



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY

Volume 31 * Number 2 * 2009

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Editor's page



Dear Colleagues

This will be the second and last Newsletter for 2009. On my side it was a hectic year with lots of lecturing, research and other administrative responsibilities. We were also blessed with the birth of our son earlier this year. Although I am quite certain that there were some mass disasters and interesting individual identification cases out there, confirmed by the Australian association of Forensic Odontology in their report elsewhere (p5), none reached us to enable me to create another Newsletter for you during the course of this year.

Unfortunately I had no response from members with regard to the column for letters which was requested in the previous Newsletter and it seems not to be a viable mission at this stage. I also received no replies or opinions with regard to the report on "*Child Abuse and Neglect: preventive role of medical doctors and dentists*" in the previous Newsletter. I can therefore not report to you on if and how this topic is broached in the individual dental faculties across the world or the role of the general dentist and forensic odontologist as you see it.

In this issue, Tore Solheim has submitted a short communication with regard to possible improvements to the current Interpol dental identification forms and requests feedback from members of IOFOS. Please respond as this is for the benefit of all.

Thank you to all members that did submit information for inclusion in the two issues of the Newsletter this year. Without your contributions our Newsletters the last four years would have been impossible! I hope that more members will participate next year.

Lastly I want to wish you and your families a Blessed festive season and a prosperous 2010!

Kind regards to all

Sonja

President's Page



Dear Colleagues,

2009 has been a year of consolidating loose ends within the organisation. We have tried to get the world wide list up to date, the journal established as a web based publication, a group established to enhance quality control and get member countries as involved as possible. Our new treasurer Dr Patrick Thevissen will shortly be sending out membership accounts, and I urge all member countries to pay their dues. The

current levy is 50 Euros per country/organisation per year, which translates to 150 Euros per three year period .

The year ahead is going to be a busy one with our IOFOS meeting scheduled for September in Leuven, Belgium, the AAFS meeting in Denver USA scheduled for February and the Nordic Course scheduled for July in Oslo. Use the conferences to broaden your knowledge of forensic dentistry, get other points of view, meet new friends and rekindle old acquaintances.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jules Kieser for the effort he put into the IOFOS journal during his short period as editor. Both Jules and Glynnie put many hours of hard work into getting high quality manuscripts out on time (See December issue). Our new editor is Judy Hinchliffe judy.hinchliffe@gmail.com and we wish her well with her new appointment. I encourage you all to submit your research manuscripts for possible publication in our dedicated forensic odontology journal.

In conclusion I would like to thank the executive for all their hard work, especially Sonja who spends so much of her precious time getting out the news letter and Tore for his continuous support. A special thank you must go to my wife Zephné who backs me all the way.

May you all enjoy the festive season which lies ahead and be blessed for a prosperous new year.

Herman Bernitz

From the National Societies

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY

By Tony Hill

Herewith information from the team 'down-under' covering some of our activities over the past year:

Following our AGM in October 2009 the Executive of the Australian Society of Forensic Odontology (AuSFO) now comprises:

- **President** – Anthony John Hill
- **Vice-President** – Helen James
- **Secretary** – Jane Taylor
- **Web Master** – John Berketa
- **Immediate Past President** – Stephen Knott

All can be contacted through the Society web-site at www.ausfo.org. Our website has become one of the main areas for distribution of material to our members and we invite you to utilise it as a means of distributing material of interest to our members.

AuSFO members were involved in the following DVI incidents in our region over the past years:

- Jogykarta plane crash – Indonesia
- Nepal plane crash
- Papua New Guinea plane crash
- Samoan tsunami South Pacific Region
- Sumatra earthquake – Indonesia

Nationally our entire forensic odontology capacity was involved in the largest bushfire DVI incident in the history of Victoria, Australia resulting in the death of 173 individuals. With assistance from our forensic colleagues from New Zealand, Indonesia and Japan, a total of 172 were positively identified – over 60% by dental means.

This fire, now known as 'Black Saturday', raged for some weeks; covered over 4500 sq. kilometres, destroyed over 2000 houses, devastated some 78 townships and left over 7500

person homeless. It became the largest police investigation undertaken within the State - some of the fires had been deliberately lit – and investigations still continue some 10months after the fire.

Our commitment to teaching, research and publications continues with Diploma, Masters and PhD courses being offered at various Universities and Institutes. Prior to the ANZFSS conference in Melbourne in 2008 and in conjunction with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), AuSFO members assisted in the presentation of DVI training to a select group of international participants from Pakistan, India, Burma, Nepal and Malaysia. We have also been involved in international teaching of DVI and general forensic odontology principles to colleagues in Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal and the Pacific Rim countries of Fiji, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands. A very successful workshop involving a DVI scenario was held in conjunction with the New Zealand Forensic Dental Society in October 2009.

