



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY

Nr. 1

January, 2006

Index

Editor's page _____	2
Presidents Page _____	3
IOFOS Executive Board for 2005-2008 _____	4
IOFOS Membership Fees _____	7
Welcome to our new National Societies _____	8
Course in Forensic Odontology _____	8
Coming Events _____	9
International IOFOS contact list (Burgman list) _____	9
New from our Societies _____	9



Editor's page

Being the new editor of the Newsletter of a rapidly growing international organisation such as the IOFOS, is exciting, and a challenge I will rise to. I want to thank Dr Stene-Johansen for three years of enjoyable editorials and can only hope to carry on the good work.

It is the vision of the new IOFOS executive board to unite forensic odontologists throughout the globe and the quarterly IOFOS Newsletter represents only one modality envisaged to reach this goal. Through this small document, we hope to bring you news on the activities as well as suggestions of as many of our members, and maybe even non-members, as possible. With the help of our colleagues, we will improve the knowledge we need to accomplish our sometimes grim but always interesting tasks. High level international standardization in a constantly developing world is the answer to resolving discrepancies and misunderstandings as teams from various parts of the world work together during international mass disaster identifications. It is only through constant academic interaction that such results can be accomplished and we therefore want to invite all practising forensic odontologists to send us comments, suggestions, stories of personal experience as well as applicable short case reports to be placed in this Newsletter.

The president of IOFOS, Prof Herman Bernitz, in his address on the next page states his commitment to update the worldwide forensic odontology contact archive (the Burgman list). To achieve this we invite all member societies to send us updated member lists as soon as possible.

Thanks to Dr Zephné Bernitz, the new IOFOS web site is currently up and running and you are heartily invited to visit us at <http://www.odont.uio.no/foreninger/iofos/>. All information regarding the organization, its executive board, member societies and upcoming events can be found at this site. Information on the Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology is also available here. You are invited to submit manuscripts on forensic odontology to Dr Helen James, the editor of this journal, to be considered for publication in this scientific journal of IOFOS. Her contact details are as follows: helen.james@adelaide.edu.au

It is through the Newsletter, Journal and webpage that we strive to accomplish the goal of uniting individuals with an interest in forensic odontology.



Best wishes to all for a prosperous and blessed 2006!

Dr Sonja Boy, Contact e-mail: sonja.boy@up.ac.za

Presidents Page

IOFOS new executive committee in South Africa

At the General Assembly of the IOFOS in Hong Kong, China, South Africa was elected to serve as the executive committee of IOFOS for the next three years. It was 25 years ago that the first volume of the new Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology was published in South Africa, and it seems fitting to celebrate our country's freedom by having the executive back in Southern Africa. We accept the challenge, and hope to build on the successes of the past. In a world of change, we will strive to adapt, adopt and improve. To this end we hope to update the worldwide forensic odontology contact archive, so that each and every practicing Forensic Odontologist is included, and old outdated names are removed. The list as it currently appears contains only one actively practicing Forensic Odontologist in South Africa, the other names being those of deceased or retired individuals. I will make this one of my priorities, as I believe it is very important in the times in which we live to be able contact people worldwide who are involved in our discipline of dentistry. Secondly I will encourage non-participating counties to join and become involved. The Tsunami, I believe has made individuals around the globe involved in Forensic Odontology aware of the importance of being part of a global team with common goals and working methods. Quality control and universal standardisation is going to become important, as the world gets smaller. We live in a global village, in which standard protocols will have to be established and adhered to on a global scale. Forensic Odontology courses are being offered all around

the globe, from diplomas to doctorates. I believe that as we co-operate more closely natural osmosis will standardise the practice of Forensic Odontology. Research must be encouraged and results should be published in our journal. Helen and her team have done a great job over the past few years and we hope that ISI approval for our journal will come soon.

Finally I would like to thank the Norwegian team for a job well done. To me Tore was not only a teacher and role model par excellence, but also a friend. To the other team members: Wencke, Lief and Sigrid, thank you all very much.

By the time this newsletter reaches you our IOFOS web page should be up and running. We hope to give it an African flavour, with information relevant to all that read it. May we enjoy the next three years together, learning, doing and experiencing.

