



# NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY

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## Editor's Page

Dear Colleagues

The first quarter of 2006 has already passed and it is time for the second IOFOS Newsletter. I previously encouraged all members and even non-members to supply us with news on individual group activities as well as suggestions for improvement on the document. Thank you to Prof Håkan Mörnstad who suggested that the Newsletter appear in pdf format. The advantages of the Newsletter in this format is that it will now be readable by people without MS Word and will be a smaller file to download. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader on your system, you may obtain a freeware version of Adobe Acrobat Reader from the Adobe website which is [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

The president of IOFOS, Prof Herman Bernitz previously stated his commitment to update the worldwide forensic odontology contact archive (the Burgman list) and invited all member societies to participate. This has been an ongoing process and we would like to thank those who already supplied us with updated member lists. We want to appeal to those that have not yet responded, to help us achieve this goal as soon as possible.

The need for international standardisation was recently confirmed by one of our colleagues who conducted a seminar with police DVI odontologists to teach them the INTERPOL codes. Participants were noticeably upset by the variation in codes for the same procedure, and sometimes no codes for others. He proposed that a forum of dentists be recruited to review the codes and to then compile a list that is acceptable to all. We invite you all to comment on this proposal by replying directly to my e-mail address at [sonja.boy@up.ac.za](mailto:sonja.boy@up.ac.za). A summary of received comments will be published in the next Newsletter in August. We believe international standardization to be the answer to the discrepancies and misunderstandings faced by international DVI teams during international mass disaster identifications.

I urge you all again to visit the updated IOFOS website at [www.IOFOS.org](http://www.IOFOS.org). We have been experiencing some problems with the IOFOS address, and the alternative longer address [www.odont.uio.no/foreninger/iofos/](http://www.odont.uio.no/foreninger/iofos/) can also be used to access the site if you have difficulties. Please forward us news from your societies or any interesting case reports or

stories of personal experience you might have encountered in your career as forensic odontologists. It is only through constant academic interaction that knowledge is gained. Such a case report from our Department can be found at the end of this Newsletter. Please send your contributions to myself or Prof Bernitz to be included in the next issue of the Newsletter. Lastly I invite you again to submit manuscripts for the Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology to Dr Helen James, the editor of this journal at [helen.james@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:helen.james@adelaide.edu.au).

Best wishes to all

Sonja Boy

## President's Page

Colleagues



I am glad to report that all the facets of our association are functioning well. The web page is up and running and members countries have responded well to my appeal to update their member lists. I would also like to welcome an old member back into the fold, namely The British Association for Forensic Odontology and a new member, the Forensic Odontologists of Israel which joins our ranks. As our association grows, our voice becomes more meaningful and our efforts at universal standardization more achievable. I can also mention that I have made contact with certain South American colleagues and hope to see our influence strengthened in this part of the world.

As you will see in the news letter, the South African IOFOS meeting will take place between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2007. It will be held in Cape Town and will be convened by Vince Phillips who hopes to get a gathering of like-minded Forensic Odontologists from every corner of the globe. For those of you who have never visited our shores, now is the time. "Carpé diem" = sieze the moment. We have chosen a venue that offers value for money and enables you to bring your wife and family with you. We hope to put together a program that will be relevant, informative and stimulating.

During our meeting in Hong Kong, John Clement and I spoke about designing a chain of office which would be worn at IAFS conferences and similar gatherings. I am happy to

announce that the South African Society for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology (SASFOS) will sponsor the chain and have included some design variations for comment by our members. All past presidents of IOFOS will be added to the collar band. I believe that nurturing the tradition of an organization can only strengthen its future survival.

I encourage member countries to send us material for inclusion in the news letter. Members want to know what is happening around them; let us all be kept informed.

