

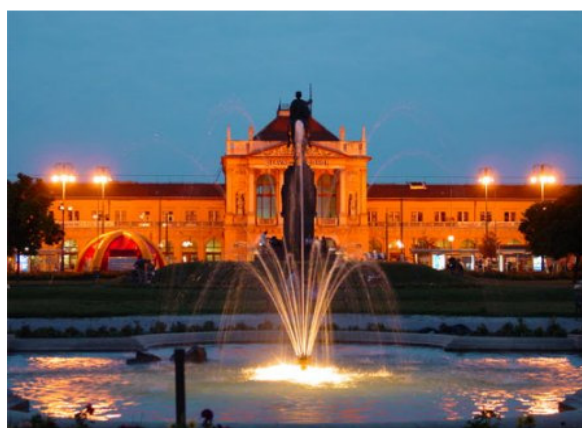


I-O-F-O-S

NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY

Volume 34: No. 2, November 2012



Zagreb, Croatia

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Editor's Page



Dear Readers,

In this issue of IOFOS Newsletter we are presenting you several interesting reports on recently held international conferences.

I consider IDEALS congress – 9th International Congress on Dental Law and Ethics held in the period between 22nd and 24th August 2012 in Leuven - particularly interesting.

The jurists and dentists from around the world participating in this conference discussed several topics. The main topic at the conference was "Insurance and claim handling". There were other important topics as well: health care insurance, liability insurance, patient's rights, the legal aspects of dental expert investigation (civil and criminal law), ethics and forensic dentistry.

Besides the conference reports, this issue also presents reports from several newly-established Associations of Forensic Dentistry in India, Libya, Poland and Turkey.

We also announce the big IOFOS Congress which will be held in Florence next year, in the period between 29th to 31st August 2013. The essential topics will be as follows: body identification, age estimation, mass disaster management, procedures and DVI, bite-mark, quality assurance, research, scientific evidence and bias, guidelines, recommendations and protocols, qualification and accreditation, ethics, expert witness. We encourage everyone to send their summaries and get ready for active participation.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all of you to kindly send us reports from you national forensic associations as well as any other information that you consider interesting for our readers

Yours, **Hrvoje Brkić**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hrvoje Brkić". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

President's Page



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Since the last newsletter some important things have happened in the IOFOS family, new partnerships have been established and old friendships have been reinvigorated.

Firstly, I'm happy to announce that some new members have been accepted and others are completing the process of becoming an effective member of IOFOS, in particular the Nigerian Association of Forensic Odontology, the Indo-Pacific Academy of Forensic Odontology, the Polish Society of Forensic Odontology, the Forensic Odontology Section of Dental Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Forensic Odontology Society of Philippines, the Forensic Odontology Section of the Medical Examiner Office- United Arab Emirates and Society of Forensic Osteology, Odontology and Identification from Turkey.

Some colleagues in Libya have recently founded their first national association, named Libyan Society of Forensic Odontology, and we want to spend a word of encouragement for them; the Sociedad Argentina de Odontologia Legal has prompted a new good contact with IOFOS.

As for the scientific activity as President of IOFOS, I was invited to give a presentation to the Interpol Standing Committee on DVI, held in Lyon 22-24 May, to highlight the scope of IOFOS and its international role. The Interpol meeting was an invaluable occasion for establishing contacts with other forensic specialists and police entities. The speech gave me the opportunity to underline the standing importance of dental data for body identification, whose role as primary identifier continues to represent a mainstay of DVI procedures and the remarkable outcomes obtained by forensic odontologists involved in the mass disasters. During the meeting of Forensic Odontology Working Group – Interpol (FOd-WG), interesting presentations dealt with many issues concerning forensic odontology activity connected with DVI necessities. Among them, is to be mentioned the possibility of creating a common platform between Plass-data and other softwares (Win-ID, UVIS) and the necessity of quality assurance for procedures and for professionals

performing as forensic odontologists. Fod-WG activity, fairly chaired by Alain Middleton, concerned the proposals for changes to apply to the dental section (F1 and F2) and dental codes of DVI form.

