

NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY



Volume 47, Issue 1, June 2025

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IMPRESSUM

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une typically marks the onset of the monsoon season in India, a time poets and writers — both contemporary and classical — have celebrated in verse and prose. The rains bring much-needed relief from the

scorching heat of April and May, enabling farmers to continue their vital work of feeding a population of over one and a half billion.

Of course, as the northern hemisphere welcomes

summer, winter settles over the south, and people around the world embrace the season in their own way. Yet amidst this, I reflect on the tragic loss of life in a major air crash in my country. I commend my colleagues in dentistry who have stepped forward to assist authorities in identifying the deceased. The development and application of forensic odontology in India continue to progress significantly, driven by a shared commitment to learning and advancing the field — an enthusiasm mirrored by dentists worldwide, as evidenced by the courses and conferences highlighted in this issue.

The IOFOS Executive, led by the dynamic Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, exemplifies leadership by organising invaluable training programmes and actively participating in diverse conferences and meetings that strengthen forensic odontology's

global presence. These range from specialised dental age estimation seminars to broader forensic gatherings that engage medical experts, law enforcement, and INTERPOL.



This issue also features key forensic odontology conferences, including the AAFS annual meeting, which was covered in 2024 but now takes a closer look at this year's odontology section. The report from Indonesia showcases

remarkable advancements in forensic odontology within a nation frequently affected by natural disasters, while the article from Ukraine underscores the essential collaboration between forensic dentistry and forensic medicine to optimise identification and investigation outcomes. Additionally, a few important upcoming programmes are announced.

Overall, the June 2025 issue of the IOFOS Newsletter highlights forensic odontology activities spanning the northern and southern hemispheres, east and west. Contributions come directly from experts actively engaged in these events — whether as organisers, speakers, or participants — offering firsthand perspectives on the latest developments. I extend my gratitude to all contributors for their timely submissions and concise writing, which are vital to a newsletter

dedicated to continually updating and sharing forensic odontology insights with peers worldwide.

This issue concludes on a solemn note, with an obituary honouring a researcher whose work has left a lasting impact on our profession.

As always, I encourage you to share your forensic odontology experiences with the IOFOS community by submitting meeting reports and other contributions. Submissions for the December issue of the IOFOS Newsletter should be emailed no later than November 2025. Further details can be found below in the Instructions for Authors.

As I relish the refreshing monsoonal weather in the coming months, I wish you all well — may you continue to gain knowledge and prosper.

Instruction for Authors

IOFOS Newsletter is published biannually in June and December. Contributions should be sent by e-mail to newsl-editor@iofos.eu before the first day of the month of publication. All contributions should be in English as Microsoft Word documents (max. 800 words, and up to three images). Do not include images within the text. If any, images should be at the end of the text. Images should be numbered and have legends. Indicate in the text where the respective image should be placed. Author name(s), organisation/institution affiliation, city and country, with e-mail address must be included. All information about forensic dentistry such as meeting reports, news from national societies, forensic activity reports, upcoming forensic meeting announcements, etc. from IOFOS members/member societies, as well as from other contributors, are welcome. If you wish to be included on the IOFOS mailing list and receive the Newsletter by e-mail, please write to the above e-mail address. Thank you!

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IOFOS ear members. dear readers, dear coland dear leagues friends, welcome to the June 2025 edition of the IOFOS Newsletter.

As I sit to reflect on the past months since the last newsletter in

December 2024, I am filled with both gratitude and a sense of accomplishment. This period has been marked by significant scientific, educational, and organisational activities, driven by the dedicated efforts of our members and executive board. It is my honour to serve as President of IOFOS during such an exciting time for our society.

A Heartfelt Memory: Honouring a **Colleague and Friend**

Before delving into our recent activities. I want to take a moment to remember and honour the life of our dear colleague and friend, Professor

from Professor Sakher Al-Qahtani.



nowned name in forensic odontology and the author of the famous London Atlas for age estimation, passed away on April 9, 2025. He was not only a brilliant professional but also an inspirational person. I cherish the personal memories of Sakher, especially the

ornaments he crafted for me and my husband back in 2021, which now hang on our Christmas tree — symbols of his kindness that I will carry in my heart forever (Fig. 1). His contribution to our field is invaluable. In his memory, I am pleased to announce that the IOFOS Best Oral Presentation and Poster Awards will now bear his name, a tribute to his lasting legacy. This edition's cover was also carefully chosen in honour of Sakher. It is a true privilege to dedicate this newsletter to him - a



dear

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Educational Initiatives and Upcoming Events

Looking ahead, I am pleased to inform you that registration and submission of scientific papers are now open for the upcoming triannual IOFOS International Congress in Lisbon (9–11 September, 2026), with a cultural excursion scheduled for 12 September 2026. We invite all members and colleagues to submit a diverse range of work across various fields of forensic dentistry. Complete details can be found on the congress website: https://iofos-2026-triennial-meeting.eu/ and on our social media channels, Instagram and LinkedIn (@IOFOSLISBON2026).

From 7–11 April 2025, Lisbon hosted the International Course on Personal Identification by Dental Methods, which was an exceptional success (Fig. 2). The course encompassed theoretical knowledge, practical training, autopsy room experience, digital impression techniques supported by Straumann's Education Department, and forensic sessions with the Portuguese Criminal Police. All candidates undertook proficiency tests and were approved by IOFOS. Congratulations to them!

Looking forward, I am excited to announce the upcoming International Workshop on age estimation scheduled for 7–11 July 2025 in Florence, Italy. We are privileged to have renowned experts Prof. Dr. Sigrid Kvaal and Prof. Dr. Helen Liversidge sharing their expertise — my sincere gratitude to them for their contributions, which has greatly influenced my professional growth.

Additionally, don't miss the IOFOS esymposium on 6 December 2025, at

2:00 pm (CET), titled 'Advancements in Forensic Odontology Education'. The full programme will be announced soon.

