



I-O-F-O-S

NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY



Volume 47, Issue 2, December 2025

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IMPRESSUM

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As we draw the curtain on yet another calendar year, I am struck by how swiftly 2025 seems to have passed. Time, in its relentless pace, often leaves us marvelling at how much has been accomplished within such a short span. This issue carries a comprehensive message from the President of IOFOS, Prof.

Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, who has eloquently summarised the activities of the year, highlighting her remarkable global footprint. Her reflections remind us of the extraordinary reach and impact of forensic odontology across continents.

It is truly mind-boggling to witness the sheer number of events organised worldwide in this relatively small but vital speciality. The Newsletter itself, though carefully curated, represents only a fraction of the global activities in forensic dentistry. Behind every conference, workshop, and training programme lies a collective effort to strengthen the discipline and expand its relevance in medico-legal practice.

We capped the year with an in-depth e-Symposium, a fitting reminder that education remains the cornerstone of progress in any speciality. In this issue, I am delighted to include reports on three diverse training programmes from Brazil, Italy, and Indonesia, each underscoring the global commitment to advancing forensic odontology.

My own journey this year has been equally demanding and rewarding. I have toured across India, delivering lectures and conducting training sessions. At times I had to request organisers of events which I could not attend, to extend opportunities to my deserving colleagues — an act that reflects the collaborative spirit of our profession.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be even more eventful, with the IOFOS Congress in Lisbon standing as the flagship gathering. Such milestones not only celebrate our collective achievements but also chart the course for future growth.

As I reflect personally, 2025 marks a significant milestone in my own professional journey — 25 years in forensic odontology. From my early days as an inquisitive graduate in the year 2000, to co-founding the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (IAFO), which itself celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, the journey has been both humbling and fulfilling. Ascending to its Presidency in September has been an honour, and while a quarter of a century sounds long, it feels as though it has passed in the blink of an eye.

The year closes with gratitude and anticipation — for what has been achieved, and for what lies ahead.

Here's wishing all celebrating a Happy Christmas, fun-filled festivities and a wonderful 2026!

Instruction for Authors

IOFOS Newsletter is published biannually in June and December. Contributions should be sent by e-mail to newsf-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 must 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!

IOFOS President's Message

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Dear IOFOS members, dear readers, dear colleagues and dear friends, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the December 2025 edition of the IOFOS Newsletter. As this year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude and humility on how active and dynamic our IOFOS community

has been. The photos that accompany this newsletter capture only a glimpse of what we have achieved together between December 2024 and December 2025. Unlike my previous December messages, which focused mainly on the period between the June and December issues, this year I would like to offer a broader overview of the entire year and highlight the main milestones that have shaped the IOFOS President's activities in 2025.

Before looking back at our activities, I would like to begin with a moment of remembrance. In April 2025, our esteemed colleague and friend Dr. Sakher Al-Qahtani passed away. More recently, we also lost Dr. David Sweet, a name that will forever remain closely associated with the history of forensic odontology. Many of us had the privilege of working with them, learning from them, and sharing unforgettable moments together. Their scientific contributions were remarkable; their humanity and generosity were even greater. On behalf of IOFOS, I would once again like to extend our heartfelt condolences to their families, friends and colleagues. May their legacy continue to inspire our work.

From the perspective of governance, this has been a year of consolidation and growth. The Executive Board met regularly online, and when decisions could not wait for the next meeting, they were taken by e-mail resolution. This flexible way of working has made IOFOS more agile, more transparent, and better prepared to fulfil its responsibilities as an international scientific NGO. I would like to warmly thank all members of the Executive Board for their commitment, availability and team spirit throughout the year.

At the same time, 2025 was not only a year of documents, meetings and decisions. It was also a year of encounters, shared experiences and personal connections. Many of the photos in this Newsletter capture precisely these moments where science, culture and friendship came together and helped to strengthen our IOFOS community.

In 2025, our e-Symposium "Advancements in Forensic Odontology Education" focused on how forensic odontology is integrated into undergraduate and postgraduate dental curricula worldwide. This reflects a strategic priority for IOFOS: to promote structured, high-quality and internationally comparable education in forensic odonto-stomatology. I am deeply grateful to all colleagues who have shared their experiences and best practices in this field.

Beyond the e-Symposia, the IOFOS has invested strongly in hands-on training:

- An International Workshop on Human Identification in Lisbon, using cadaver material, was held with the invaluable support of the Portuguese Judiciary Police. We were honoured to be welcomed by Deputy Director Dr. Carlos Farinha, and the

workshop received excellent feedback from the participants.

- An International Workshop on Age Estimation in Florence provided intensive training on current methods and challenges, again with highly positive evaluations.

These courses were also important social and cultural moments: visits, shared meals and informal discussions allowed participants to discover the host cities and to build lasting professional and personal relationships.

