



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY

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Impressum

URL: <http://iofos.eu>

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Dear Readers,

The first issue of this year's IOFOS Newsletter is in front of you. It contains several reports from the national associations, international meetings, and unfortunately also the notice on the death of our colleague, professor Jules Kieser from New Zealand.

He died at his home in mid June 2014. The work and the published articles of the late Jules Kieser have indeed enriched forensic odontology.

To all of you who want to upgrade your knowledge in the field of scientific and expert forensic dentistry, I recommend two international meetings: Satellite Symposium of Forensic Dentistry within the 16th International Symposium of Dental Morphology in Zagreb, Croatia from 26th to 30th August 2014, and also the Festival of Forensic Sciences in Seoul from 12th to 18th October within which will be held several workshops, invited lectures and other presentations in the field of Forensic Dentistry.

I hope that you will enjoy reading all the news, and I also hope that we will have the chance to meet at some of the above listed meetings. In the meantime, please receive my kindest greetings and I wish you a nice summer (winter for those in the southern hemisphere!)

Yours,

Hrvoje Brkić

President's Page



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This issue of IOFOS newsletter is a collection of reports from Congresses and Meetings which took place in the last months and which were attended by some IOFOS members.

The latest advancements in forensic odontology, as well as relevant practical cases, were presented in the AAFS meeting in Seattle by researchers and active forensic odontologists coming from all around the world, who took this occasion to report and share their activity and experience. The DVI Standing Committee meeting in Lyon was preceded as usual by the Working Groups Meetings (Forensic Odontologists –FOD- and Forensic Pathologists-FP-). The FOD – WG meeting was very interesting and fruitful for all national representatives. As Alain Middleton highlights in his report, the decision to cancel the position of the Deputy Chair Science and the fragmentation of working groups in more than two raised discussions with opposite opinions. Probably, the working groups will number four in the future : FOD, FP (with forensic anthropologists), forensic genetists (DNA experts) and fingerprint experts.

In the next months important appointments are waiting us: the IOFOS session that is organized within the Seoul IAFS Conference (World Forensic Festival 2014). I take the occasion now to encourage all forensic odontologists in contact with IOFOS to attend the session and the meeting. The IOFOS session, preceded by two workshops dedicated to human ID and age estimation, is scheduled on Thursday 16 October (9.00 – 11.00) and in the afternoon of the same day the IOFOS General Assembly will be held. The Election Committee is at work and the Presidents of the member Societies of IOFOS will be soon asked to designate their delegates for the election of the next IOFOS executive Board and Election Committee for the 2014-2017 term. The Secretary of IOFOS has already written a letter to the Presidents of the member Societies as a call for agenda and I'd like to encourage everyone to reply, since the GA is a valuable opportunity to discuss the organization and activity of IOFOS for the years to come.

Hoping to see many of you in Seoul,

Best regards

Vilma Pinchi

From the National Societies

Polish Society of Forensic Odontology

Professor Herman Bernitz's visit to Poznań 23-26. April 2014

Having attended the International Congress of IOFOS in Florence(Aug 2013) and the annual meeting of the Polish Society of Forensic Medicine and Criminology in Karpacz(Sept 2013), members of the Polish Society of Forensic Odontology realised that there was a need to introduce forensic odontology to more Polish forensic specialists.

With the permission of the Rector and the Dean of the Dentistry Faculty (University of Medical Sciences, Poznań) and the Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine, the Polish Society of Forensic Odontology officially invited Professor Herman Bernitz from the University of Pretoria, South Africa to Poznań.

An intense schedule saw Prof. Bernitz deliver a well attended open lecture entitled "Bite mark analysis, latest trends and common pitfalls" before embarking on a day long workshop on bitemark analysis.

The twenty workshop participants who came from all over Poland and included dental students, were taught how to process cheese bitemarks and analyze their pattern. Cheese bitemarks present the ideal case scenario for teaching of the principles of bite mark analysis, and bite marks in other more problematic substrates were touched upon too. This was the first time ever that Polish forensic experts had experienced a practical workshop on bitemark analysis. The workshop was very interesting and extremely useful, with the feedback from participants being excellent.

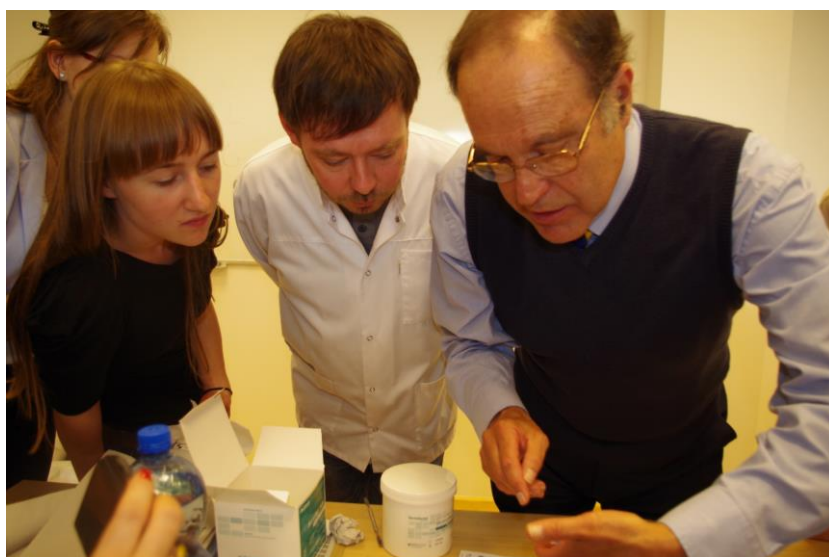
Day two saw Prof. Bernitz deliver lectures in a recently completed state-of-the-art conference room. Entitled: "Dental identification of single cases and mass disasters" and "Age estimation, child abuse and general jurisprudence" Prof. Bernitz's extraordinary teaching skills had the audience captivated from start to finish.