Kind regards,  
Herman Bernitz

## From the National Societies

### International Organization of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology Meeting, Leuven, Belgium



After much preparation, the above meeting took place from May 17<sup>th</sup> until May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006. More than 95 participants flew into Belgium and traveled to Leuven in order to be present at this meeting,

which celebrated 5 years of forensic odontology training in a full time postgraduate master-after-master program at the school of Dentistry, Oral Pathology and Maxillo-Facial Surgery of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (see further [www.mfo.be](http://www.mfo.be)).

The meeting commenced on Tuesday evening with a welcome reception where everybody could register and meet old friends while tasting a glass of Belgian beer. Next were three working days of science covering all disciplines of forensic odontology by very well known international speakers. A summary of the abstracts will soon be available on the IOFOS website (see above for URT) , while the full papers may be viewed and read in the supplementary issue to Forensic Science International. These proceedings are available online where you may download the complete texts.

Everybody also had plenty of opportunity to socialize with each other, an aspect that was very much appreciated. The highlight of the social programme was the outing in the city of

Leuven, hopping around from pub to pub while having dinner. You can share in the atmosphere by surfing to [www.mfo.be](http://www.mfo.be) , click on "links" and view the pictures taken during the meeting. They will be available until the end of the month.

Finally I want to thank everybody who participated in this wonderful adventure. We had a great time, scientifically and socially.

Guy Willems  
IOFOS Treasurer

## **Minutes of the IOFOS Assembly in Hong Kong, 2005**

### **Represented societies**

Australia, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland.

### **Approval of agenda**

Agenda approved. Tore Solheim, presiding. Helen James, secretary.

### **President's Report**

Separate document – accepted.

Thanks to outgoing executive proposed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer's report accepted. Two accounts running, with balances of 2259.16 Euro and 21519.86 Norwegian Krona.

### **Membership Fee for 2006 – 2008**

Fee increase to 75 Euro per annum proposed and accepted. This figure will include a subscription for each society to the Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology.

### **Report from Newsletter Editor**

Three newsletters per year were distributed. Representatives were reminded that an annual report from member countries is required under Section 3(c) of IOFOS Regulations.

### **Report from Editor of the Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology**

Separate report – accepted.

Recommended website change from Organization to Organisation (ie. z to s) to align with Journal title.

### **Appointment of permanent honorary editor for the Journal**

Helen James accepted this position, however, advised representatives that change to her local conditions of employment may necessitate a change of direction in the future.

### **Election of new executive and auditor**

Nominations were accepted from Australia and South Africa. Result of a secret ballot elected South Africa to form a new executive committee. Denmark has agreed to act as auditor.

### **Appointment of election committee**

Australia, France & Germany appointed.

### **Supplementary instructions for member societies**

Separate document introduced by Norway. Not accepted.

### **Supplementary instructions for Ferdinand Stroem award**

Separate document introduced by Norway. Accepted.

#### **Ferdinand Stroem Award**

Presented to Kirska Reppien (Denmark).

### **Guidelines for payment of forensic odontologists during international operations**

Discussion initiated by South Africa, in light of circumstances surrounding deployment by forensic odontologists to DVI efforts in tsunami-affected areas.

IOFOS supports the view that forensic odontologists working in mass disasters are professional DVI specialists, not volunteers, and appropriate remuneration should be paid.

Guidelines for international cooperation of odontology experts after mass disasters.

Not discussed, due to time constraints.

### **Future policy for new executive**

Continue discussion re Quality Assurance issues.

Set cost (if any) for newsletter distribution to individuals.

Decide on web address.

Advise if Hakan Mornstad to continue update of list of worldwide odontology contacts.