A particularly important development has been the continuation and expansion of IOFOS Proficiency Tests. At present, more than 20 experts hold IOFOS proficiency certificates in age estimation, and more than 20 experts hold certificates in human identification. These proficiency tests are a concrete contribution to quality assurance, harmonisation of practice and mutual trust between experts and institutions across different countries.

In 2025, IOFOS received four formal requests for patronage — one for an educational course on human identification and three for scientific meetings. All four events were evaluated positively and granted IOFOS patronage, following clear internal rules. This mechanism ensures that activities associated with IOFOS meet high scientific, ethical and educational standards. It is encouraging to see so many initiatives seeking IOFOS' endorsement and collaboration.

Many of these meetings included rich cultural and social programmes. The photos in this Newsletter show not only lecture halls and workshops, but also city walks, conference dinners and informal gatherings where colleagues from different countries shared ideas, experiences and friendship.

Another strategic dimension to IOFOS activities is its involvement in standardisation, policy and research.

In Seoul, Republic of Korea, IOFOS was present at the meeting of The International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee 106 (ISO/TC 106) – Dentistry, actively supporting the work of Ad Hoc Group 4 (AHG 4) towards the creation of a new Subcommittee on Forensic Odontology. The work of AHG 4 is now approaching its conclusions, with recommendations for ISO/TC 106 to launch a Call for Interest and, subsequently, to establish this Subcommittee. This represents a decisive step: forensic odontology will have a clear and stable place in the international standardisation system for dentistry.

Concurrently, the IOFOS continues to be involved in European discussions on age assessment, both through European institutions and through national channels. Our objective is clear: to help ensure that any European guidelines on age estimation are scientifically robust, ethically sound and fully respectful of fundamental rights.

IOFOS is also present in research initiatives involving artificial intelligence and age estimation, such as the AIdentifyAGE project, where forensic odontology is closely integrated with data science, statistics and legal medicine. AI is no longer a distant prospect; it is part of our daily work. IOFOS is committed to helping shape these developments in a responsible, transparent and human-centred way.

Throughout the year, the IOFOS, by the President, has been represented in several important international meetings:

- In Berlin, at the 27th Meeting of the Study Group on Forensic Age Diagnostics



(A) FDI World Dental Congress, Shanghai, China; (B & C) Between cultural events and scientific meetings at the ISO/TC 106 – Dentistry 61st meeting in Seoul, South Korea; (D) 16th SOFIA Congress in Asunción, Paraguay; (E) Gala dinner at the 34th Meeting of the Portuguese Dental Association in Porto, in company of Prof. Sigrid Kvaal; (F) Celebrating the success of the International AIdentifyAGE Seminar in Lisbon with Prof. Andreas Schmeling and Prof. Hrvoje Brkić.

(AGFAD), where we discussed the role of age estimation methods and AI.

- At Interpol headquarters in Lyon, with a lecture on artificial intelligence in age estimation and human identification, highlighting both the potential and the limitations of current tools.
- In Šibenik, at a meeting with the President of IAFS, reinforcing collaboration between IOFOS and the broader forensic sciences community.
- At the FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Shanghai, where forensic odontology was visible within the global dental community.
- Within European COST Actions related to forensic imaging, AI and age estimation, in

which many IOFOS members are actively engaged.

At the national level, IOFOS was present at the 34th National Congress of the Portuguese Dental Association (OMD), which welcomed Prof. Dr. Sigrid Kvaal as an invited speaker in forensic odontology, and also at the SOFIA meeting in Paraguay, further strengthening our professional network.

Beyond the scientific sessions, these international and national meetings offered unique cultural and social experiences: discovering different cities and traditions, sharing meals, visiting local landmarks and enjoying informal moments together. These occasions reminded us that IOFOS is not only a scientific network,

but also a community of people who learn from one another and support each other. Some of the photos in this Newsletter reflect exactly that spirit.

Finally, we organised an International Seminar on Artificial Intelligence in Forensic Odontology, accompanied by a proceedings book now available on the AIdentifyAGE project website. This publication is a tangible result of our efforts to disseminate knowledge and good practice. The photos of speakers, panels and participants in this newsletter are a vivid reminder of the energy, enthusiasm and collegiality that marked this event.

All these activities — board meetings, e-Symposia, workshops, courses, proficiency tests, patronage, standardisation, research projects, international representation and social events — converge towards a single goal: to bring forensic odontology to the level of the best, in science, education and professional practice.

We want the IOFOS to remain a trusted reference for courts, authorities, universities and forensic experts. We want our training to be rigorous, our methods transparent and validated, and our expert work to respect the dignity and rights of every individual — victims, missing persons and suspects alike. None of this would be possible without you.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to:

- the members of the Executive Board
- the National Societies and their representatives
- all colleagues who organised or lectured in our courses, workshops and symposia
- and all of you who, in your daily work around the world, contribute to the development of forensic odontology and who, by participating in our scientific, cultural and social activities, keep the IOFOS spirit alive

On behalf of the IOFOS Executive Board, I wish you and your families a peaceful festive season, a Merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year 2026, filled with personal and professional fulfilment.