The organization of IOFOS international Congress is steadily going ahead and the Congress website has been recently updated with information for registration and accommodation and is still in progress. Some very interesting papers, mostly coming from extra-European Countries, have already been submitted for presentation or poster sections and the Scientific Committee is already functioning well. We strongly hope for and would be very happy to receive papers for presentations from colleagues coming from every member society all over the world, active researchers, and experienced as well as young forensic odontologists who would like to share researches and experiences. We warmly encourage and welcome timeous submissions to give the opportunity to submitting authors to see their papers published in the dedicated number of JFOS.

Best regards

Vilma Pinchi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vilma Pinchi', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

From the National Societies

News from the Indian Society of Forensic Odontology

Forensic odontology in India is at the cusp of what promises to be a promising and exciting, yet crucial decade. Promising and exciting since several new measures by the regulatory body of dentistry in the country - the Dental Council of India - can potentially ingrain forensic odontology into the mainstream once and for all. Crucial since the moulding of the subject and its outcome will set the tone for its practice in India in the decades to come. In this light, let us look at how some of the more important aspects of forensic odontology have been, and currently are, in the Indian context.

Education and organisation in forensic odontology in India

In India, forensic odontology had traditionally been a relatively unorganised discipline, which was seldom taught at the undergraduate or graduate levels. Although the undergraduate syllabus included dental jurisprudence several decades ago, this, apparently, was discontinued in the 1970s. Subsequently forensic odontology was only sparsely covered, usually as one lecture part of oral medicine and radiology or oral pathology. However, several dentists and dental specialists interested in the subject continually encouraged dissemination of knowledge to others interested. For example, in August 1986, late Prof. J.G. Kannappan (a renowned orthodontist from Madras Dental College, Chennai) and Prof. P. Chandra Sekharan (a leading scientist from the Forensic Sciences Department, Chennai) conducted the first national workshop on forensic odontology in that city. Resource persons for the workshop included Dr. Kenneth Brown from the University of Adelaide, Australia, and experts from Japan. Dentists and forensic scientists numbering about forty were given hands-on training in forensic odontology. In 1998, an international conference on forensic odontology was organised in Chennai under the auspices of the Indian Society for Dental Research, with the programme spearheaded by late Prof. Kannappan, Prof. S. Balagopal (an endodontist and qualified forensic scientist), and Prof. Theogaraj Samraj (another leading orthodontist). The conference was attended by several internationally reputed

odontologists, including Dr. David K. Whittaker of the United Kingdom, Dr. Masatsagu Hasimoto and Dr. Tanaka of Japan, Dr. Yvo Vermylen of Belgium, Dr. Hrvoje Brkić of Croatia, Dr. Phrabhakaran Nambiar of Malaysia, and Dr. Hakan Mörnstad, then President of the IOFOS. Spread over three days between 23–25 January, there were more than 35 scientific papers and 11 prime lectures during the event. Also in attendance were several dentists and forensic scientists from across India who had an interest in the subject or were actively involved in forensic consultations. Apart from such conferences, private practitioners from India have also participated in forensic odontology workshops and meetings organised abroad, most notable of them being Dr. K. Nagesh who visited Oslo, Norway, in June-July 2001 as a delegate in a diploma course on personal identification; in March 2004, he attended the 3rd IOFOS meeting in Hafjell, Norway, on quality assurance in forensic odontology as an invited participant.

Recognising the growing interest in this field, late Prof. Kannappan initiated the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (IAFO) in August 2000, with several equally keen dentists - among them Prof. Balagopal (the founder-Secretary, currently President of the IAFO), Prof. Theogaraj Samraj (currently President-elect of the IAFO), Dr. K. Nagesh (currently Joint-Secretary of the IAFO) and the author, Dr. Ashith B. Acharya. Today, the association has close to 170 life members, with a vast majority having joined purely out of an interest in the specialty. The IAFO was registered in 2002 and in December of that year organised its first national conference. Since then it has been organising annual conferences almost every year with the 10th edition—the decennial conference—in September 2012. The number of participants at these conferences has steadily increased and it currently sees approximately 300 undergraduate students, graduate students, dental practitioners and dental faculty participate. About 25–30% of participants present papers and posters, many of which are research presentations. What is remarkable, and must be underscored, is that this level of participation has occurred despite the country and the IAFO having just a handful of qualified forensic odontologists. Noting this interest, since 2011, the IAFO has also been organising hands-on training programmes in various aspects of forensic dentistry, with qualified odontologists serving as resource

faculty. Again, this has attracted great interest and much participation, with 50 to 100 delegates in the different workshops.