On his final day Prof. Bernitz had an opportunity to visit the Faculty of Dentistry where he met staff and students at work, was introduced to some English track students and finally, officially met the authorities of the Faculty. In the evening Prof. Bernitz completed his itinerary by giving the opening lecture on forensic dentistry to the Dental Students' Conference. He was hospitably welcomed and his lecture was appreciated with long applause.

We would like to thank Professor Herman Bernitz for accepting our invitation.

We also appreciate the help of the authorities of the University of Medical Sciences in Poznań and The School of Dentistry, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Agnieszka Przysańska, PhD, DDS



Figure

Professor Herman Bernitz with colleagues on workshop in Poland

Indian Association of Forensic Odontology

The Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (IAFO) was formed in 2000 and was registered under the Indian Register of Societies in 2002. Over the past 14 years the Association has grown steadily in terms of outreach and membership. During the period January to May 2014, the IAFO welcomed 19 new members making a total of 264 Members. The IAFO Executive usually meets once every three months and it has met twice this year in January at Bengaluru (Bangalore) and in April at Yercaud.

The IAFO has a five year old official publication, the Journal of Forensic Dental Sciences, which is currently in its sixth year. The tri-annual journal has published two issues this year (January-April 2014 and May-August 2014), which are available at <http://www.jfds.org/backissues.asp>. Since 2002, the IAFO has been organising National Conferences almost every year and this year the 12th Annual National Conference is on 20–21 September, at Dehradun in the foothills of the Himalayas, and the preceding five months have seen extensive discussions and meetings concerning its organisation. If any member of the member societies of the IOFOS is interested to attend, they may kindly contact the Conference Organisers for further details (iafo2014@gmail.com).

Apart from this, members of the IAFO have also been lecturing and serving as resource faculty in hands-on workshops, further disseminating practical know-how amongst dentists and forensic professionals, as well as contributing to forensic dental casework in India.

Ashith Acharya, Honorary Secretary, IAFO
ashithacharya@hotmail.com

25th INTERPOL DVI Standing Committee Meeting

The meeting was held as usual at INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon France between Tuesday May 13 and Thursday May 15, 2014. The Odontology working group met on the Monday May 12 2014 as well.

Odontology Working Group

22 odontologists and 2 observers attended the meeting. They represented (in no particular order), USA, Italy, Spain, France, UK, Sweden, Australia, Finland Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium. The 2 observers were from Plass Data and The German BKU.

A review of the year's events in relation to the activity of the group consisted of the conclusion to the updating of the INTERPOL DVI forms, and the reduction of dental codes to be used in the DVI Sys program. A great deal of time was spent discussing the downgrading of input from the Sciences in the DVI Steering group. The current Deputy chair Science position is to be eliminated and the three primary identifiers and Pathology/Anthropology are to be separate groups within the structure. It is the concern of both the Odontology and Pathology groups that the input of the Sciences will be fragmented and at a much lower level within the group structure. It is of concern that the relevance of 'Science' will be left in the hands of non-science persons. The 'I' in DVI will be left to non-scientists to lead. The new incoming Chair of the DVI Steering group (himself a Forensic Odontologist) is positive towards a lead scientific advisor within the group. The other members of the Steering group believe otherwise.

The matter has been left for a proposal to come from the 4 science groups, which presents yet another delaying technique.

A discussion was held regarding the timing in relation to the collection of ante mortem data for missing persons and missing persons related to a potential DVI event such as the Malaysian airlines 370 situations. It is evident that there is quite a wide variance from country to country in relation to this.

A number of presentations were made by attendees, on subjects ranging from the use of handheld portable X-ray machines, ISO standards, and the development of 'Terms of Reference', for the group.

INTERPOL Standing Committee

The usual presentations of DVI incidents around the world, and lessons learnt were presented. The 2 main themes that seemed to emerge were the expectation that DVI teams are expected to achieve identifications more and more rapidly, and the impact of social media on the handling of DVI events and the public's expectations.

The issue of working with commercial entities remains an unresolved issue.