I look forward to meeting you again — in our meetings, our courses, our conferences, and in the many scientific, cultural and social moments that continue to define our community.

Warmest regards,

Cristiana Palmela Pereira
 President, IOFOS

The IOFOS Executive Board Annual Report Meeting

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The IOFOS Executive Board held its Annual Report Meeting on 6 December 2025, gathering board members and national representatives in an online format. President Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira opened the session, welcomed participants, and confirmed attendance via the Zoom chat. A moment of silence was

observed in memory of Dr. Sakher Al-Qahtani and Dr. David Sweet, both significant contributors to forensic odontology.

The President presented an overview of IOFOS activities from December 2024 to December 2025, highlighting the organisation's strengthened operational efficiency through five Executive Board meetings and consistent communication. Educational initiatives remained a priority, including the high-attendance e-Symposium on Artificial Intelligence in Forensic Odontology, two international hands-on workshops in Lisbon and Florence, and the continuation of IOFOS proficiency tests in age estimation and human identification, which collectively certified more than forty experts. IOFOS expanded its global presence by granting patronage to four scientific events and actively participating in the ISO/TC 106 meetings in Seoul. A major milestone was the approval of a new ISO Subcommittee on Forensic Odontology, to which IOFOS contributed expert guidance in drafting standards for human identification. International representation extended to meetings in Berlin, Lyon, Shanghai, and through collaborations related to AI-supported forensic methods. The report was accepted unanimously.

Treasurer Prof. Dr. Hrvoje Brkić reported stable finances, noting a starting balance of €34,248.89 and a closing balance of €33,397.50. The main expenses included administrative and journal-related costs, while income derived primarily from workshop participation fees. The overall financial outcome for the year reflected a modest deficit but remained within expected operational limits. The report was accepted unanimously.

Journal of Forensic Odonto-stomatology (JFOS) Editor-in-Chief Prof. Dr. Vilma Pinchi presented updates on the IOFOS' scientific periodical, outlining the journal's editorial progress, submission trends, and peer-review performance. She emphasised improvements in manuscript quality, increased international authorship, and ongoing efforts to strengthen indexing and visibility. Prof. Pinchi also highlighted the valuable work of the Associate Editors and reviewers, as well as the continued collaboration with PKP Publishing Services to ensure efficient and transparent journal management. Her report was accepted unanimously.

Prof. Dr. Ashith Acharya, as Newsletter Editor, delivered the IOFOS Newsletter Report for the past year highlighting steady publication output, strong international contributions, and plans to expand thematic coverage to better reflect current trends in forensic odontology. His report was accepted unanimously.

The President concluded the meeting by encouraging participation in the upcoming IOFOS Congress in Lisbon in 2026 and thanking all contributors for their commitment to advancing forensic odontology. The meeting was adjourned at 13:45 hours CET.

