



# NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY

# Nr.3

October 2006

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## Editor's page

Dear Colleagues

It is hard to believe that this is already our third and final Newsletter for 2006 and much has happened. Thank you to all the member societies for your letters and comments. I have included most of these in this Newsletter.

In the previous Newsletter we asked your opinions on a proposal by one of our colleagues to recruit a forum of dentists to review the international DVI codes. This was after he conducted a seminar with police DVI odontologists to teach them the INTERPOL codes. Participants were upset by the variation in codes for the same procedure, and sometimes no codes for others. We received some feedback from members also stating that they feel extremely negative when code systems developed by computer specialists and police are forced upon them and that they also feel we as dentists are more than capable of developing own code systems. Computer companies are seeking code systems that are very complete but this results in long lists of code which are difficult to remember. Unfortunately many different opinions exist and one member even stated that forensic odontologists seldom agree! Prof Solheim corrected our earlier statement of "Interpol codes" and stated that these international codes have never been accepted by Interpol as a standard. According to him Interpol are now going to set up an International user group for the DVI system and for the forms which may improve the current situation. Generally it was felt that we need a standardised, simplified code system for the more frequently encountered situations and that the rest should be written out in retrievable full text to prevent misunderstandings.

Due to some more technical problems with our website, an e-mail was sent to all IOFOS members in August to inform everyone that the IOFOS web page has once again been changed! It has however now been secured by Guy Willems. This new website address is [www.IOFOS.eu](http://www.IOFOS.eu). The executive realise that it is an EU website but as the President stated in his letter, we hope that in the spirit of unity amongst IOFOS members, this will not cause any discontent. We want to invite you all to visit our website and to please check that all your details are correct and that the world contact list is current.

In the previous Newsletter we also included three Presidential gong designs and asked the members to vote for one of them. Very little feedback was received and the final decision of the executive can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Just after the second Newsletter we were sad to learn that Christiana Pereira was in a serious car accident in March. We hope she recovered well and that we will soon see her at the meetings again!

My apologies for omitting the author details of the interesting case presented in the previous Newsletter on p9! The case was presented by Prof Herman Bernitz of South Africa. Please send us some interesting cases you dealt with in your situations – remember knowledge can only be gained when someone is willing to share.

Lastly I want to wish all our members and their families a Blessed festive season and a prosperous 2007!

Sonja C. Boy

**Editor: IOFOS**

## Presidents Page



When accepting the post as President of IOFOS, I believed it would be an administrative position with a few extra duties should a disaster occur. This has in fact not been the case. I have been involved in disasters of a different nature which I can now report as under control. First of all we found that our web page had been bought by a shark who wanted in excess of 1000 Euros for its return. As you are all aware we were forced to change our web page to [www.IOFOS.eu](http://www.IOFOS.eu) and it seems to be working well. The next shock came when Helen and her team resigned as editors of the journal. The editorial board has however decided to continue the journal in an electronic format under the existing name. We are currently looking for a new “electronic” editor. If anyone is aware of someone who

would be interested in the position of editor, please do let me know. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Helen and her team for all the hard work and dedication that they put into the journal. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

The next important date on the Forensic Dental calendar is the November 2007 IOFOS meeting in Cape Town. The organizers have put together a truly African experience with first world comforts. We have a great line up of forensic experts who will enlighten you on all aspects of forensic dentistry on the African continent. With high levels of crime, comes innovative research ideas, which we hope to share with our colleagues from around the globe. Please distribute this news letter to all your members so that they are made aware of the meeting.

Last but not least I would like to wish you all a joyous festive season and successful new year.

Herman Bernitz  
**IOFOS President**

## **From the National Societies**

### **FROM THE CROATIAN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC STOMATOLOGISTS (CAFS)**

The Croatian Association of Forensic Stomatologists (CAFS), ([www.hufs.netfirms.com](http://www.hufs.netfirms.com)) was founded in 2003 and consequently became a member of the International Organization of Forensic Odonto-Stomatologists.