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY (Northern section)

Diplomas in forensic dentistry.

After completing both the theoretical and practical components of the FOT 700 (Higher diploma in forensic dentistry) course at the Dental School of the University of Pretoria, South Africa, Dr's Reinprecht, Adendorff, Robb and Schoeman were awarded their diplomas at the annual summer dental graduation ceremony. Their training consisted of a postgraduate course in Oral Biology, followed by a five module course in Forensic Dentistry. Students were encouraged to participate in a range of practical work carried out in the department. The candidates were able to assist in many individual identifications, age estimations and bite mark cases. During the year, a spate of aircraft accidents provided the candidates with good experience in handling multiple fatalities. They will all be integrated into the South African DVI team for the coming soccer world cup in 2010. Congratulation to all of you!



From left to right: Dr Pieter Schoeman, Dr Suzanna Reinprecht, Prof Sonja Boy, Prof Herman Bernitz and Dr Larika Robb

Improvements to Interpol Dental Identification Forms

By Tore Solheim

Interpol is continuously working to improve their identification forms. A special committee chaired by myself was recently created to re-evaluate the F1 and F2 dental forms.

Although I have received a number of suggestions from the members of the committee and others, I want to request especially those of you who have experience in using these forms on a regular basis, to send me your views and suggestions on how to improve them. I will start the work this year by suggesting a few principles (*see below*) with regard to the forms and how to use it. All suggestions will be greatly appreciated. Please ensure that these are addressed directly to me.

- **The F1 and F2 are currently two pages. I would like to retain this size rather than add another page**
- **Any extra dental or other information for which there is no room in the ordinary pages can be written on page G, a blank page created for this purpose**
- **All attempts should be made to save writing space for essential information**

- All text and figures should be kept as clear and simple as possible
- The content on this form should make it possible to do a complete forensic odontology report without the need for any extra reports

Courses in Forensic Odontology

American Society of Forensic Odontology (ASFO)

President	Adam Freeman, DDS
President-Elect	Denise Murmann, DDS
Secretary	Jim Lewis, DMD
Treasurer	Susan Bollinger, DDS
Editor	Howard Cooper DDS
Webmaster	Dane Johnson www.asfo.org
Executive Director	Bruce A. Schrader, DDS

The following program was received from ASFO for publication in the Newsletter:

ASFO 40th Annual Scientific Session Tuesday, February 23, 2010

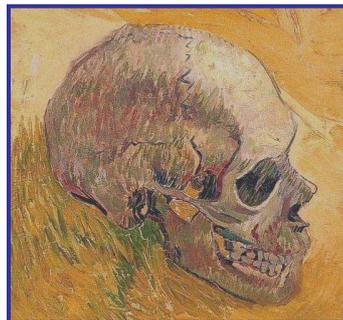
“Missing and Unidentified Persons: How You Can Get Involved”

7:30 – 8:00am	Registration and Breakfast
8:00 – 8:03am	Welcome Adam Freeman, DDS DABFO
8:03 - 8:05am	Introduction Denise C. Murmann, DDS
8:05 - 8:50am	The Never Ending Mass Fatality Disaster Peter Hampl, DDS DABFO
8:50 – 10:00am	Missing and Unidentified Persons, the Odontologist’s Responsibility Barry E. Lipton, DDS, DABFO
10:00 - 10:15am	Break

- 10:15 – 11: 15am **INTERPOL DVI -- The international perspective on disaster victim Identification** *Dr. David Sweet O.C.Deputy Chair (Science), INTERPOL Standing Committee on DVI*
- 11:15 am – 12:00pm **Responsible Volunteerism** *Todd Matthews Media Director www.DoeNetwork & NamUs Advisory Board Member*
- 2:00 – 3:00pm **Introduction to Dental Records In NCIC** *Harry E. Carlile, Jr.*
- 3:00 – 4:00pm **NamUs** *Steven C. Clark, Ph.D.Director: Occupational Research and Assessment, NamUs Program Administrator*
- 4:00 – 4:15pm** **Break**
- 4:15 – 5:00pm **The FBI Laboratory Victims Indexing, Cataloging, Tracking, and Image Management System (VICTIMS) project** *Philip N. Williams Management Program Analyst Counterterrorism and Forensic Science Research Unit FBI Laboratory*
- 5:00 – 5:30 pm **“The Road Not Taken”:** **Concluding Remarks and Questions to Presenters from the Floor** *Warren Tewes, DDS, MS Chief Dental Examiner OCME, State of MD*

8th International Course in Forensic Odontology

By Tore Solheim



Vincent Van Gogh

You are invited to this highly recommended one week course in dental identification which will be held at the end of June 2010 in Oslo, Norway (*Please see detail below*). This is an extensive identification course based on Interpol guidelines, aimed to familiarize the participants with its prescribed forms and DVI System International computer program.