Activities as IOFOS President (since December 2024)

In the past six months, my activities have been vibrant and diverse. I participated in the successful 'Age Estimation Workshop' in Berlin, organised by Prof. Andreas Schmeling, which marked 27 years of continuous scientific excellence with the Study Group on Forensic Age Diagnostics. The event also featured cultural and social activities thoughtfully organised by Prof. Schmeling.



Figure 2: Gala Dinner from the IOFOS International Course on Personal Identification by Dental Methods in Lisbon.





Figure 3: President Cristiana Palmela Pereira seen with INTERPOL DVI unit member Eckhard Klemp (L) and colleagues from Christil Verbiest (Belgium) and Phillys Ho (USA) (R) at the INTERPOL DVI Meeting in Lyon, France.

As a visiting professor at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Dentistry, I spent a week teaching there. I was warmly received by the Dean, Prof. Marin Vodanovick, and had the opportunity to explore Zagreb's beautiful Light Festival and attend a ballet performance with Prof. Hrvoje Brkic — enriching experiences both professionally and personally.

I also represented Portugal at the IN-TERPOL DVI meeting, where engaging discussions took place on current forensic topics. Furthermore, I was honoured to speak at the 30th International Meeting on Forensic Medicine (Alpe-Adria-Pannonia, Šibenik, Croatia, on 21-24 May, 2025). There, I discussed 'The Importance of Dental Evidence in Human Identification in DVI', sharing the podium once again with colleagues such as Prof. Andreas Schmeling, Prof. Hrvoje Brkić, and Prof. Yanko Kolev, President of IAFS. This was an outstanding scientific meeting organised by Prof. Dr. Vedrana Petrovečki (Fig. 4).

On the research front, I am pleased to share that our field secured funding

through projects like the FCT Grant on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science, and Cybersecurity related to Public Administration (reference 2024.07444.IACDC), which applies AI to age estimation in asylum seekers.



Figure 4: Prof. Dr. Yanko Kolev, President of IAFS and Prof. Dr. Vedrana Petrovečki president of the 30th International Meeting on Forensic Medicine, which I was privileged to attended in Šibenik, Croatia.

Figure 5: Moments with friends after the 30th International Meeting on Forensic Medicine, Split May 2025. Prof. Ivan Galic, Prof. Hrvoje Brkic and Prof. Andreas Schmeling.

Closing and Best Wishes

I want to express my profound gratitude to all who have contributed to recent activities, our newsletter, and our ongoing efforts (Fig. 5). I also invite all member countries and colleagues to send updates, research news, and suggestions for upcoming issues. I am grateful for your ongoing support, and I thank you for sharing this journey with me. May



this edition of our newsletter serve a source of motivation and updates. I wish everyone an inspiring summer—full of sunshine and energy.

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77th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, February 2025

he 77th Annual Scientific Session of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) was held at the Baltimore Convention Center, 17–22 February 2025 in Baltimore, USA (Fig. 1). The theme: 'Technology: A Tool for Transformation or Tyranny?'



Figure 1: The 77th AAFS Meeting was organised on 17-22 February 2025 in Baltimore, USA.

Conference meetings and events drew attendees representing the spectrum of forensic science disciplines and levels of experience. from multiple Multidisciplinary programmes included the **AAFS** Mentorship Program, Student Academy, Young Forensic Scientists Forum, as well as accreditation and standards. Case Break sessions, luncheons and workshops covered a broad variety of disciplines, investigations, and topics of practical interest in forensics and the judicial system. Conference attendees were offered a tour of the world-class Baltimore Crime Lab and Forensic Science and Evidence Services Division of the Baltimore Police Department.

The Scientific Programme sessions presented case reports, studies, technology updates and administrative considerations in Anthropology, Criminalistics, Digital & Multimedia Sciences, Engineering, Forensic General, Jurisprudence, Nursing, Odontology, Pathology/Biology, Psychiatry Behavioural Science. Questioned Documents, Toxicology, and plus combined session of Engineering & Forensic Nursing.

We are pleased to report that Dr. Kenneth W. Aschheim is the recipient of the 2025 Lester Luntz Odontology Award. We are grateful for his significant contributions to the field of Forensic Odontology and the community it serves. Aptly, Dr. Aschheim delivered presentations on Odontology Standards, and updates in technology and artificial intelligence in the Odontology Session (Fig. 2), as well as the panel discussion, 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) Forensics'. in the 2025 Interdisciplinary Symposium 'Technology: A Tool for Transformation or Tyranny?'

The Odontology Session was held on 20th February, presenting case reports and updates in standards, technology and artificial intelligence, animal bitemarks, dental identification, medicolegal death investigation, and dental age estimation. We are proud of the quality of this year's presentations, but there is room for more

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voices and ideas. While attendance and membership increased, the number of presentations decreased. Your experiences, whether clinical, academic, or interdisciplinary, are valuable. We welcome and encourage you to consider submitting an abstract for our next AAFS Annual Conference, which will be held in New Orleans, on 9–14 February 2026.



Figure 2: Dr. Kenneth Aschheim presenting at the AAFS Odontology Session.

Concurrent with the AAFS meeting, the 55th Anniversary Meeting of the American Society of Forensic Odontology (ASFO), was held on 18 February 2025, at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor. ASFO President, Dr. Howard Cooper welcomed the attendees and conducted the Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting.

The Programme themed 'Lessons Learned from the Past, Navigating into the Future', was conducted by President-Elect, Dr. Mary Cimrmancic. The lessons learned from

dentistry, odontology, and a diverse array of disciplines, emphasise the collaborative nature of forensic science, fostering an appreciation for the value of expertise from multiple disciplines and levels of experience. Forensics is a team effort.

The opening presentation, 'Forensic Dentistry Within the Context of Dental History', was delivered by Dr. Scott Swank, Clinical Associate Professor and Curator, National Dental Museum, University of Maryland School of Dentistry. Dr. Swank provided a fascinating review of dental history and where dentistry stood as a profession at the time of various historically significant forensic dental cases.