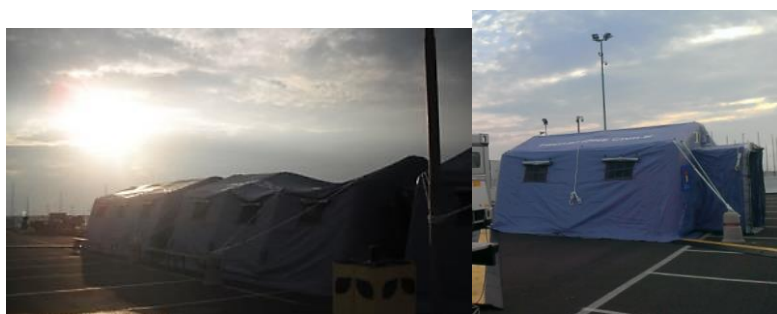
In summary, a very productive and informative few days.

Alain Middleton, INTERPOL DVI Deputy Chair Science and Chair INTERPOL DVI Odontology Working Group



TWIST mock disaster – Salerno, Italy, October 2013

A strong earthquake caused by the eruption of a submarine volcano not so far from the coast of the city of Salerno, a tsunami and the consequent disaster was the scenario for the TWIST operation (Tidal Wave In Southern Tyrrhenian sea), a mock disaster occasion for the deployment of an Italian DVI team in the context of a multi-national organization under the coordination of the Italian National Department of Civil Protection (Italy and Croatia, France, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Malta participated). Every aspect of the disaster has been covered in the October 2013 operation by the participant teams, from the open sea rescue operations to the fixing of the artistic masterpieces in the region, to – obviously - the DVI activity, with the proper management of bodies and human remains and the underwater search for missing persons.



The coordination of National Civil Protection activated Italian DVI teams participating to the operations that were composed by members of the forensic services of the Police and of Carabinieri Corp (Italian military police) and of the Department of Forensic Medical Sciences of the University of Firenze. The DVI team was composed of forensic pathologists, odontologists, DNA, fingerprint and video-photo recording experts.



The University of Firenze provided some forensic pathologists, among whom Prof. Norelli who was the responsible expert of reconciliation activities and all the six odontologists deployed in the field in the 5 hours long rounds in the AM, PM and Reconciliation sites in the city of Salerno, working fruitfully side by side with the other team experts.

Volunteers of Red Cross simulated to be dead and underwent to oral and limited physical examination as well as photos, fingerprints and DNA sample collection. Other volunteers played the roles of relatives and friends of victims. After two days (10 hours) 19 victims were identified through dental evidence, DNA, fingerprints, tattoos.

International observers visited the PM and AM sites, demonstrated to be highly interested and expressed great appreciation for the DVI activity .

The Plass Data System and the Interpol DVI Forms have been used in the ID procedures of false dead bodies - which had been previously translated in Italian by the University of Firenze team with the excellent collaboration of the Plass Data guys in Denmark.

Everything worked very well, as the happy faces of the team illustrate in the pictures



See you all at the next disaster ...

Francesco Pradella

Notice of death



1950 - 2014

Professor Jules Kieser passed away suddenly at his home in Dunedin, New Zealand on Tuesday 10 June. A South African by birth, Jules made New Zealand his home in 1996, taking up a position at the University of Otago as the Chairman of the Dept. of Oral Sciences and Orthodontics. Jules was the Associate Dean for Research at the Faculty of Dentistry and the inaugural Director of the Sir John Walsh Research Institute at the University of Otago. He deserves great credit for encouraging and developing teaching and research in the forensic sciences at the University of Otago - at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Jules is a past editor of the IOFOS Newsletter and had huge experience in the practice and teaching of Forensic Odontology.

Blessed with a charismatic personality, Jules' persistently enquiring intellect and softly-spoken approach to the challenges of academic life made him an inspirational leader, teacher, mentor, life-coach, friend and colleague. Jules will be very much missed.

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Forensic Meetings

10th International Course in Forensic Odontology Oslo, Norway, June 23 – 28, 2014

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 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
- To introduce computerized identification programmes
- To train installation of the DVI program on your own laptop

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



City Hall Harbour, Oslo, Norway

**16th International Symposium on Dental Morphology (ISDM)
1st Congress of the International Association for Paleodontology (IAPO)
Satelit Symposium of Forensic Dentistry**

Zagreb, Croatia, August 26 – 30, 2014

The scientific program is determined by three main areas: Dental morphology, Paleodontology and Forensic dentistry.

Topics for scientific sessions:

Dental evolution

Dental growth and craniofacial development

Dental genetics

Clinical aspects of dental morphology

Dental tissues and dental bioarchaeology the scientific sessions

Forensic dentistry: (*Vilma Pinchi, Tore Solheim, Roberto Cameriere, Svend Richter*)

Place: Hotel Westin Zagreb



Landscape of Zagreb, King Tomislav square

WORLD FORENSIC FESTIVAL

“New Horizon in Forensic Sciences”

IAFS 2014 20th World Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences

AFSN 2014 6th Asian Forensic Sciences Network, Annual Meeting & Symposium

APMLA 2014 5th Meeting of Asia-Pacific Medico-Legal Agencies

COEX, Seoul, Korea, October 12 – 18, 2014



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10th World Police Medical Officers (WPMO)

“New Horizon in Forensic Sciences”

October 12 (Sun)~18 (Sat),2014 COEX, Seoul, Korea