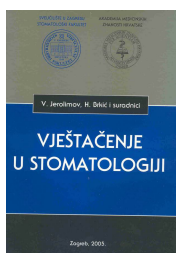
Apart from the CAFS, the Chair of Forensic Dentistry, School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, also participates in the education of students and dentists. This Chair performs a regular subject of Forensic Dentistry for students of the fifth year of the graduate study (DMD). The Chair of Forensic Dentistry, School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, is the only forensic chair on the territory of former Yugoslavia. It cooperates with colleagues from the Institute of Forensic Medicine, University of Ljubljana (SLO/EU) through

the exchange of lecturers and different lecturing themes for the odontology students in Croatia and Slovenia. There is also an ongoing and active co-operation with colleagues from Pristhina through the education of the odontologists in Kosovo.

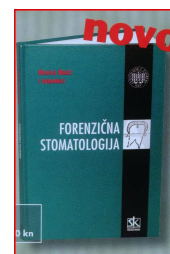
Members of the CAFS are active participants of international forensic conferences worldwide. These include: *'International Course of Dental Identification – Oslo, 2005'*; *'Triennial Meeting of International Association of Forensic Sciences – Hong Kong, 2005'*; and *'Forensic Meetings in Leuven, 2006'*. They are authors and co-authors of numerous forensic manuscripts in different international journals.

Workshops in 'Dental Identification & Dental Age and Sex Assessment' for continuous education of Croatian dentists are organized on a yearly basis.

Untill today, the CAFS and the School of Dental Medicine have produced several forensic experts: Hakan Mörnstad and Aina Teivens (2001); Yvo Vermylen (2003); Tore Solheim (2004), and the tradition continues. In April next year we and Hakan Mörnstad will organize the *'International course of dental identification of human remains from mass graves'* for Croatian and Swedish dentists.



A Forensic Dentistry textbook ***Forensic Dentistry. Zagreb: Skolska knjiga, 2000*** [Brkić H i suradnici. Forenzična stomatologija. Zagreb: Skolska knjiga, 2000. (ISBN 953-0-31538-4)] that was written and published for the odontologists in Croatia has been translated into Albanian to be of use for the odontologists in Albania and Kosovo.



Another textbook, ***Jerolimov V, Brkić H et al.. Dental Experts Witnessing. Zagreb: University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine, 2005.*** [Jerolimov V, Brkić H i suradnici. Vjestacenje u stomatologiji. Zagreb:Sveuciliste u Zagrebu Stomatološki fakultet, 2005.

(ISBN953-96287-5-X)] was published in 2005 by the University of Zagreb & Croatian Academy of Science and Arts.

Our good work is the result of the increasing number of CAFS members and participation of the Croatian forensic experts in the IOFOS and other international forensic associations.



We are sending greetings to all readers of this newsletter and best regards from beautiful Croatia.

**Hrvoje Brkic DDS, PhD**  
**President of CAFS**

### **FROM THE GERMAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY (AKFOS)**

#### **30th Anniversary of the German Academy of Forensic Odontostomatology (1976 – 2006)**



**AKFOS**  
Arbeitskreis für Forensische Odonto-Stomatologie  
German Academy of Forensic Odontostomatology  
Interdisziplinärer Arbeitskreis  
der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Zahn-, Mund- und Kieferheilkunde  
und der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Rechtsmedizin



On October 29 1976 in Stuttgart during its 102th meeting the German Society of Dental Oral and Craniomandibular Sciences called the working group "Forensische Zahnheilkunde" into existence. This Group combined the German Society of Dental Oral and Craniomandibular Sciences (DGRM) and the German Society of Legal Medicine (DGRM).

In 1989 AKFOS became a member of the International Society for Forensic Odontostomatology (IOFOS) and in 1990 at the General Assembly of the 12<sup>TH</sup> meeting of IOFOS in Adelaide, Australia, Klaus Roetzscher, Speyer, was elected president (1990 – 1993). AKFOS intensified its international contacts.

In 1990 after the fall of the wall in Germany, colleagues from East Germany attended the annual meeting of AKFOS. Klaus Roetzscher inaugurated the 'AKFOS NEWSLETTER' to intensify the contacts between the board and the members and interested scientists from

other branches of criminology. The contacts to colleagues in Austria, Belgium, France, Poland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the USA were consequently activated.

Please contact our homepage for information about AKFOS at [www.akfos.org](http://www.akfos.org).