Local Forensic Odontologists Dr. Warren Tewes and Dr. Iris Shields, from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of Maryland, presented cases of local historical and contemporary interest, in 'The OMG Case or...It's Not What You Think It Is'. Lessons Learned: examine circumstances for potential information sources, leading to potential interactions in forensic casework, emphasising a methodical approach toward conclusions.

Moving toward current events and a broad view of disaster response, Mr. Daniel Morgan, Medicolegal **Operations** Coordinator, National Transportation Safety **Board** (NTSB), presented **'NTSB** Transportation Disaster Assistance'. Described was the role of the NTSB in assisting victims and their families in response to transportation disasters, as well as collaboration with local authorities, and the role of forensic personnel within the overall context of disaster response.

Moving toward the future, Dr. Kenneth Aschheim, Assistant Chief Forensic

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Odontologist, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, New York and Mr. Itai Rosenblatt, CEO of Bright Forensics, presented 'Lessons Forensic Learned: Α Odontologist's Perspective and Training AI from Those Discussion of technological Lessons'. advances and their applications to forensics were discussed, as well as standards emphasised bringing people together to foster progress in forensic odontology. Specifics included cybersecurity support for DVI operations, dental identification, and dental age estimation.

Representing the diverse paths of forensic odontologists, Prof. Joseph DiZinno. Forensic Science Program, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, presented 'An Uncommon Forensic Career Path - Lessons Learned and Future Perspectives'. Dr. DiZinno shared his experiences and intriguing progression from clinical dentistry into forensic science and career in the FBI, currently academia, sharing his expertise with forensic science students in the university setting.

From the University of Utah, Dr. Gabriel Bowen, and Dr. Kirsten Verostick, described their research, Project FIND-EM, in their engaging presentation 'Human Identification Using Dental Chemistry: Progress and a Call for Participation'. They described how the geographic variability of elemental and isotopic chemistry of human

tooth enamel can be used to reconstruct the life history of unknown decedents. Project FIND-EM is an effort to develop a database of tooth chemistry from known individuals as a benchmark to be used in casework, and opportunities for dental practitioners to assist in this work.

The final presentation an interview panel: 'Lessons Learned from our Teachers', a candid conversation with our esteemed forensic odontologist instructors and mentors. They discussed career paths, memorable cases, lessons learned, and what they wish they had known, greatest challenges for forensic odontologists then and now, and advice for us as we navigate into the future. Our attendees appreciated the heartfelt remarks of our panellists: Dr. Richard Souviron, Dr. David R. Senn, Dr. Kathleen A. Kasper and Dr. Ray Miller.

Our many thanks for the generous participation of our presenters and panellists, our ASFO Board of Governors and Executive Director, as well as our enthusiastic attendees, for a successful programme.

We hope to see you at our ASFO Meeting on 10 February 2026, and the AAFS Conference on 9–14 February 2026, in New Orleans.

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27th Meeting of the Study Group on Forensic Age Diagnostics, March 2025

he AGFAD meeting took place on 14 March, 2025, at the Hotel Abion Spreebogen Waterside in Berlin, Alt-Moabit (Fig. 1). It was

thoughtfully organised by Prof. Andreas Schmeling, who opened the session with a reflective address, marking 25 years of AGFAD's contributions to the field.

The afternoon featured a series of excellent and diverse presentations from highly experienced experts in age estimation. The session concluded with a detailed analysis of the participants' proficiency test, offering valuable insights and feedback.

What set this meeting apart from typical study sessions was the depth and breadth of the technical discussions. A wide range of perspectives on forensic odontology were shared, highlighting not only the involvement of seasoned professionals but also the encouraging participation of younger researchers exploring emerging aspects of age estimation. Notably, there has been a visible evolution in the from methodologies shifts in terminology and radiological practices to the integration of advanced statistical models and the use of anatomical markers beyond teeth. A particularly compelling presentation by Professor Cristiana Palmela

Pereira from Portugal introduced the potential of Artificial Intelligence in forensic odontology. While it might still seem somewhat futuristic to some, it is clear that AI is poised to play a significant role in the near future. Between sessions, attendees enjoyed a delightful lunch and took the opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces and make new connections over coffee.

It is worth noting that the International Society of Forensic Radiology and Imaging (ISFRI) has launched a new and updated website at (http://www.isfri.org). Current members are required to create a new login. The society remains committed to strengthening and advancing the field of forensic radiology and imaging on a global scale.

In all, it was a thoroughly enriching afternoon. We look forward to welcoming everyone again next March, anticipating fresh perspectives and further progress after another year of dedicated research. Many thanks to Professor Schmeling for his continued leadership and inspiration.

Figure 1: A montage from the meeting in Berlin, Germany, attended by senior experts and stalwarts in the field of age estimation and forensic odontology.



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Joint Conference of All-Ukrainian Association of Forensic Medics & Association of Forensic Dentistry, Ukraine, April 2025

n 23-25 April 2025, the international scientific and practical conference 'Modern achievements in forensic medicine and their implementation in expert practice. Topical organisational issues of the work of regional bureaus of forensic medicine' was held in Ukraine (Fig. 1). The conference was organised by the Association of Forensic Medics of Ukraine, the Association of Forensic Dentistry of Ukraine, the state higher educational institution Uzhhorod National University, the state institution 'Main Bureau of Forensic Medicine of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine', the state institution 'Transcarpathian Regional Bureau of Forensic Medicine', the Medical and Biological Research and Training Centre, and by the IOFOS representatives in Ukraine, namely by the president of Association of Forensic Dentistry at Ukraine (AFDU) Prof. Yevhen Kostenko and vice-president of AFDU Assoc. Prof. Myroslav Goncharuk-Khomyn.

The purpose of the event was to bring together experts to address current challenges in the field of forensic medicine, in particular in the area of dental identification. The conference is another step towards a systematic approach, deepening knowledge, and international cooperation.