Although conferences and workshops in the subject have been a feature in India for several years, formal full-term courses in forensic odontology do not exist. A trend of the first decade of this century was for Indian dentists to obtain qualifications from universities abroad, such as the University of Adelaide, Australia, Cardiff University (the course has now been transferred to Glamorgan University), U.K., and Katholieke Universiteit, Belgium. Several of these graduates returned to India with the intention of working and developing the subject. Their foreign qualifications have been recognised by the Dental Council of India, allowing them to practice the subject in the country.

The trend of foreign-qualified forensic odontologists, however, may soon become a thing of the past. The Dental Council of India has, in May 2012, approved commencing graduate courses in the subject in dental schools in India. Noting that the number of qualified odontologists is very small, it has proposed to utilise the services of all dental faculties actively involved in forensic odontology through rigorous inter-disciplinary collaboration and training. A comprehensive syllabus put together over a span of three years by Prof. Ajit Dinkar—an Oral Radiologist by qualification and active in the field for two decades—with inputs of the IAFO, is what the Dental Council of India approved recently. The Council had introduced teaching of forensic odontology at the undergraduate level in 2007 and this is currently under expansion with a view to making it an evaluation subject in IV year. These steps should ensure autonomy for forensic odontology in the long-term.

Research in forensic odontology in India

Although steps for consolidation of education in forensic dentistry have occurred in just the last half-decade, interest in the subject has been in existence for at least four decades, as can be seen in the publication of sporadic research that appeared both nationally and internationally. Dentists, forensic medical specialists and forensic scientists pursued these. Beginning with Sekaharan's proposals to standardise steps in photographic superimposition in 1971, and Pillai and Bhaskar's examination of

Gustafson's parameters in the Indian context in 1974, to Rao and co-workers' attempts at a new approach to dental sex determination, and a modification of Gustafson's method developed by Kashyap and Koteswara Rao in 1990, researchers have focussed on diverse areas of forensic odontology. This has seen a manifold increase in the past decade—owing to scholarly activities of qualified forensic odontologists and great interest generated amongst dentists. What has also helped is the publication of the 'Journal of Forensic Dental Sciences' since 2009—the IAFO's official periodical—which encourages and publishes peer-reviewed forensic odontology research from India (and, occasionally, other parts of the world). The research undertaken may either be as a short project for presentation at scientific forums, a graduate dissertation, or aimed specifically to address issues and overcome hurdles faced in casework.

Casework in forensic odontology in India

Unlike Europe, North America, Japan and Australia, where post-mortem comparative dental identification is perhaps the major focus of forensic odontology, in India the queries posed most often by the police and government agencies concerns the estimation of age and, to a lesser extent, dental disability claims and bite mark investigation. While age estimations are frequently necessitated in developing dentitions for a variety of cases (e.g., adult/juvenile identification, child labour issues, competitive sports participation in different age categories), adult age estimation is also not uncommon. For example, even when a body requires identification, the queries posed are related to age-at-death and, at times, gender determination, for the purpose of reconstructive identification. Hence, forensic odontologists are not systematically involved in comparative dental identification. There are also other reasons contributing to this—for several decades, an interest in forensic odontology has existed amongst dentists, but seldom did anyone pursue it consistently in their day-to-day work as they were either general dental practitioners or with specialisation in other areas of dentistry (e.g., oral pathology, oral radiology, etc.). Consequently, dentists did not pursue forensic odontology as a full-time profession, which may be considered essential for the development of a specialty. The lacuna was filled by forensic medicine specialists, who would (and continue to) assist police in forensic dental casework. However, their priority was forensic medicine in general, and

forensic odontology was, again, more of an individual interest, which varied from place-to-place and person-to-person. Therefore, a persistent effort to educate the police, judiciary and the public on the importance of forensic odontology, in general, and comparative dental identification in particular, was missing.

Since the police come under the purview of the Home Ministry of different state governments of India, the tendency is for the police to request government-employed forensic medicine departments or government-employed general dental practitioners/dental specialists for assistance in forensic cases. However, the government is open to specialists from the private sector contributing their knowledge and expertise to police investigations, especially when such specialists are not available in the government sector. Therefore, it is not unusual for the government to recognise and seek assistance from experts in private hospitals. Consequently, referrals for odontological cases from police and state authorities have increased wherever a private dental hospital with a qualified forensic odontologist has applied for such recognition.