Herman Bernitz

IOFOS executive committee in South Africa

bernitz@iafrica.com

Meet the IOFOS Executive board for 2005-2008

Prof Herman Bernitz



Prof Bernitz is a private dental practitioner and part time senior stomatologist in the Department of Oral Pathology and Oral Biology, University of Pretoria, South Africa. He completed his B.Ch.D in 1978, his M.Sc. (Odont) *cum laude* in Oral Pathology in 1996, his Dip. Odont. *cum laude* in Forensic Odontology in 1998 and his Ph.D in Forensic Dentistry in 2004. He lectures in both Oral Pathology and Forensic Dentistry, and is manager of Forensic Dental Research. Since 1998 he has acted as forensic consultant during which time he has been involved in all aspects of forensic dentistry. He has acted as expert witness in more than ten Supreme Court cases involving bite marks. He has attended courses/delivered papers related to Forensic Odontology in; Sweden, USA, Belgium, France, Norway, Kuwait and China. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Forensic Odonto-stomatology, and acted as referee in forensic-associated manuscripts internationally. He is married to Zephné, a practicing veterinarian and they

have four children. He enjoys medium distance jogging and open water swimming. He has run the Skukuza half marathon through the Kruger National Park ten times and has on six occasions completed the Midmar Mile, the worlds largest open water swim. He spends some of his spare time ringing birds with his wife Zephné.

Prof Vince Phillips



Prof Phillips is an Oral Pathologist and a Forensic Dentist. He has been actively involved in the practice, teaching and research of forensic dentistry since 1976. He obtained his bachelor's degree in dentistry at the University of the Witwatersrand in 1970 and began private practice in Britain. He returned to South Africa in 1976 and set up practice in Durban. He specialized in Oral Pathology at the University of Stellenbosch in 1983 while maintaining an active forensic interest. After a visit to the United Kingdom in 1989 he coordinated a postgraduate diploma and an MSc course in forensic dentistry at Stellenbosch University. He has published numerous articles on forensic dentistry and has written two chapters in forensic textbooks. To date he has trained 35 forensic dentists who are all in general dental practice and most of whom are on the disaster standby list. He is actively engaged in disaster management in Cape Town and is the consultant forensic dentist for the Western Cape. His hobbies are golf and 4x4 game viewing.

Contact details: vmphillips@uwc.ac.za

Prof Guy Willems



Prof Willems finished his dental studies in 1988 at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. In 1992 he successfully defended his Ph.D.-thesis at the same university. He received the Certificate of Postgraduate Training in Operative Dentistry with a special emphasis on aesthetic dentistry in 1993 and the Certificate of Postgraduate Training in Orthodontics in 1996, both at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. He was enrolled for a tenure track position at the Department of Orthodontics, School of Dentistry, Oral Pathology and Maxillo-facial Surgery, Faculty of Medicine of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. Guy Willems is the forensic odontologist of the Centre of Forensic Medicine, Katholieke

Universiteit Leuven. He is founder of the Department of Forensic Odontology at the School of Dentistry, Oral Pathology and Maxillofacial Surgery, teaches forensic odontology at undergraduate and post graduate level and is coordinator of the international Master of Forensic Odontology (www.mfo.be). His special interest is forensic dental age estimation in individuals and craniofacial reconstruction. He is author or co-author of over 60 publications in peer-reviewed international scientific journals and organizer of "the 3rd International Conference on Reconstruction of Soft Facial Parts and International IOFOS Conference on Forensic Odontology, to be held from 15 till 20 May, 2006. (see www.mfo.be)

Dr Sonja Boy



Dr Boy obtained her BChD degree at the University of Pretoria in 1995. After 2 years of running her own private practice in Pretoria, she specialized in Oral and Maxillo-Facial Pathology at the University of Pretoria. She obtained MChD (Oral Pathology) *cum laude* in 2001 and received the Faculty award for academic achievements from the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria in 2002. She is currently appointed as a senior specialist in Oral and Maxillo-facial Pathology at the University of Pretoria and is the author and co-author of several scientific publications in international scientific journals. She has delivered various congress presentations and is a member of several national and international professional organizations of Dentistry, General Pathology, Maxillo-Facial Pathology as well as Veterinary Dentistry. She is currently the course organizer of Oral Biology for pre- and post-graduate dental and oral hygiene students, the promoter of several pre-and postgraduate student research projects as well as the organizer of a dedicated Oral HIV Clinic in Pretoria. Sonja is married to Gerhard Steenkamp, a practicing veterinarian with special interest in maxillo-facial and oral surgery in domestic and wild animals which resulted in several published and ongoing collaborating research projects. She loves gardening in beautiful South Africa and enjoys photography.