This event highlighted new stage of development for forensic odontology in Ukraine because Memorandum of Cooperation and Support was signed between Association of Forensic Medics of Ukraine and Association of Forensic Dentistry of Ukraine. Such close-knit cooperation is greatly needed considering ongoing war actions provoked by Russian aggression, and that the total number of unidentified bodies in Ukraine is over 3,200. It is notable that the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine maintains a Unified Register of Missing Persons, which currently contains over 55,000 records of people.

The programme of the second conference day included a plenary session and reports, which were focused on such thematic platforms as 'Implementation of effective solutions aimed at improving the process of identification of the dead bodies' and 'Forensic dentistry in Ukraine today and its prospects in the identification of persons'.

President of IOFOS Prof. Cristiana Palmela Pereira kindly agreed to participate in the second day of the conference via online mode with a remarkable lecture 'Forensic Odontology Primary method for Human Identification', which was simultaneously translated to the audience in Ukraine by



Figure 1: The joint conference flyer (L) and forensic medical and forensic dental participants at the conference.

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Assoc. Prof. Myroslav Goncharuk-Khomyn. Prof. Pereira explained to the participants the unique significance of forensic dental identifiers, the basic concept of organising forensic identification within the DVI team and role of different methods to assess dental status through the identification process. Lecture provided later by Prof. Yevhen Kostenko highlighted all the modern progress and achievements that Association of Forensic Dentistry in Ukraine has developed during the last decade, focusing on the usage of orthopantomogram as a reliable primary source for the objectified dental status assessment. Assoc. Prof. Myroslav Goncharuk-Khomyn, in his lecture, shared knowledge on using modern intraoral scanning devices and machine learning/artificial intelligence approaches as relevant possibilities to register the fiducial identification markers and provide formulation of digital twin though the virtdentopsy concept. Assoc. Prof. Brekhlichuk has presented lecture on methodological changes that should be implemented into the system of forensic medical expertise in Ukraine to support further development and incorporation of forensic odontology approaches within every day forensic clinical practice.

On the third day of conference Assoc. Prof. Myroslav Goncharuk-Khomyn, as a Head of Scientific and Research Centre of Forensic Dentistry (established within the Uzhhorod National University) provided first specialised hands-on course for the forensic medical experts on the basics of forensic dental identification and procedures included within Interpol's DVI protocol (Fig. 2). Dr. Goncharuk-Khomyn demonstrated basic principles of X-ray dental imaging and its interpretation, presented PlassData software functioning abilities, provided in-detail explanations and demonstration of how coding for different dental features may be provided in the specialised software and how further comparison is taking place.

Participants were able to fill in AM and PM forms themselves and compare further results with making conclusion about potential identification results. Myroslav Goncharuk-Khomyn also demonstrated factual intraoral scanning procedures and explained how such may be used for the express registration of dental status of the person. All the participants received full package of documentation form the INTER-POL's official site regarding DVI protocol, editable versions of AM and PM forms, information about PlassData software functioning, and methodical guidelines developed by Assoc. Prof. Goncharuk-Khomyn and Prof. Kostenko regarding specifics of providing forensic dental identification in Ukraine considering features of dental care provision.



Figure 2: A lecture by Myroslav Goncharuk-Khomyn.

On behalf of Association of Forensic Dentistry of Ukraine, we want hereby express our gratitude to Prof. Cristiana Palmela Pereira for supporting the above-mentioned event and kindly ask all the members/member societies of IOFOS for any form of educational cooperation and involvement in future regional, national and international trainings and courses. This will ensure future development of forensic odontology in Ukraine and solidify its practical impact during these stressful times of war.

Selina M. Leow

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INTERPOL DVI Conference and Forensic Odontology Sub-Working Group Meetings, May 2025

he Sub-Working Groups, including the Forensic Odontology Sub Working Group (FOSWG) was held the first part of their meetings on the first two days of the conference held from 19–22 May 2025 (Fig. 1).

This year we had 30 FOSWG in-person attendees (27 FOSWG members and 3 approved observers) and seven Virtual attendees.

The meeting began with words about the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Sakher AlQahtani. A beautiful international Zoom memorial had taken place on 26 April 2025 that had gathered attendees from five continents, including members Sakher's family comprising his wife and daughter. Thanks again went out to Dr. Ajang Armin Farid and Dr. Shada Alsalamah for organising the memorial. Sakher was an important colleague who had helped shape the INTERPOL FOSWG that we see today. A short poem that kept Sakher in our hearts was read to the group followed by a minute's silence.

This FOSWG meeting marked the culmination of a 12-month collaboration of a global guidance document for the handling of fragile remains. This short document was to assist Scene Co-ordinators. The document was presented to the FOSWG Members at the meeting by Dr. Chris

Brooks from New Zealand who led the document collaboration. With some changes to formatting, the FOSWG Members approved for the document to be presented to the INTERPOL DVI Working Group (WG) for consideration and review - ultimately, to be included as one of the INTERPOL-held global The document was documents. presented to the WG members who will now review it by August 2025. My thanks go to document collaborators from FOSWG, Chris Brooks (NZ, Lead), John Berketa (Australia), Lise Malfroy-Camine (France). Rebecca (Sweden) and Nikolaos Angelakopoulos (Switzerland) as well as from the Pathology and Anthropology Working Group (PASWG), Soren Blau (Australia, PASWG Chair), Julie Roberts (UK, Anthropologist), Amy Mundorff (USA, Anthropologist), Gisela Patterson (Sweden, Pathologist) and Petra Molnar (Sweden, Anthropologist).

The FOSWG continued discussions around implant-specific numbering for dental implants and the ongoing push for effective inclusion of Forensic Odontology in INTERPOL Black and Yellow notices. Following document production for the handling fragile remains for Scene Coordinators, there was significant material to assemble a similar global guidance document for CLINICIANS. I am happy to report that many FOSWG Members have agreed to volunteer

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time towards all the discussion areas so that progress forward can be made.