Full-time forensic odontologists have been working in India for only the last six or seven years. Presently, there are less than a handful qualified personnel (in a country of 1.2 billion people), and a few other dentists active in forensic odontology, creating awareness on the importance of the various applications of forensic odontology. Needless to say, it will take more time for the awareness to seep in and referrals for comparative identification to be constant. However, it must be noted that periodic cases exist wherein this method of identification has been used.

Another important issue precluding regular application of comparative dental identification is the lack of mandate for the maintenance of dental records. Although the Medical Council of India (which regulates medical practice) mandates maintenance of complete records for up to 10 years, no such mandate is prescribed by the Dental Council of India for dental practice. However, many dentists and dental hospitals maintain records of patient care for several years purely as a matter of good practice and from a risk management view-point and these are useful when a need for identification arises.

When used, however, dental evidence in identification does suffice for the police and the judiciary, and this extends also to age estimation and bite mark investigation. Use of the modified Interpol ante- and post-mortem odontograms are known and recommended by qualified personnel, and the quality assurance guidelines prescribed by the IOFOS for identification (single cases and disasters), age estimation, bite marks (which includes the American Board of Forensic Odontology guidelines), dental injuries and report writing, are used and advocated in casework and hands-on workshops.

Summary

In conclusion, there is slow but steady growth of forensic odontology in India, with an increase in interest that can continue to be expected to grow. The organisation of the subject through sustained efforts by the dental community, the platform for introduction of formal courses by regulatory bodies and the concomitant recognition and referrals by investigation agencies of experienced and qualified personnel, should ensure a bright future for the subject in India.

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Libyan Society of Forensic Odontology (LFSO)

The LFSO is significant for being one of the early institutions of civil society, which was urgently founded during Libya's recent difficult times, and it is the first in the field of dentistry. After the Liberation, it became an official organ as attested on 07\07\2012

This date corresponds with an initiative commenced during the first democratic experience through elections and arrived at the National Conference. It is virtually the day we have established and officially registered this assembly in Derna. This city has long been a source of concern and anxiety to Qadhafi and his regime let alone many crises among which the events of 1996 have been the most terrific. This date translates to many Libyans the unjustified war committed against the innocent inhabitants inside and around the city. Derna is known throughout history as the city of civilization, science, intellectuality, and arts while characterized by the Andalusian character.

The institution has also taken place in Benghazi (2nd greater city) the origin of the revolution as it will also have a branch in the capital

The hardship behind the establishment of such institutions is natural and counted for, especially in a country still suffering from the ravages of war and liberation and the effects of the 42 year rule of Gaddafi.

One of the other most difficult challenges is conjured in the lack of the judicial experience and professionally outstanding the forensic departments to be approached in identifying the unidentified bodies of victims of war

To this issue, there are lists of missing revolutionaries as mass graves are still found every now and then in unknown locations from during the long period of Qaghafi rule

Since the inception of the 17th of February Revolution, among the challenges that are surfacing are a lack of database in the field of dental forensic specialists.

That is why an urgent need to have a Dental Forensic Society is considered as one main step ahead. The first project has taken a qualitative step beneficial to the profession of dentistry with the commencement of preparation of a database

This will then add a lot in the area of research and scientific practice locally and will empirically apply Dental Science in the service of law and justice while the atmosphere to do so presents another challenge. In fact, the preparation and study of the gathered actual data has led to acceptable results

It goes without saying that starting the implementation of this project (obtaining medical treatment integration) will start with including a larger proportion of population as dentistry has become a priority to many. A rise in the level of income for the Libyan citizen during the next ten years will be helpful in this regard

We are very optimistic and very ambitious to add the new lover in our country who will urge us to imitate counterparts in the developed nations. Thank you very much for all considerations. We raise hands and pray to the heavens that this driving force behind us will continue its cooperation as long as we are dedicated to the service of mankind

Dr Amin Alemam

aminalemam@ymail.com



President & founder of the committee of the Libyan Society of Forensic Dentistry and collaborator with the Centre for Research and Legal Experience, Ministry of Justice, Libya

Polish Society of Forensic Odontology

The Polish Society of Forensic Odontology was constituted in Poznan in 2012.