The 3rd IOFOS e-Symposium, on Global Advances in Forensic Odontology Education

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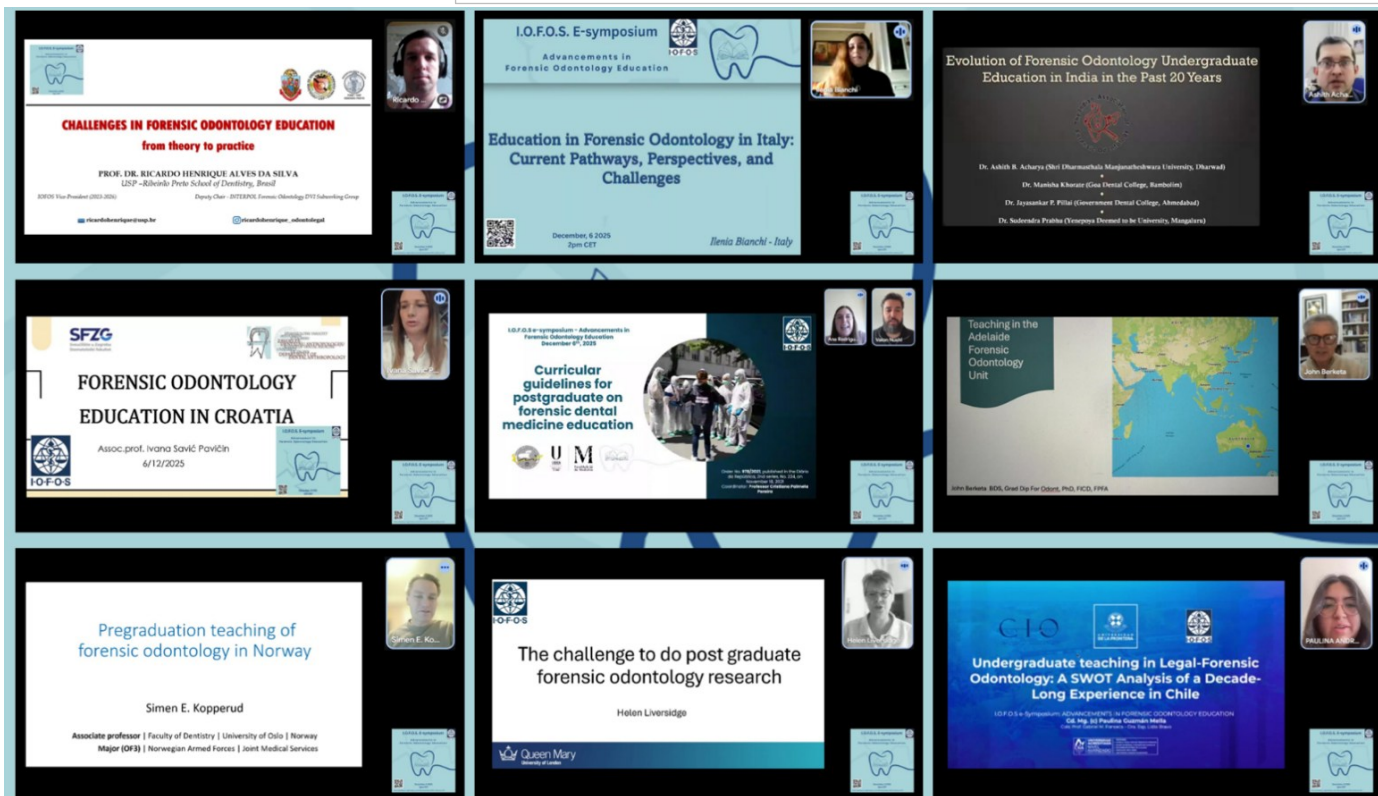
The 3rd edition of the IOFOS e-Symposium — themed “*Advancements in Forensic Odontology Education*” based on the proposal of the IOFOS President, Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira — was held on 6 December 2025. Given the importance of the selected topic, participation was once again very high. The e-Symposium brought together 518 participants from 80 countries worldwide, ranging in age from 18 to 83 years, with 224 male and 294 female attendees.

Compared with previous editions largely dedicated to new perspectives and research presented by young researchers and forensic odontologists, this year’s e-Symposium offered a valuable

opportunity to hear from nine speakers representing both long-established experts and new generations. Speakers came from Brazil, Italy, India, Croatia, Portugal, Australia, Norway, the United Kingdom, and Chile, fostering a genuine exchange between experience and emerging opportunities and needs in forensic odontology education and continuing professional development.

With a view to sustained investment in future generations, the speakers shared with the IOFOS Board and members their experiences and challenges in delivering specialised education in forensic odontology at both undergraduate and postgraduate

The nine speakers from diverse countries at the 3rd e-Symposium of IOFOS.



Geographical distribution and number of participants (contd. on page 12)		
Argentina	Cyprus	Guinea
3	1	1
Australia	Czechia	India
8	1	113
Austria	DRC	Indonesia
4	1	18
Belgium	Denmark	Iraq
2	5	2
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Dominican Republic	Ireland
5	13	2
Botswana	Ecuador	Italy
11	1	9
Brazil	Egypt	Japan
29	1	8
Bulgaria	Estonia	Kenya
1	3	2
Canada	Finland	Kosovo
4	5	2
Chile	France	Lebanon
3	7	23
China	Germany	Libya
1	3	1
Croatia	Ghana	Malawi
6	1	6
Cuba	Greece	Malaysia
1	5	12

levels. The presentations, discussions, and final considerations highlighted diverse educational landscapes; nevertheless, many contributions reflected the strong and focussed commitment of universities to the full recognition of the forensic odontologist's role within broader forensic investigations. This commitment aims at achieving appropriate professional standards through a variety of effective and motivating strategies. A key message that emerged is that educational opportunities are closely linked to the predominant

professional activities of forensic odontologists within different legal contexts. In countries such as Norway, Australia, and Chile, training is largely oriented toward human identification, whilst greater emphasis is placed on dental malpractice assessment and evaluation of odontostomatological impairment in countries including Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom, India, Brazil, and Croatia. Moreover, some countries, such as India, Croatia, and Chile already include specific lectures and workshops in forensic odontology at the undergraduate level within dental medicine curricula. This approach enables students to acquire foundational competencies early in their academic education and to develop awareness of forensic practice as a potential professional pathway. Conversely, in countries such as Portugal, Italy, and Brazil, postgraduate training has been well established for many years and rests on solid foundations; however, the need has emerged from professionals, educational institutions, and legal systems alike, to further formalise forensic odontology qualifications. This includes the introduction of dedicated Residency schools for dentists wishing to practice odonto-stomatological medico-legal activities and to be formally recognised as competent forensic odontology experts within the increasingly integrated field of forensic sciences.

