 25 to June 30 this year. Announcement and further details are found on the website of IOFOS www.iofos.eu.

The course is the only one which is based upon the Interpol system of identification, both with forms and the use of computer program DVI System International. This system and the computer program seem, after the tsunami identifications, to have been established as the system to be used after disasters where the victims are of several nationalities. A number of countries have purchased the computer program and thus will be working according to the same system even after national disasters and perhaps also in single cases.

The course will give a theoretical background for dental identification work. In addition, hands on experience with examination of teeth and registrations for identification using the Interpol forms will be given. A training session using of DVI System International in a mock disaster is arranged. We will visit the Institute of Forensic Medicine and be present at a forensic medical autopsy and the participants will be allowed to make registrations of the teeth and take radiographs as in a real identification case. A visit to the National Criminal Bureau (Kripes) with orientation about the Norwegian ID commission, international cooperation through Interpol and the missing persons register will be arranged.

If you consider entering into identification work either on a national level or internationally, or have some experience but want to become more professional, this course is highly recommend. Experience have shown that candidates from the course have been used with good results by the different police force and forensic pathologists around the world.

Tore Solheim

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9th International Congress on Dental Law and Ethics, Leuven, Belgium, August, 22-24, 2012

IDEALS Congress in cooperation with Department of Dentistry, Section Forensic Odontology Catholic University of Leuven, the Flemish Society of Dental Experts and the Flemish Society of Health Law

The main theme of the congress is "INSURANCE and claim handling"

The main topics of the congress will be: health care insurance, liability insurance, pPatient rights, the legal aspects of dental expert investigation (civil and criminal law), and ethics.

Healthcare Insurance: Right to Health care - affordable dental care? Dental tourism and legal consequences.

Liability insurance and related topics: malpractice, evaluation of dental damage, Quality control, standard of care, the role of the expert-witness and the dental advisor of insurance companies.

Legal aspects of Forensic odontology: Collecting information and confidentiality , liability of the forensic odontologist, Legal problems related to Disaster Victim Identification etc...

Patient rights: quality of services, free choice of practitioner, informed consent, well kept dental dossier, privacy, right to complain, etc....

Ethics: Professionalism in dentistry, Right to health care, Patient rights, Duties of the practitioner,.....

Practical information

1. The congress venue

"The Faculty Club", situated on the edge of the city in the " Great Beguinage" We will have a master congress room with a capacity of 160 seats and a break-out room of 80 seats.

<http://www.facultyclub.be/en/>

2. The congress fee

450 Euro until July, 15, 2012 and 525 Euro after that date.

It includes lunches, coffee breaks, reception on Wednesday evening and all congress papers.

Members of Ideals: registration fee: 380 Euro.

Student registration : reduced price: 300 Euro

3. The accommodation (hotels, bed and breakfasts):

Hotels must be booked online: To find the list of Hotels and other accommodation go to

www.Leuven.be subsection staying overnight. If you should need my assistance, let me know by E-mail

The Congress hotel is the Begijnhofhotel**** - single room: 113 Euro/night - double: 118/night, includes breakfast buffet "E-Mail" and mention "reservation G57279 - Congress Ideals". We have an option on 30 rooms until 15.06.2012.

New Damshire*** hotel - 500 m from congress venue. single room : 80 Euro/night - double 90/night, includes breakfast buffet and mention "Ideals Congress". We have an option on 25 rooms until 15.06.2012.

Other hotels in Leuven : Mercure hotel*** <http://www.accorhotels.com/nl/hotel-7862-mercure-leuven-center/index.shtml> (+- 80 Euro/night) Theater Hotel*** <http://www.theaterhotel.be/en/index.html> (+- 90 Euro/night) and Ibis** <http://www.ibishotel.com/gb/hotel-1457-ibis-leuven-centrum/index.shtml> (+- 60 Euro/night) in the center of the city. The city center is about 1 km from the congress site

4. Congress dinner

The congress dinner will take place at the congress site on Thursday evening. The price of the dinner is 80 Euro/person. Dress code Business informal

5. Welcome reception on Wednesday evening free for all

6. Guided Tour in the city Friday Evening free for all

7. Partner program

Partners are welcome at the reception on Wednesday evening and on Friday evening there will be a free and guided tour (2 hours) in the city of Leuven for delegates and partners. If we have enough participants we will organize a guided tour by bus to the city of Gent on Saturday. Gent is a medieval city, chosen as the third most interesting place in Europe, a must for every visitor.

If you want more information OR if you want to participate in the congress, please contact:

Yvo Vermylen, Congress president, dentist, Licentiate Law, Vosweg 23, 3190 Boortmeerbeek, Belgium yvovermylen@skynet.be

Further information to be found at www.vermylentandartspraktijk.be Link : 9th International Congress on Dental Law and Ethics. See also : www.ideals.ac



**OMICS Group's International Conference
on Forensic Research & Technology,
October 15-17, 2012, Chicago-
NorthShore, USA**

Forensic Research-2012 would lay a platform for the interaction between experts around the world and aims in accelerating scientific discoveries. The main theme of the conference is "Utilizing Science and Technology for Peace & Justice".

Conference Secretariat: Forensic Research-2012, OMICS Group Conferences

5716 Corsa Ave, Suite 110, Westlake, Los Angeles, CA 91362-7354, USA

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Web: <http://www.omicsonline.org/forensicresearch2012/callforabstracts.php>



2013 INTERNATIONAL IOFOS SYMPOSIUM ON FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY

Florence, Italy, 29-31 August 2013

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to invite you to the International Meeting of I.O.F.O.S. on Forensic Odontology which will be held on August 29-31, 2013 at the Medical Faculty of the University of Florence. The symposium venue is a very convenient setting with easy access from many European and extra-European countries. The IOFOS Meeting incorporates sessions and panel discussions on the latest advances in forensic odontology research and practice. Presentations of researchers and delegates of the national fellow societies of Forensic Odontology will foster the scientific program of the meeting.

The details of the scientific program, registration, abstract submission, accommodation, etc. will be announced on the IOFOS website (www.iofos.eu).

Scientific topics on forensic odontology for the meeting:

- Body identification
- Age estimation
- Mass disaster management, procedures and DVI
- Bite-marks
- Quality assurance
- Research, scientific evidence and bias
- Guidelines, recommendations and protocols
- Qualifications and accreditation
- Ethics
- Expert witness

Social events: Florence and the Tuscany promise to be an outstanding venue for spending the last summer days. The social program will offer to the delegates and attendees the opportunity to enjoy the rich history, culture, food and shops of Florence.

Vilma Pinchi

President of IOFOS