The current membership of 15, which collectively has many years of experience in forensic science, includes graduate dentists, anthropologists and medical doctors.

Forensic odontology has yet to be recognised as a separate speciality of dentistry in Poland, however there has been a Forensic Anthropology Laboratory within the Department of Forensic Medicine at the University of Medical Sciences in Poznań (Head of the Department: Czesław Żaba, PhD, MD) for many years.

Laboratory experts as well as associated dentists and other forensic odontology specialists make up an interdisciplinary team whose opinions are sought not only locally, but nationally, specifically where the need for personal identification of human remains and analysis of bite marks are required.

As the laboratory is part of the University, the elements of forensic odontology have been introduced to both medical and dental teaching programmes.

The need to conduct research and scientific experiments has been identified and more and more specialists have been actively involved in the field. The results of investigations have been presented at international conferences and published in national journals. Some members have attended an international course on personal identification by dental means.

At present, much of the groups work centres on the identification of human remains and unidentified bodies. There is an interdisciplinary approach to all cases, often supported by superimposition or computer-aided approximation of the facial appearance. The forensic odontologists are also involved in age estimation. The latter is helpful during the evaluation of pornographic material involving juveniles, usually collected in digital versions or from the Internet. Some of the cases concern the analysis of bite marks as a result of crime or abuse. These very difficult cases come from all over Poland and, according to our procedures, always involve an interdisciplinary team of forensic experts.

In the coming months the Polish Society of Forensic Odontology will organise courses for graduated dentists and lectures for students. We actively encourage anyone with an interest in Forensic Odontology to join our Society

Further information can be found on the the Polish Society of Forensic Odontology website: www.ptos.pl.

At present, the office bearers of the Polish Society of Forensic Odontology are: President: Agnieszka Przysańska PhD, DDS; Vice-president: Mariusz Glapiński, PhD, DDS; Tresurer: Dorota Lorkiewicz-Muszyńska, PhD, MSci; Secretary: Paweł Świdorski, MD

Agnieszka Przysańska

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From left to right: Paweł Świdorski, Mariusz Glapiński, Dorota Lorkiewicz-Muszyńska, Agnieszka Przysańska, Czesław Żaba

The Society of Forensic Osteology, Odontology & Identificatio (ADOK), Turkey

ADOK was formed in 2012 by a group of forensic scientists working in different fields of forensic sciences such as forensic dentistry, forensic osteology, forensic medicine and forensic biology. The common feature of these scientists is having huge experience particularly in forensic identification in mass fatalities and also to be active in the current forensic practice.

Dr. Afşin, the chairman of ADOK, is one of the pioneers in the field of forensic dentistry in Turkey. He had critical roles in identification of mass fatalities such as the Turkish airplane accident in Diyarbakır in 2003, Ukraine airplane accident in Trabzon in 2003, train accident in Pamukova, and terrorist bombings in 2003. He has also successful cases of bite mark analysis and had a leading role in identification of one serial killer by bite mark analysis. He is member of ASFO and IACI. He also gives lectures on forensic dentistry at Istanbul Yeditepe University.

Dr. Çağdır, founding member, is the pioneer in the field of facial reconstruction, having many positive identification cases by 2D and 3D facial reconstruction methods. He is the chairman of the Board of Council of Forensic Medicine and he is also teacher at the Medical illustration Department of the Medical Faculty. He is also member of IACI. Dr. Çelik and Dr. Şahin are currently working at Mortuary Department of Council of Forensic Medicine: they are members of DVI team and Dr. Şahin is also the director of Forensic Osteology Division of the Mortuary. Dr. Büyük is currently Deputy Director of the Council of Forensic Medicine: his main concern is forensic osteology and he is member of FASE (Forensic Anthropology Society Europe). Dr. Karadayi is forensic biologist and his main concern is dental identification. Dr. Bekcan is currently working as dentist and she is studying forensic dentistry at the Institute of Forensic Medicine, and her doctoral thesis is about bite marks.

ADOK is a new society but founders of the society are well-known and experienced scientists in the field. We believe that society will be an attractive platform for the

forensic scientists working in the field of forensic identification and will definitely organize national/international meetings in the near future.