Figure 1: Attendees at the Forensic Odontology Sub-Working Group on Days 1 (above) and 2 at the INTERPOL DVI Conference in Lyon, France.



FOSWG attendees heard presentations from Sweden (Dental identification in a mass shooting: Lessons from the Örebro incident), Israel (Odontology Under Fire: Lessons in Identification from the October 7th Mass Disaster), India (Forensic Human Identification from Case Works to Workshops: A Holistic Approach from India) and Switzerland (Assessing the risk of Burnout and Psychological Well-Being among Forensic Odontologists: Preliminary results of a survey study) as well as updates from PlassData and the International Standards Organisation (ISO). Lastly, from Norway (Experiences

of the Norwegian DVI team through 50 years) with an emotional farewell from

our long standing FOSWG Member and esteemed and experienced colleague, Prof. Sigrid Kvaal.

The 34th INTERPOL Disaster Identification Victim Conference commenced on Tuesday 20 May 2025 at INTERPOL Headquarters, Lyon, FRANCE (Fig. 2). The two-andhalf day conference was filled with many learning opportunities with presentations from many INTERPOL Member countries. Significantly, this year had a number of presentations from FOSWG members - Indonesia, Israel, Canada, Portugal, USA, India and Finland. More importantly, the INTERPOL DVI Conference allows a rare networking opportunity to connect with other policing

and forensic science colleagues in this DVI space.

The closure of the conference marked the end of my 2-year tenure as FOSWG Chairperson and previous 2-year tenure as Deputy Chairperson-Elect. I introduced some new things to help to streamline process both within the FOSWG and our continued support with the WG.

I remain committed to attending FOSWG meetings as an Australian delegate.

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I am confident that FOSWG will be in good hands as we welcome the new FOSWG Executive 2025 to 2027 – FOSWG Chairperson, Dr Ajang Armin

Farid from Hungary and Deputy Chairperson, Prof. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva from Brazil.



Figure 2: The 34th INTERPOL DVI Conference commenced on Tuesday 20 May afternoon.

in 2017.

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30th International Meeting on Forensic Medicine Alps–Adria–Pannonia, Šibenik, Croatia, May 2025

he 30th edition of the regional international meeting on forensic medicine — Alps—Adria—Pannonia (AAP) — was held on 21–24 May 2025, hosted by the staff of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Criminalistics, University of Zagreb, Croatia (Fig. 1). This year's congress took place in Šibenik, one of the oldest native Croatian cities on the Adriatic coast. Šibenik serves as the capital and the cultural, educational, administrative, and economic centre of Šibenik-Knin County, as well as the seat of the Šibenik Diocese.

The AAP meeting was held at the exclusive Amadria Park Solaris resort. Over three days, approximately one hundred participants from Central and Southeastern Europe delivered around eighty oral and poster presentations, along with three work-

and 16th centuries. Due to its outstanding

cultural value, it was inscribed on the

UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000. The

Fortress of St. Nicholas was added to the list





Figure 1: Official congress homepage.

The city was first mentioned on Christmas Day in 1066 in a deed of gift by King Petar Krešimir IV, and is often referred to as 'Krešimir's City'. The Cathedral of St. James, Šibenik's most renowned landmark, is considered the most significant architectural achievement on Croatian soil from the 15th



Figure 2: (L to R) Hrvoje Brkić (Croatia), Cristiana Palmela Pereira (Portugal) and Andreas Schmeling (Germany).

Among the keynote speakers was Professor Cristiana Palmela Pereira, President of IOFOS, who gave a lecture entitled 'Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Process: The Uniqueness of Dental Evidence' (Fig. 2). Another distinguished speaker was Profes-

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sor Andreas Schmeling, President of AGFAD and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Legal Medicine, who presented 'The Past and Future of Legal Medicine'. In addition to its academic programme, the congress featured a vibrant social component, fostering professional networking through informal gatherings during and after scheduled sessions (Fig. 3). On the

final day, Saturday 24 May, an excursion was organised to Krka National Park, located just 10km from Šibenik (Fig. 4). This national park is regarded as one of Croatia's natural jewels. Beneath its main waterfall, Skradinski Buk, stands one of the world's oldest alternating current hydroelectric power plants, commissioned on 28 August 1895, thanks to the work of Nikola Tesla.



Figure 3: In a relaxed atmosphere while sightseeing in Šibenik.



Figure 4: Sightseeing in Krka National Park, Croatia.

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Dr. Nurtami Soedarsono

Forensic Odontology College Board nurtami@ui.ac.id

Dr. Masniari Novita

Chair of the 5th
Indonesia International
Symposium of Forensic
Odontology

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Prof. Elza Ibrahim Auerkari

Head of the Indonesian Society of Forensic Odontology

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5th Indonesia International Symposium of Forensic Odontology, Bali, Indonesia, June 2025

he Indonesian Society of Forensic Odontology (IOFI/InaSFO) successfully 5th hosted its International Symposium of Forensic Odontology in Sanur, Bali, on 1-3 June, 2025 under the theme Advancements in Forensic Odontology: and Interprofessional Innovation Collaboration in Forensic and Legal Dentistry'.

Chaired by Masniari Novita, the three-day event brought together national and international experts, educators, students, and practitioners in the field of forensic odontology, forensic medicine and forensic anthropology, with a total of 120 attendees, including participants from the Indonesian National Police, Army, Navy, Air Force, Ministry of Transportation, National Sports Committee, and global institutions.

The symposium began with the final round of the 1st Indonesia Forensic Odontology Students' Olympiad, featuring 22 teams from 15 dental faculties throughout Indonesia (Fig. 1).

Universitas Indonesia secured first place and received the rolling trophy, followed by Universitas Gadjah Mada, Universitas Trisakti, and Universitas Sumatera Utara.

The official symposium commenced on 2 June 2025, and was formally opened by Prof. Elza Ibrahim Auerkari, Chair of InaSFO.