## Courses in Forensic Odontology

The 7<sup>th</sup> International IOFOS course in forensic odontology, "Personal Identification by Dental Methods" will take place in Copenhagen 14-19 August 2006. For more details please contact Lis Andersen Torpet at [la@odont.ku.dk](mailto:la@odont.ku.dk)

## Coming Events

14-19 August 2006	Personal Identification by Dental Methods	Copenhagen
21-23 November 2007	IOFOS Meeting	South Africa
To be announced	Caribbean Forensic Meeting	Caribbean

## IOFOS meeting South Africa

We are proud to invite all members and prospective members to the IOFOS meeting in South Africa which will be held from 21-23 November 2007 in the heart of Cape Town's working harbour, the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Situated between Robben Island and Table Mountain, the V&A Waterfront is South Africa's most visited destination.

Set against a backdrop of magnificent sea and mountain views, it offers everything from upmarket shopping malls, arts and crafts markets, theatres, world-class hotels, luxury apartments in the residential marina, music and live entertainment. We invite you to visit the V&A Waterfront website at [www.waterfront.co.za](http://www.waterfront.co.za). The meeting will be held at the beautiful Waterfront Breakwater Lodge which you can visit at [www.bwl.co.za](http://www.bwl.co.za).

This is the first invitation for submission of abstracts for this meeting. The provisional deadline for abstract submissions is May 2007 and for registration is July 2007.

This is a great opportunity to bring your family and experience South African hospitality at its very best! A fantastic spouse's program will be arranged.

Cape Town International airport will link you to all the adventure southern Africa can offer including Sun City, Victoria Falls, the Kruger National Park, Etosha, Kgalagadi National Park, Addo Elephant Park and many others.



[www.asn.au/.../photos/photos2005.htm](http://www.asn.au/.../photos/photos2005.htm)

## General

Below are three proposed Presidential gong designs. We ask all members to contribute their preferences: vote A, B or C at [sonja.boy@up.ac.za](mailto:sonja.boy@up.ac.za).



A



B



C

PS: Central cross is in fact a sword and will be corrected.

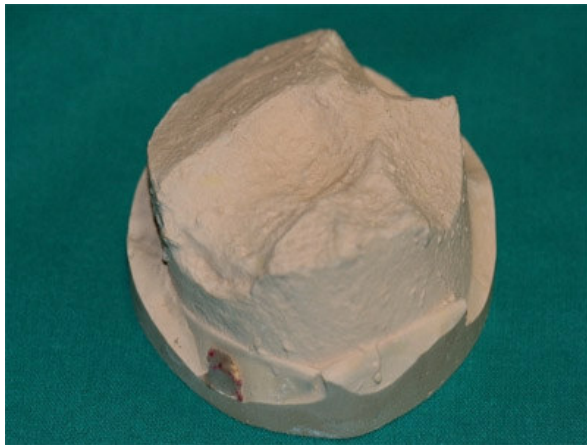


## Interesting cases:

### A bite mark in a piece of polony.

On the 21 of March 2004 a couple was attacked by three armed men near Kroonstad, a small town in South Africa. During the initial crime scene investigation, polony bearing tooth marks was found. The investigating officer took the polony to the local dentist and requested him to take an impression of the bite mark and produce a plaster model.

On inspecting the model (Fig 1), both the police officer and dental surgeon were sure that no bite mark analysis would be possible. The models were brought to the Department of Oral Pathology and Oral Biology, at the School of Dentistry for possible analysis. At first glance there seemed to be no clear tooth definition present, and an analysis which could be used in court seemed unlikely.



**Fig 1: Cast of partially eaten polony**

It was then decided to replicate the polony model so that sections could be made through the bite mark at different heights (Fig 2). This produced clear bite mark profiles which could be compared to the models of the three suspects.



**Fig 2: Sectioned cast showing bite profiles**

A macroscopic and microscopic pattern association was now carried out and a match was established between the bite mark and suspect 2 (Fig 3).



**Fig 3: Suspect's dental impression matched to bite profile in polony cast.**

A court report was compiled and the evidence presented in the Kroonstad circuit court. The profile match was accepted as proof that the suspect was indeed present at the scene of the crime. Further evidence led to a sentence of life imprisonment.

To the author's knowledge this is the first case in which this technique has been used.