AKFOS meets annually in October in Mainz. Today it is of importance to inform dentists about criminological sciences for identifying unknown bodies, forensic age determination of illegal immigrants and in crime cases. Through the Federal Bureau of Crime Investigation (Bundeskriminalamt – BKA) in 2005, AKFOS was involved in identifying the victims of the Tsunami from December 26, 2004, in Southeast Asia (Sri Lanka and Thailand).

AKFOS has now been in exists for 30 years and its programmes are correct and internationally accepted.

**Klaus Roetzcher, Speyer,  
Chairman of AKFOS**

#### **FROM THE AUSTRALIAN FORENSIC DENTAL SOCIETY**

Congratulation to the newly elected executive.

**As President:**

David Griffiths

[fordent@bigpond.net.au](mailto:fordent@bigpond.net.au)

Tel: +61 2 6251 5559

**As Secretary:**

Alex Forrest

[a.forrest@griffith.edu.au](mailto:a.forrest@griffith.edu.au)

Tel: +61 403497779

#### **FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LEGAL MEDICINE - PORTUGAL**

In Portugal, no dedicated forensic odontology organisation exists but forensic dentistry is taught in the Dental Schools. Some dentists are also employed by public institutes like the National Institute of Legal Medicine where forensic odontology responsibilities can be found.

**João Aquino**

# IOFOS 2007 CONGRESS



**BREAKWATER LODGE  
V&A WATERFRONT  
CAPE TOWN  
SOUTH AFRICA**

**21 – 23  
November 2007**

Website: [www.IOFOS.eu](http://www.IOFOS.eu)

## **Registration:**

**Registration before 31 July 2007:**

Delegates: R4000  
(440 Euro, £320, \$570, Kenyan Shillings  
36 000, Zim \$4 000 000)

**Registration after 31 July 2007:**

R4500

Accompanying person: R1000

### **Registration Includes:**

Conference fees and venue facility  
Teas, juices, confectioneries and lunches  
during the conference period  
Tuesday evening cocktail party  
Handouts

## **African Evening:**

Thursday 22 July 2007, R350 per head.  
Experience something different!

## **Account:**

African IOFOS meeting  
Account number: 62121010748  
Branch code: 270150  
Swift code: FIRZAJJ  
Bank Address: First National Bank  
19 O.R. Tambo st.  
Middelburg  
Mpumalanga  
South Africa  
1050  
(Must be transferred in SA Rand)



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## **Accommodation:**

Each delegate to organise his/her own accomodation: Please see information on website.  
There are many hotels within walking distance from the conference venue

## **Abstracts:**

Please send abstracts to:

Prof SC Boy at [sonja.boy@up.ac.za](mailto:sonja.boy@up.ac.za)

### **Oral Presentations**

Research papers  
Case studies

### **Posters**

Research orientated  
Case studies

All abstracts must be: Arail 12. Title in capitals/ bold. Names and affiliation of author/s. Not more than 200 words. Less than 4 keywords.

**Due Date: 27 May 2007**

## **Keynote Speakers:**

**Bob Wood** – Forensic Radiology, Canada

**Herman Bernitz** – Bite Marks, RSA

**Maryna Steyn** – Facial reconstruction, RSA

**Alan Morris** – Physical Anthropologist, Ancient burials in Cape Town, RSA

**Theuns van der Linde** – Forensic Entomology, RSA

**Steve Naidoo** – Genocide, RSA

**Munroe Marx** – DNA, RSA

**Gert Saayman** – Ritual medicine, RSA.

## **General**

### **Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology**

The official Journal of the International Organization for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology, the JFOS was published the first time in South Africa in June 1983. The first Editor of the journal, Prof HA Shapiro passed away in 1984 after which the journal was managed by the local Editorial Board. Dr Cyril Thomas was appointed Editor-in chief in 1987 in Vancouver and the production of the journal has been in Australia since then.

Dr Tomas retired as editor in 2003 and was replaced by Dr Helen James. It is with regret that we heard of Dr James' resignation as Editor and we need to appoint someone who is prepared to continue this publication in electronic format. This will pose some new challenges but will keep us relevant in an era of electronic media communications. Most of us are scared of change, but by unanimous vote from the editorial board we have decided to

make this bold move. Prospective candidates must please send CV's to the IOFOS executive. We hope to appoint a new editor early in 2007.

## Presidential Gong



The design on the left is the one voted for by the few members and executive of IOFOS. Thank you for those who participated.

## Interesting Case

None received for this publication.