The two-day academic programme included main lectures, oral and poster presentations, interactive workshops, and national Forensic Odontology lecturer meeting.

The symposium featured distinguished



Figure 1: The 1st Indonesia Forensic Odontology Students' Olympiad served as a platform to foster undergraduate student interest and knowledge in the field of forensic odontology.

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Figure 2: The 5th Indonesia Symposium of Forensic Odontology 2025 distinguished speakers from around the world, addressing key and emerging areas in forensic dentistry.

speakers from around the world. addressing key and emerging areas in forensic dentistry (Fig. 2): Disaster Victim Identification and Management by Dr. Eddy de Valck (Belgium) and Dr. Reza Remko Roestam Gerretsen (The Netherlands), Gender-Based Violence and Support Services by Brig. Gen. Pol. Sumy Hastry Purwanti (Indonesia), CBRN Threats by Dr. Fabienne Thumas (Belgium), Forensic Odontology and Human Identification by Prof. Anak lamaroon (Thailand), Dr. Stephen Knott (Australia), and Dr. Jayasankar P. Pillai, (India); Advanced Forensic Odontology and Innovation by Hon. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alex Forrest (Australia) and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aspalilah Alias (Malaysia), Dental Anthropology by Prof. Dr. Phil Toetik Koesbardiati (Indonesia), and Forensic Odontology Education and Profession by Dr. Nurtami Soedarsono (Indonesia).

The oral and poster sessions featured a variety of case reports, original research, and literature reviews presented by faculty members, postgraduate students,

and practitioners. Selected papers from the symposium will be published in the following peer-reviewed journals: Bulletin of the International Association for Paleodontology, Dental Journal, Interdental: Jurnal Kedokteran Gigi, and Indonesian Journal of Dental Medicine.

Two interactive workshops complemented the academic programme: 1.) Journal Writing Using Artificial Intelligence and 2.) Pink Teeth in Forensics – exploring the significance of pink teeth in post-mortem examinations (Fig. 3).

A key component of the event was the Forensic Odontology Lecturer Meeting, attended by 45 lecturers from 32 faculties of dentistry across Indonesia. Discussions focused on strengthening forensic odontology education at both undergraduate and professional levels, including (Fig. 4): curriculum evaluation & development, establishing postgraduate programmes in forensic odontology, assessment strategies for

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undergraduate students, & strategies to achieve core learning outcomes in forensic odontology in dental faculties.

During the symposium, Nurtami Soedarsono, Head of the Forensic Odontology College Board, informed participants of a major healthcare reform initiated by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia. This reform includes the establishment of three key bodies: the Indonesian Health Council, the Indonesian Health College, and the Professional Disciplinary Board.

The Forensic Odontology College Board, operating under the Indonesian Health College, is now officially authorised to regulate the curriculum for the Forensic Odontology Specialist Programme, conduct national competency examinations, support the development of specialist competencies, ensure

quality assurance and accreditation of forensic odontology specialist education programmes, coordinate the distribution and workforce mapping of forensic odontologists, and enhance collaboration with key stakeholders.

Forensic Odontology has been recognised as one of ten accredited dental specialties in Indonesia, with 22 certified forensic odontologists currently practicing throughout the archipelago. By the end of 2025, this number is projected to increase to 30, with the addition of new graduates from the Odontology Forensic Specialist Programme at the Faculty of Dentistry, Universitas Indonesia. These specialists are currently distributed across 11 of Indonesia's 38 provinces, marking a significant step forward in strengthening forensic dental services nationwide.



Figure 3: A
dedicated workshop
on 'Pink Teeth'
examination was
conducted to
explore the forensic
significance of pink
discoloration in
teeth observed
during post-mortem
investigations.



Figure 4: A
curriculum
alignment and
capacity-building
session was also
held for forensic
odontology lecturers
from across
Indonesia.

Dr. Ana Rodrigues

University of Lisbon, Lisbon, PORTUGAL

Dr. Benjamin Lazarotto

Private Practice, Geneva, SWITZERLAN

Dr. Diana Augusto

University of Lisbon, Lisbon, PORTUGAL

Dr. Malin Vestin Fredriksson

Sunderby Research Unit and Department of Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Umeå University, Umeå, SWEDEN

Dr. Masataka Kawamoto

Department of Legal Medicine, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, Kyoto, JAPAN

Dr. Maya Awada

Independent Forensic Odontologist, London, UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. Pablo Valiente Samalea

Dental Officer, Belgian Armed Forces, Brussels, BELGIUM

International Course on Personal Identification by Dental Methods, April 2025

he International Course on Personal Identification by Dental Methods, organised by IOFOS, was held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 7–11 April, 2025. The course gathered seven participants from different countries around the world such as Portugal, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium and the United Kingdom. Participants hailed from different fields of dentistry such as clinical, academic, forensic, as well as from the military.

The programme offered an in-depth exploration of dental identification techniques, including comparative dental methods, application radiographic and digital tools, with the support of Straumann and KMD PlassData in forensic investigations and invaluable knowledge on Disaster Victim Identification (DVI). Through lectures, hands-on practice, and case study discussions, we had opportunity to experience and engage directly in real case scenarios, making

the course highly valued, diverse and very informative. One of the most memorable moments of the course was the organised hands-on

practice at the judiciary police headquarters, which allowed us to understand the multidisciplinary approaches between forensic dentists, forensic pathologists, anthropologists, legal police professionals, investigators, and other professionals (Fig. 1).

Additionally, another invaluable component of the course was the practical session with cadavers at the Lisbon School of Medicine, which allowed us to apply our skills in a real-world forensic setting (Fig. 2).

This course brought together some of the most highly renowned experts from around the world, who shared their knowledge, research and practical expertise in the field of forensic odontology. Their expertise was exceptional, offering both theoretical depth and practical application.