A short theoretical introduction to each session/topic will be followed by practical hands on exercise both at the Institute of Forensic Medicine and Kripos. It will include dental examination, post-mortem radiography, how to use Interpol forms as well as evaluation and comparison of ante- and post-mortem dental records. The session at the Kripos will include introduction of the Norwegian DVI team and discussions on the missing person's register. A mock accident will be staged where the participants are faced with a major disaster and the identification work in a very realistic setting using the DVI System International computer program recommended by Interpol.

Personal Identification by Dental Methods, June 28th to July 3rd, 2010.

Nordic forensic odontology has for many years been well regarded for its systematic approach to identification. This has partly been due to the forensic odontologists being integrated members of the Identification commissions of the police. Academic positions in forensic odontology have further added to the scientific background for the practical work. We want to share with you some of our techniques and experiences.

The International Organisation for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology (IOFOS) and the Nordic Organization for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology (NOFOS) in cooperation with the Institute of Oral Biology, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Oslo, Norway, invite you to a course in personal identification, with special emphasis on dental methods.

Aim of the course:

- to enable the dentist to perform post mortem dental examination and comparison between ante-mortem and post mortem information in single cases as well as in mass disasters
- to enable the dentist to participate in the reconstruction of the identity of a person when comparative identification is not possible
- to enable the dentist to participate in a DVI team after a mass disaster and to handle computerized identification programmes

Place:

Institute of Oral Biology, Domus Odontologica, Rikshospitalet, Gaustad, Oslo

Lecturers:

Dr. Dorthe Arenholt Bindslev, Denmark
dbindslev@odont.au.dk

Dr. Helena Ranta, Finland
helena.ranta@helsinki.fi

Dr. Svend Richter, Iceland
svend@hi.is

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

Dr. Sigrid Kvaal, Norway
skvaal@odont.uio.no

Dr. Anne Vonen, Norway
anne@vonen.no

Dr. Irena Dawidson, Sweden
irena.dawidson@rmv.se

Professor Håkan Mørnstad, Sweden
Hakan.mornstad@forodont.se

Topics

Principles of comparative identification

- Theoretical aspects
- The INTERPOL forms
- Practical work in the mortuary (Institute of Forensic Medicine)
- Obtaining post-mortem dental status of a dead person
- Retrieving relevant information from dental records
- Comparison of ante- and post-mortem data
- Evaluation of similarities and differences
- Formulation of conclusions and summarizing comparable details

Principles of Reconstructive Identification

- Estimation of age, sex, height, race, habits, social status, occupation, etc
- Theoretical aspects
- Practical training
- Contribution to the announcement for a missing person

Mass Disasters

- Theoretical aspects
- The DVI team
- Computer programs
 - DVI System International

- Mock accident

Language: English

Participants: Dentists with special interest in forensic odontology, with or without previous knowledge and/or experience.

Fee: 9000 NKO (approx. 1000 Euro) covering course expenses, lunches, coffee and a social programme.

Deadline for application: April 15, 2010.

The course will not be arranged if we have less than 10 applicants, and we will limit the participation to 24.

Information from and application to:

Professor Tore Solheim, Institute of Oral Biology, University of Oslo, PO Box 1109 Blindern, N-0316 Oslo, Norway.

Telephone: +47-22840378

Mobile: +47-41447336

Fax: +47-22840302

E-mail: solheim@odont.uio.no

An Interesting Observation in the African Bush

By Herman Bernitz

While we were on a game viewing drive we stopped to inspect the decomposing carcass of a



Warthog *Phacochoerus aethiopicus*. This is the kind of thing that forensic odontologists do. We observed the presence of many thousands of sluggish flies in the surrounding bushes.

On closer investigation it was obvious that they had just hatched, and were getting ready for their first flight. We later identified the flies as the regal blowfly or bluebottle *Chrysomya marginalis*, a common and widespread fly in Africa. The sighting is rather special in that the flies spend little time in the surrounding bushes before dispersing in search of fresh corpses.