IOFOS Membership fees: 2005-2008

Dear IOFOS Members and Associated Groups, dear friends,

A note from the IOFOS treasurer will not always generate a round of applause but the message is often easily understood. Indeed, time has come again to pay your membership fees. At the last general assembly in Hong Kong, August 2005, it was unanimously decided to increase the annual dues up to euro 75,00. This represents a quite reasonable amount if you consider the fact that IOFOS is a well respected international organization and the only true international organization in its kind. Like other professional organizations IOFOS also has its professional peer reviewed –and soon hopefully impact factor ranked –journal: ***The Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology***. This journal is included in the membership fee and will be mailed to the fully paidup member countires. So hurry to pay your dues in order to receive your journal in time. The following information will enable you to pay your membership fees through international bank transfer. You are requested to pay your dues in advance for the complete three years of this presidency in order to minimise international banktransfer costs to yourself, and to reduce admin.

Bank account number: 063-4074635-88: transfer Euro 225,00 for 2006-2007-2008

Account holder: Willems Guy IOFOS

IBAN code: BE56-0634-0746-3588

Swift code: GKCCBEBB

Address of the Bank:

Dexia Merksem-Deuzeld
Eethuisstrtaat 2
B-2170 Merksem
Belgium

Finally I would also recommend that each country's chairperson contacts his individual members and promotes individual subscriptions to ***The Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology***. They will find very interesting scientific topics covered inside by leading world authorities in forensic sciences and in particular forensic odontology. Individual subscription for only Australian Dollar 50,00 (about Euro 25,00) is highly recommended and will keep our journal up and running in the next decade.

Enquiries for subscriptions should be directed to:

Mrs Elaine Formenti,
Subscription Manager
Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology
Forensic Odontology Unit

The University of Adelaide, 5005, Australia
Telephone: +61 8 8303 5431,
Fax :+61 8 8303 4385,
Email: elaine.formenti@adelaide.edu.au

All the best in 2006 and hope to meet you in Leuven!

Prof. Dr. Guy Willems

IOFOS Treasurer 2005-2008
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
School of Dentistry, Oral Pathology and Maxillo-Facial Surgery
Departments of Orthodontics and Forensic Odontology
Kapucijnenvoer 7
B-3000
Leuven, Belgium
Tel : + 32 16 33.24.59
Fax : + 32 16 33.75.78
E-mail: guy.willems@med.kuleuven.be
url: www.mfo.be

Welcome to our new National Societies

Thailand.

IOFOS welcomes Dr Surasak Choychumroon and the other members of the Thailand Odontology group. Dr Surasak can be contacted at dentpolice@myway.com

Austria

The Austrian Society of Forensic Medicine (ÖGGM) has joined our organisation. We welcome them and look forward to meeting their members in the near future. Their President is Prof. Walter Rabl and he can be contacted at walter.rabl@i-med.ac.at

Courses in Forensic Odontology

The 7th International IOFOS course in forensic odontology will take place in Copenhagen in August 2006. For more details please contact Lis Andersen Torpet at la@odont.ku.dk

Coming Events

15 – 16 May 2006	Leuven, Belgium "The international symposium on Craniofacial Reconstruction"	Contact Guy Willems guy.willems@med.kuleuven.be
17 – 20 May 2006	Leuven, Belgium "The international symposium on Forensic Odontology"	
November 2007	Cape Town South Africa: International forensic odontology symposium	Contact Vince Phillips vmphillips@uwc.ac.za

International IOFOS contact list (Burgman list)

We appeal to all Presidents / Chairman to check the validity and correctness of the current information in the list. Please send all updated information to bernitz@iafrica.com so that the changes can be made on the home page.

News from the societies

Regrettably no news items were received from our member societies. Please send us news items, interesting cases or any news of interest to our members. Hopefully this slot will be packed with interesting features in the next issue.