Equally important was the opportunity to build an international network. Participants came from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds, creating a vibrant learning environment where experiences and perspectives were exchanged freely. The small group setting created an excellent learning environment, fostering engagement and personalized guidance from the instructors. Beyond the academic

Figure 1: The group of seven participants and experts, on the second day of the course, at the judiciary police headquarters.





Figure 2: The group of seven participants and experts, on the last day of the course, all well equipped for the practical session with cadavers at the Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon.

benefits, the social aspects of the course were equally enriching. Sharing dinners at fine restaurants allowed informal discussions and strengthened connections with fellow professionals, which will undoubtedly contribute to our future as professionals in the field.

The combination of high-quality instructions, practical exercises, and the camaraderie within the group made the whole experience unique and memorable (Fig. 3).

The **IOFOS-organised** courses stand as a benchmark for continuing education in forensic dentistry, offering both foundational knowledge and cuttingedge developments in field. the For professionals who are committed excellence in personal identification and forensic expertise, attending this course is not just a professional achievement but also

an inspiring journey to understand and acknowledge the importance of the application of forensic dentistry in the human identification process to allow the intersection between the justice system and odontology.

Attending the IOFOS International Course on Personal Identification by Dental Methods was a pivotal experience for us, at this moment we feel well equipped with the knowledge, confidence and skills to practice forensic odontology in a multidisciplinary setting.



Figure 3: Social moment of participants in front of the Belém Tower, classified in 1983 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (L), and course-end dinner at the Grémio Literário.

llenia Bianchi

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Valon Nushi

University of Lisbon, PORTUGAL nushi.valon@gmail.com

IOFOS International Course on Age Estimation, Florence, Italy, July 2025

he upcoming International Course in Age Estimation will take place in Firenze (Florence), Italy, from 7–11 July, 2025 (Fig. 1). The course will be conducted at the School of Human Health Sciences, University of Florence, Italy.

The primary focus of this workshop is dental age assessment through different methods, alongside using bones for age assessment. Additionally, the participants will have the opportunity to experience hands-on practical methods to assess the age of both living and dead individuals. Nevertheless, the participants will receive instructions on preparing and drafting an age estimation report using dental and bone age assessment.

The primary academic staff for this course will be Prof. Sigrid Kvaal, Prof. Helen Liversidge, Prof. Cristiana Palmela

Pereira, Prof. Hrvoje Brkić, Prof. Marin Vodanović, Prof. Vilma Pinchi, Prof. Ivan Galic, and Prof. Roberto Cameriere.

Participant members will have the chance to receive credits equal to 28 hours including practical and theoretical sessions. Thus, the certification will be issued by IOFOS and the Dental School of University of Firenze. By the end of the workshop, participants will undergo a proficiency test for cases and submit a written report for each case, which will be evaluated by the scientific committee. Completing the test successfully will award participants a certificate of proficiency valid for two years.

For more details of International Age Estimation Course (Fig. 2), please click on the link below: https://iofos.eu/the-international-workshop-on-age-estimation/.







Figure 1: The IOFOS International Course on Age Estimation is in beautiful and historic Firenze (Florence).

Motivation and expectations of the participants

Dr. Valon Nushi

As a current PhD student specialising in Forensic Age Estimation, I view this course as an essential opportunity to enhance my academic and practical understanding of age estimation techniques within forensic odontology.

It is well established that Forensic Age Estimation remains a critical aspect in the field of forensic odontology, particularly in the context of immigration, criminal justice, and unidentified remains. Therefore, participating in this course will provide me with the chance to learn from leading experts, explore international perspectives, and gain hands-on experience with the latest updates and techniques.

I.O.F.O.S COURSE
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
ON AGE ESTIMATION

7-11
July
2025

COORDINATION:
PROFESSOR CRISTIANA PALMELA PEREIRA
PROFESSOR CRISTIANA PALMELA PEREIRA
PROFESSOR VILMA PINCHI

Figure 2: The Age Estimation Course is

Figure 2: The Age Estimation Course is organised on Florence, Italy, in July 2025.

I am particularly looking forward to sessions that focus on recent advances in radiological techniques, enhancing my

skills on writing an age estimation report, and the ethical considerations surrounding forensic age assessment. I also value the opportunity to engage with a network of international peers and professionals, which I believe will foster future collaborations and enrich my research journey.

By attending this course, I am expecting to advance my theoretical foundation, my practical skills, and better align my research with international protocols applicable up to date. I believe that the knowledge and insights gained from this experience will significantly enhance the quality and impact of my research work and my future contributions to the field of forensic science.

Finally, I look forward to the possibility of joining this course in the beautiful and historic city of Firenze.

Dr. Ilenia Bianchi

As a PhD graduate in the early stages of my post-doctoral experience in forensic research and practice, I consider this course a fundamental opportunity to deepen both my theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the field of forensic odontology. In Italy, there are still no official guidelines for forensic age estimation, and the current legal framework remains controversial on the multidisciplinary management. Despite the scientific evidence provided by literature, authorities don't often follow a standard engagement of the different forensic experts, so different skills are requested since it is not clear which methods or technique have to be properly adopted for the age estimation process. In this context, engaging with international experts who have significantly contributed to the development of scientifically validated methodologies represents a crucial opportunity, not only for

EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENT

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my personal training, but also for promoting a more European and joint dimension of the forensic odontologist's role. This course represents a valuable opportunity to update my skills in advanced techniques, especially radiological ones, improve report writing, and reflect on the ethical aspects of age estimation. The exchange with international professionals is equally important, as it can foster collaborations and broaden the worldwide relevance

of research. I believe the experience will significantly support both my academic and professional development, while contributing to the ongoing effort toward more harmonised practices in Italy. Attending the course in Florence, my academic city, adds further value to this learning experience as a national expert involved in promoting the professional role and knowledge of the forensic odontology.

SYMPOSIUM/CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

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FDI World Dental Congress 2025, Shanghai, China, September 2025

The 2025 FDI World Dental Congress will take place in Shanghai, China, from 9–12 September 2025 at the National Convention and Exhibition Center.