The website of the society, www.adoktr.org, can be visited for further information.

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Group of members from Society of Forensic Osteology, Odontology & Identification

International Dental Ethics and Law Society

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



The International Dental Ethics and Law Society, in cooperation with the Flemish Society of Dental Experts and Flemish Society of Medical Law, organized the 9th Bi-annual International congress in Leuven (Belgium). The main theme of the congress was “Insurance and Claim Handling”; other topics were health care insurance, liability insurance, patient rights, the legal aspects of dental expert investigation (civil and criminal law), ethics.

Ethics and professionalism were main themes under discussion in all scenarios where dentists and odontologists are legally and forensically involved: dental tourism and legal consequences, evaluation of dental damage, role of the expert-witness and the dental advisor of insurance companies, legal problems related to Disaster Victim Identification (DVI), forensic odontology and human rights. There were fifty oral presentations by international experts and researchers. The Congress was an excellent international opportunity to exchange ideas, experience and national legislation data through discussions and questions among the over 100 participants from 25 countries.

The Congress program was also coincided with the IDEALS General Assembly, where a new board of 14 members was elected for a four years term. Current IDEALS Board: Wolter Brands (President, Belgium), Sudeshni Naidoo (Vice President, South Africa), Emilio Nuzzolese (Secretary, Italy), Carlos Contreras (Treasurer, Belgium), Ivana Cukovic-Bagic (Assistant Secretary, Croatia), Rutger Sonneveld (Assistant Secretary, The Netherlands), Dick Speers (Assistant Treasurer, Canada), Yvo Vermylen (Belgium), John G. Clement (Australia), Luc Marks (Belgium), Donald Patthoff (USA), Zovimir Kaic (Croatia), Joseph Graskemper (USA), and Shafic Dharamsi (Canada).

Two new committees were inaugurated: '*Dental Expert Witness and Damage Evaluation*' and '*Child Protection and Dental Neglect*'. Every committee will have, at

least, one representative from each country, so all interested are encouraged to contact the Secretary for further details or join our Society through our web site. These two new working groups aim to raise interest in ethical issues connected with expert testimony and child abuse, and will report their work at the 2014 IDEALS Congress, the venue for which is under decision.

A supplementary issue of the Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology [JFO] dedicated to this Congress will be available on line in December 2012, thanks to an agreement between IOFOS and JFO Editor, Patrick Thevissen.

For those interested in following or joining IDEALS future activities and events, please visit our web site www.ideals.ac.

Follow us also on linkedin, joining our group founded by Yvo Vermylen.

Emilio Nuzzolese

Secretary, IDEALS - secretary@ideals.ac



Group of participants in the field of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology in Leuven

A Report from the 21st International Meeting on Forensic Medicine Alpe-Adria-Pannonia

30th MAY– 2nd JUNE 2012, SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

This year's International Meeting on Forensic Medicine Alpe – Adria –Pannonia, the 21st such meeting, was organized by the Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sarajevo. The president of the Organizing Committee was Professor Nermin Sarajlić. The main topic of the meeting was Exhumation-Examination-Identification due to the issue of missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which arose as a consequence of the war in former Yugoslavia and still presents a great burden for the families and a challenge for the forensic experts.

The meeting was structured into five scientific sessions, a workshop, an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) symposium, poster presentations and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) session. There were approximately 170 participants from 19 European countries, USA and Argentina so the symposium presented both a regional and international character.

Scientific sessions, with 83 presentations, covered the main topic of exhumation-examination-identification but also a wide range of other topics in forensic medicine and toxicology. From the field of forensic odontology there were two oral presentations: Age estimation in adults by means of dentin translucency and dental radiographic examination (authors Zukić S, Vuković A, Bajsmán A; Bosnia and Herzegovina) and An evaluation of the Haavikko's standards and Cameriere's European formula for dental age estimation in Croatian children (authors Galić I, Vodanović M, Brkić H; Croatia), and two poster presentations: How important is the role of teeth in the world human identification: a transnational case report (authors Pereira CP, Costa JF, de Mendonca MC, Santos JC; Portugal) and History of forensic dentistry in Croatia (authors Dumančić J, Vodanović M, Brkić H; Croatia).