Pioneers of forensic odontology also emphasised the importance of investing in younger professionals, both by encouraging research in established areas of knowledge and by addressing new challenges posed by scientific and technological advances. These include, for example,

the application of artificial intelligence in forensic contexts, together with an awareness of its potential and limitations. Such developments underline the need to continually evolve and adapt research and educational horizons in forensic odontology.

The 3rd IOFOS e-Symposium once again proved to be a highly valuable platform for scientific exchange and professional reflection. It highlighted the crucial role of continuous dialogue between experienced forensic odontologists and emerging generations, fostering mutual learning and shared vision. By bringing together diverse international perspectives, the Symposium enabled participants to share not only opportunities for growth and collaboration, but also common challenges and aspirations related to education and the evolving role of the forensic odontologist. Through the ongoing commitment of IOFOS to engage forensic odontologists worldwide within a truly global professional and academic community, such initiatives promote collective progress toward shared objectives. This collaborative spirit supports the development of harmonised standards, strengthens scientific cooperation, and reinforces a sense of belonging to a unified international discipline capable of moving forward together in the same direction while sustaining common goals and values.

Geographical distribution and number of participants		
Mali	Portugal	Sweden
2	5	3
Mexico	Puerto Rico	Switzerland
10	1	2
Namibia	Romania	Syria
1	14	1
Nepal	Rwanda	Tanzania
3	2	7
Netherlands	Saudi Arabia	Thailand
2	4	3
New Zealand	Senegal	Tunisia
1	1	2
Nigeria	Singapore	Türkiye
23	2	2
Norway	Slovakia	Uganda
10	3	2
Pakistan	Slovenia	Ukraine
4	1	1
Paraguay	Somalia	UAE
5	2	1
Peru	South Africa	UK
3	28	12
Philippines	Spain	USA
5	2	8
Poland	Sudan	Zimbabwe
7	8	1

FDI World Dental Congress, Shanghai, China

Hrvoje Brkić, Treasurer, IOFOS; Professor, University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine, University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia, brkic@sfzg.hr

The FDI World Dental Congress was held in Shanghai, China, on 9–12 September 2025. It was a tremendous success, bringing together over 30,000 participants, including delegates and exhibition visitors. The Congress took place at Shanghai's National Exhibition and Convention Centre. The event ran smoothly, and the hosts — the Chinese Stomatological Association and FDI — ensured that all aspects of the collaboration were managed with great professionalism.

It is worth recalling that the idea of forming the IOFOS was conceived at the 1968 FDI Congress. Although there were no invited speakers specialising in forensic dentistry this year, several forensic odontologists actively participated with lectures:

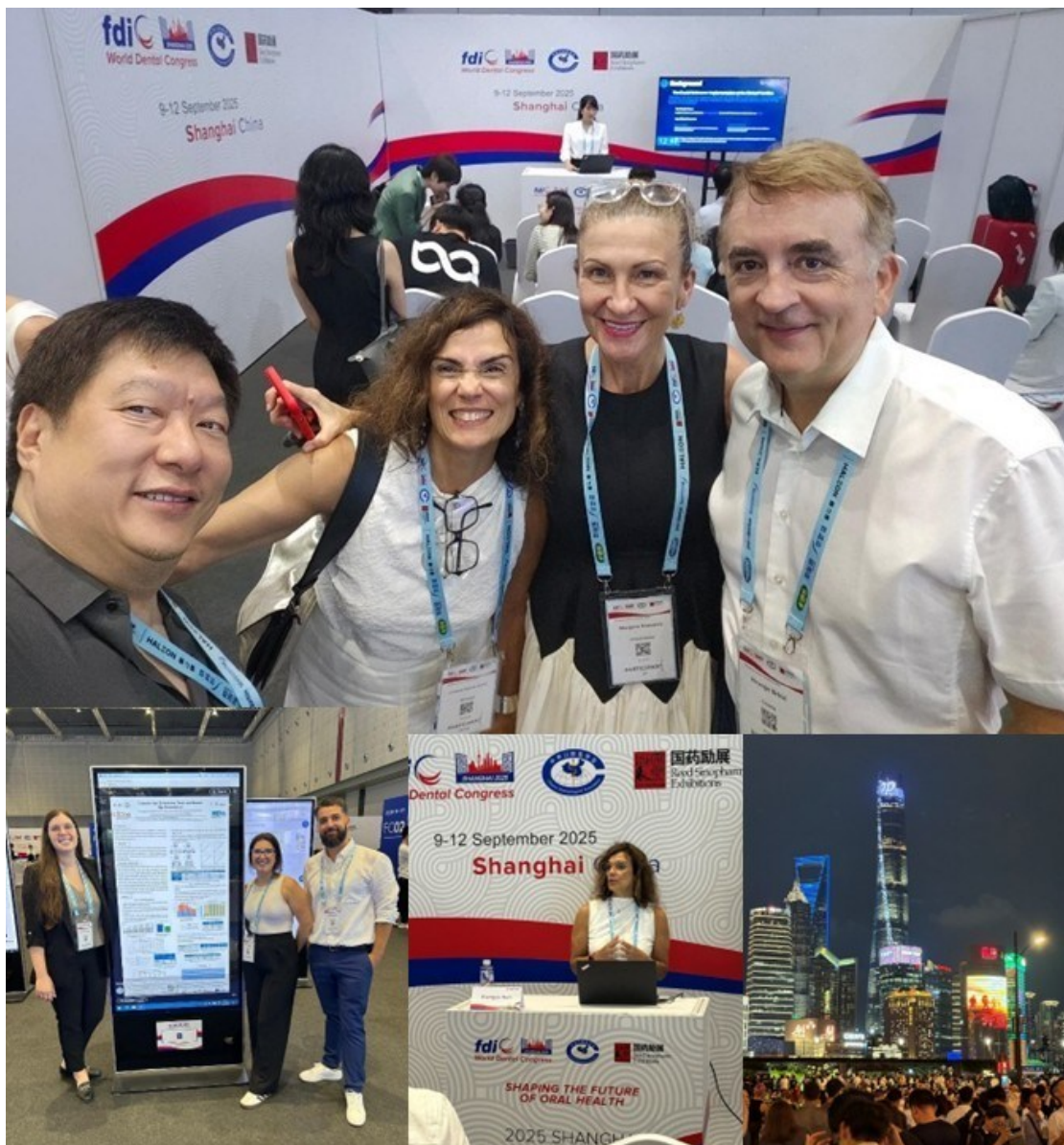
- Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira – Algorithms Using Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Victim Identification via Dental Evidence
- Prof. Dr. Marin Vodanović – Age estimation based on orthopantomograms using artificial intelligence
- Prof. Dr. Hrvoje Brkić – Correlation Between the Thickness of Dental Cement on Permanent Teeth and Chronological Age: Forensic Aspects
- Dr. Valon Nushi, PhD student – Bone Data and Dental Data Labeling for Forensic Age Estimation
- Dr. Ana Rodrigues, PhD student – Forensic Age Estimation: Bone and Dental Age Assessment