According to the words of Chuanbin Guo – president of the Chinese Stomatological Association – the FDI World Dental Congress is honoured as the 'Dental Olympics', which presents the recent developments and direction of oral medicine in the world. In the past, China has hosted the FDI World Dental Congress twice: in 2006 in Shenzhen and 2012 in Hong Kong.

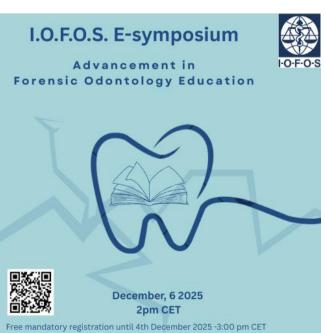
Although the congress is primarily intended to provide a broader international platform for oral health professionals worldwide and promote the continuous development of oral medicine, there will be ample space for related fields, such as forensic dentistry.

This year's congress will also feature Professor Cristiana Palmela Pereira, the President of IOFOS from Lisbon, Portugal, who will deliver an informative lecture on forensic dentistry.

Shanghai China 9-12 September 2025 NAIDONAL EMERICAN ACONSTITION ACONSTITION

E-symposium of IOFOS – 'Advancements in Forensic Odontology Education', December 2025

The next e-symposium of IOFOS will be on 6 December 2025 and the theme is 'Advancements in Forensic Odontology Education'. Presentations will cover educational aspects related to undergraduate training, postgraduate training and also training incorporated in continual education. The IOFOS has organised two e-Symposia in 2023 and 2024, with themes such as 'Young Investigators and Forensic Odontology Research' and 'Artificial Intelligence -Where are we in Forensic Odontology?' There were hundreds of participants each year. The upcoming e-symposium extends this tradition and features a new generation of speakers. It is once again expected to attract large numbers of dentists and allied professionals from around the world and include enriching presentations and discussions. Register @ https://forms.gle/YVRrBB5B7fmYx1JE7.



Prof. Shada Abdullah AlSalamah

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In Memory of Prof. Sakher Jaber Al-Qahtani

Remembering 'The King of Selfies'
Born on October 26, 1978, in Saudi
Arabia, Sakher Jaber Al-Qahtani
earned his Bachelor of Dental
Surgery from King Saud University (KSU),
followed by a Master of Clinical Dentistry
and a Ph.D. from Queen Mary University of
London. During his doctoral studies, he
developed the Atlas of Tooth Development
and Eruption — a landmark resource that
revolutionised dental age estimation and
left an enduring impact on both clinical
practice and forensic odontology.

In 2008, Prof. Al-Qahtani returned to KSU, where he served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics. He also led the Clinical Forensic Odontology Unit and the Pediatric Dentistry Division. Renowned for his

academic leadership, he was equally respected for seamlessly integrating patient care, research, and mentorship throughout his career (Fig. 1).

Internationally, Prof. Al-Qahtani was an active member of the INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Odontology Sub Working Group, Vice President of the Arab Association of Forensic Odontologists, and a regular speaker at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) conferences. His expertise made him a trusted advisor in disaster-response missions and humanitarian operations.

An inspirational leader, he spearheaded numerous regional and global communities of practice in forensic odontology. A staunch advocate for human rights, he co-



Personal Tributes

Prof. Shada Abdullah AlSalamah (KSU Colleague):

66

Today, I remember Sakher — a remarkable friend, colleague, and mentor who embodied the very best of humanity. We shared a belief that our professional skills carry a deeper duty: to serve others, uplift global wellbeing, and guide future generations. Sakher lived this through his compassion, generosity, and inclusive spirit.

He taught us that humanity isn't studied, it's practiced in how we support and uplift one another. His empathy knew no boundaries, and he believed that embracing our differences made us stronger and more united. One of his most endearing traits was his love for capturing memories—he never missed a selfie at any gathering, earning him the affectionate nickname: *The King of Selfies*.

His kindness and wisdom continue to inspire me every day. I will honor his legacy by leading with empathy, joy, and purpose.

Firas A. Nakshabandi (Childhood friend and CEO & Founder of Empathic Resonance):

66

We were children when we first met. As classmates, friends and neighbors, we'd known each other for over thirty years. It would not be an exaggeration to say knowing him shaped my personality, and I still hear his voice and his laugh in my thoughts.

He was someone who was not afraid of showing his inner child, or the innocence and curiosity that comes with that. He was fun, sensitive, kind, tolerant, loyal, creative, hardworking and had a smile that lit up any room.

The world feels a little dimmer without him. But to honor him I must continue to remind myself of how much joy, kindness and love he brought to anyone whose life he touched. I'll forever cherish our memories. I'll forever carry his voice and his laugh in my heart. I'm so proud of him, and I'm proud to have called him a dear friend & a brother.

founded the global INFOdont network, bringing together over 100 forensic odontologists worldwide in the pursuit of justice. He dedicated his expertise to identifying unregistered and displaced children — estimated at 150 million globally

— using dental evidence as a powerful tool for recognition and advocacy. Prof. Al-Qahtani also co-founded Basmat Dental Care, a community initiative that provides free paediatric dental services and oral health education to the underserved

populations in Saudi Arabia. His efforts exemplified a profound commitment to applying science in the service of dignity and compassion

His Enduring Legacy

Prof. Al-Qahtani's impact extended far beyond titles and roles. He was a generous mentor whose clarity and patience inspired many to pursue forensic odontology. With over 50 peer-reviewed publications and numerous conference presentations, his contributions enriched the scientific community. Colleagues across the globe remember him for his collaborative spirit, cultural humility, and heartfelt friendships.

Prof. Al-Qahtani passed away at the age of 46. His loss is deeply felt across the dental and forensic fields, and especially within the hearts of those who knew and worked with him. We extend our sincerest condolences to his family, friends, and the broader international community. His legacy will continue to illuminate paths forward for many generations to come.