The workshop entitled "Anthropological and forensic-medical examination of exhumed human remains" was lead by Eva Klonowski, forensic anthropologist and a former ICTY, PHR and ICMP expert (Reykjavik, Iceland), and Dr. John Clark, a former ICTY chief Forensic Pathologist (Glasgow, UK), and was attended by 15

participants. Participants were introduced to forensic anthropology with emphasis on team work with other forensic experts. Overview was given to the examination of skeletal remains, determination of gender, determination of age, estimation of stature and determination of ancestry. It is mention worth that dental attrition and Lamendin's technique were among the most commonly used methods of dental age estimation by forensic anthropologists. Within the workshop, participants were given 20 forensic cases, mostly skeletal remains of war camp victims exhumed from war gravesites. Participants answered questions associated with cases and interesting and very educational discussion developed. Previous education, training and experience were of benefit to recognition, differentiation and interpretation of injuries during forensic anthropological examination of skeletal remains.

As the great number of still unidentified human remains stored in facilities in Kosovo (350), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3.000) and Croatia (900) is a regional Western Balkans issue, regional approach was scheduled for the ICRC Symposium. Dr. John Clark gave a presentation on two aims of the forensic pathologists' work – establishing identity of the dead body and proving a crime. Dr. John E. Byrd, forensic anthropologist and director of the JPAC Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, gave a presentation on policies and procedures for resolving cases of commingled human remains. Oran Finegan, forensic anthropologist at the ICRC, discussed the issue of unidentified human remains in the Western Balkans in order to promote regional discussion and approach on the issue. Luis Fondebrider from the Argentinean Forensic Anthropology Team presented Argentinean experience and inferences on the search and analysis of human remains in cases of political violence. After these lectures, the speakers and regional forensic practitioners held round table discussions.

The ICMP session closed the symposium. In nine presentations, an overview of issues relating to missing persons in Western Balkans was given including DNA procedures, contribution of the archaeological and anthropological forensic science to the identification process, recovery operations, linkages between primary and secondary graves and data management systems.

The organizers ensured a rich social program including a half day sightseeing “War Tour” of Sarajevo and gala dinner with excellent meals and music. This international meeting was an opportunity not only to share experiences but to strengthen wider regional collaboration in different fields of forensic sciences..

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At the venue, from left to right: Marin Vodanović, Anita Bajzman, Amra Vuković, Selma Zukić, Jelena Dumančić and Hrvoje Brkić



At workshop, from left to right: John Clark, Eva Klonowski and several workshop participants

I.O.F.O.S. International Congress 2013



Dear Colleagues and Friends of IOFOS,

I am really happy and honoured to have been involved as the Secretary of the organization of the 2013 IOFOS Congress in Firenze.

The organization of the meeting is still under way but I can tell you that everything is going ahead smoothly and quickly. The complete details for the registration, accomodation, fees etc. have been recently published on the IOFOS website (<http://congress.iofos.eu>). Other details and the scientific and leisure temporary and definitive programs will follow later.

Some abstracts for presentation have already arrived and others are in their way.

The Organizing Committee strongly wishes that this event will be kept in your heart as a memorable experience by all of you, not only for the importance and interest of the scientific subjects treated but also for the possibility to meet friends from all over the world and spend some days with them in the magic city of Firenze. The congress will be held in a prestigious venue, comfortable and well connected to the very center of the city.

I think that I cannot do justice to the magnificence of Florence as a city by words alone. This city is widely renowned all over the world for its sweet way of life, beauty and mulitude of art and cultural events, style and superb cuisine. What better occasion could there be than to meet there from all over the world?

Presidents of the Congress, I and the Scientific and Organizing Committees, hope to welcome you to Firenze and that many of you will submit papers, communications or poster presentations. I remind you that there is also the possibility, for those of you who wish, to submit the accepted papers for publication in the JFOS.

You can now ask the organizing committee of the congress any questions and details regarding any aspect of your stay in Firenze, by sending an e-mail to: iofos2013org@gmail.com

Otherwise, for any enquiry regarding the scientific aspects of the event you can send an e-mail to: iofos2013firenze@gmail.com

Looking forward to having news from all of you very soon.

My best wishes,

Francesco Pradella, MD, DDS, MSc



The congress venue, University of Firenze, Plesso Didattico Morgagni