- Dr. Diana Augusto, PhD student – Convolutional Neural Network Approach in Forensic Odontology for Sex Estimation

The Congress was complemented by a large dental exhibition featuring exhibitors from around the world. The scientific and professional component of the programme included invited lectures, oral communications, and poster presentations. In addition, a gala dinner and a Shanghai night with a stunning view of illuminated skyscrapers in the city centre provided opportunities for socialising among participants.

From the scientific sessions and exhibition to the social events, the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. We are grateful to FDI for their efforts in making this Congress a memorable event.

The General Assembly and Parliament meetings were equally fruitful, with 86 countries represented at the 2025 World Dental Parliament.



Clockwise from top: Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira and Dr. Hrvoje Brkic with colleagues; Shanghai by night; Dr. Palmela Pereira at a session; the three PhD scholars (L to R) Dr. Ana Rodrigues, Dr. Diana Augusto and Dr. Valon Nushi.

22nd National and 2nd International Conference of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (IAFOCON 2025)

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The School of Medico-Legal Studies at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) — the world's first exclusive forensic sciences university — in Gandhinagar, hosted the 22nd National and 2nd International Conference of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (IAFO) on 12–14 September 2025. With the theme “*Advancing Forensic Odontology: From Theory to Reality*,” the conference brought together 262 participants, including academicians, researchers, clinicians, forensic scientists, and students from across India and abroad. The event served as a significant platform for advancing scientific dialogue and collaboration in the field of forensic odontology.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the state of Tripura in eastern India, Dr. Manik Saha. A Maxillofacial Surgeon by qualification, he served as the Chief Guest and highlighted the relevance of forensic sciences — particularly forensic odontology — in modern investigative systems. In her presidential address, Dr. Raji Viola Solomon, President of IAFO, emphasised the crucial role played by teeth in forensic investigations, comparing a tooth to the “black box of an aircraft” due to its ability to preserve critical information under adverse conditions. The event also benefited from the presence and guidance of Padma Shri Dr. J.M. Vyas, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of NFSU and

Patron-in-Chief, whose vision continues to strengthen the university's commitment to scientific excellence.

The conference was meticulously organised under the leadership of Prof. Dr. G. Rajesh Babu as Organising Chair, with Dr. Bhoomika Patel and Dr. Rakesh Yadav as Organising Co-Chairs. Dr. Hardi Mendpara served as the Organising Secretary, supported by the scientific leadership of Dr. Dhvani Patel (Scientific Chairperson) and Dr. Gargi Jani and Dr. Neelkant Verma (Scientific Co-Chairpersons). Dr. Akanksha Kachhawaha efficiently managed financial operations as Treasurer. Their collective efforts ensured a seamlessly executed and academically enriching event.



(Above) Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha (L) being felicitated by Vice-Chancellor of NFSU Dr. JM Vyas, who are seen in a group photo with other dignitaries, speakers and delegates (below).





Clockwise (from top-left): Prof. Dr. Sigrid Kvaal of Norway delivering the 'Dr. JG Kannappan Oration', Dr. Ivan Bedek of Croatia with his insightful keynote, conference organising chairperson Dr. G. Rajesh Babu felicitating Dr. Ashith Acharya for chairing the oration, and Dr. Botond Simon delivering his keynote on bitemark investigation.

The pre-conference workshops held on 12 September provided participants with specialised hands-on training across six fully booked sessions. The renowned Norwegian forensic odontologist, Prof. Dr. Sigrid Kvaal conducted an intensive workshop on dental age estimation in adults, focussing on regressive dental changes and practical application. Another highly engaging workshop conducted by Dr. Hardi Mendpara

and Dr. Pankaj Goyal, offered participants valuable insights into osteological differentiation and species identification. Additional workshops on forensic dental genetics and trace element profiling using ICP-MS further enhanced delegates' technical understanding and research exposure.

The main scientific programme on 13–14 September united international experts such as Dr. Sigrid I. Kvaal (Norway), Dr. Abdelhadi Salih (UAE), Dr.

Botond Simon (Hungary), Dr. Ivan Bedek (Croatia), alongside esteemed national speakers including Prof. Dr. Ashith Acharya, Prof. Dr. Manisha Khorate, Dr. Krithika Rajesh, and Dr. Jayasankar Pillai. Scientific sessions were organised across varied tracks, including forensic odontology, forensic anthropology, forensic biology, forensic medicine and toxicology, medico-legal dimensions, and applied forensic sciences

A thought-provoking panel discussion enriched the academic discourse, addressing 'Integration of Forensic Odontology in Disaster victim Identification', with the

objective to positively impact dental DVI in India. The Young Leaders Symposium and Dental Age Estimation Symposium provided a dynamic forum for early-career professionals to exchange ideas and contribute to ongoing scientific developments.

IAFOCON 2025 also saw robust participation in scientific presentations, with more than 145 research papers, e-posters, and table clinics presented across various forensic domains. These submissions reflected innovative methodologies, enhanced imaging techniques, advanced analytical methods, and case-based studies. The best entries were recognised with prizes during the valedictory ceremony, celebrating scientific excellence and encouraging continued research.

Beyond the academic sessions, the conference offered delegates an opportunity to experience the cultural richness of Gujarat state in western India — the venue of the event. Traditional dance performances, authentic local cuisine, and an interactive Gala Networking Dinner created a memorable atmosphere for social and professional engagement. Special cultural immersion activities were curated for international delegates, highlighting the state's heritage and hospitality. Participants widely appreciated the warmth, organisation, and cultural vibrancy that complemented the scientific rigour of the conference.

On the conference's sidelines, the IAFO held its fourth Executive Committee meeting of 2025 as well as the 22nd Annual

General Body Meeting, where a new Office was elected.

The 22nd National and 2nd International IAFO Conference at NFSU successfully achieved its goal of integrating scientific knowledge, technological innovation, and practical application in forensic odontology. With substantial national and international participation, hands-on workshops, insightful panel discussions, and high-quality scientific contributions, the event significantly advanced the field and reaffirmed India's growing influence in shaping global forensic standards. The conference also highlighted NFSU's pivotal role in promoting excellence in forensic education, research and professional development.



(Top) The new office-bearers of the IAFO including Dr. Anil Singh (President-elect), Dr. Raji Viola Solomon (Immediate Past President), Dr. Ashith Acharya (President), Dr. Jayasankar Pillai (Secretary) and Dr. Sudeendra Prabhu (Treasurer) who took office on 14 September; (Below) Organising Secretary of the conference Dr. Hardi Mendpara with other delegates.

35th Conference of the French Association of Forensic Odontology, Nancy, France**Gwénola Drogou Saout**President, Association Francaise d'Identification Odontologique (AFIO), gwenola.drogou@gmail.com

The 35th Conference of the French Association of Forensic Odontology (AFIO) was organised on 8–10 October 2025 in Nancy, France in the very modern Convention Centre Prouvé.

On the first day, a pre-congress programme comprised of three workshops. One on Age estimation and the use of AI, led by Prof. Dr. Roberto Cameriere and Dr. Catalini, and two other workshops focused on expert techniques for assessing personal injury damages dedicated to novice and experienced experts. They were all very successful.

The first day of the plenary conference (9 October) was devoted to multidisciplinary subjects: personal injury expertise: role of the lawyer, of the psychologist, of the consulting dentist; weight of expert opinions in judgments; guidelines for indicating dental surgery procedures; AI in expert assessments, evaluation of future loss of earnings in expertise; and experts in the ring: interactive session based on practical expert cases.

The second day of the conference was dedicated to odontological identification with the following items:

- Radiography in forensic odontology
- Archaeology and forensic anthropology: analysis of the Notre-Dame burials, dental study of five mummies, discovery of a skeleton: from the autopsy table to the Assize Court
- Methods for estimating age and sex
- Forensic medicine: between routine practice and anthropology in Nancy
- Cold cases elucidated in Quebec
- Round table discussion: controversial analysis of bite marks
- Psychiatry: study of the terrorists' transition to action

It was a pleasure welcoming several speakers and delegates from different countries

Clockwise from top: Conference room in Congress Centre; workshop on Age Estimation by Prof. Roberto Cameriere and Dr. Catalini; newly elected board of the AFIO



(Italy, Norway, Ivory Coast, Canada, Belgium, Luxembourg, and USA), as well as Col. Laurent Chartier, Deputy Director of the Forensic Sciences Institute of the French Gendarmerie, and Dr. Elodie Marchand, director of the Nancy Forensic Institute.

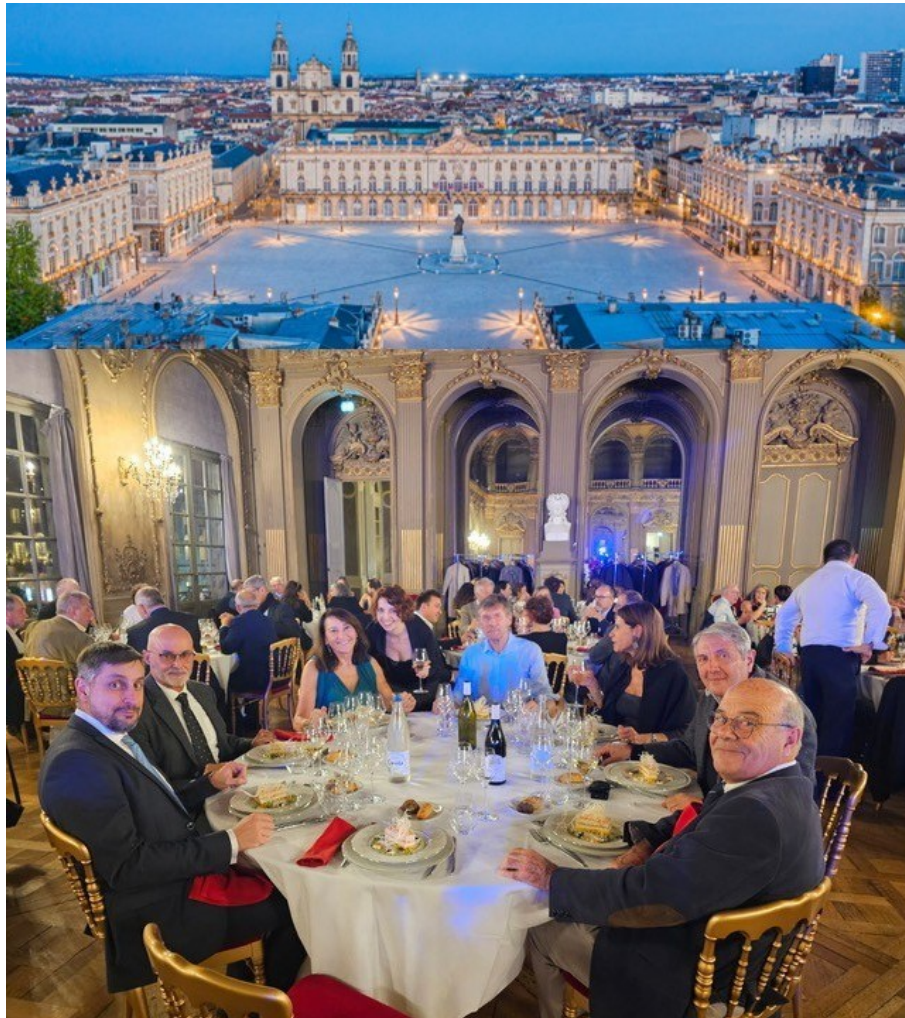
In addition to these, a scientific poster session as well as an exhibition by the national federation of reserve dentists — which traces the evolution of the corps of dental surgeons within the French army — was organised.

The first prize for the poster was awarded to Dr. Claire Rebiffe for “Fracture profile of a fractured tooth and its erosion”.

On the evening of 9 October, the AFIO held its General Assembly. The number of Board members increased from 11 to 13, reflecting the association’s growth. A new executive committee was then elected:

- President: Dr. Gwénola Drogou Saout
- General Secretary: Dr. Lise Malfroy Camine
- Treasurer: Dr. Emmanuelle Argence
- Vice-Presidents: Dr. Thierry Martin and Dr. Hugues Thomas

Apart from the scientific congress, the social events, mainly organised by Dr. Hugues Thomas — the local expert — were very festive.



Top: Place Stanislas in Nancy (*credit, Dauphiné Libéré*); gala dinner at the Nancy Town Hall.

Earlier, on 8 October evening, a historical walk, Nancy and Art Nouveau were proposed, then the dinner was arranged in a typical Nancy restaurant “the Pissenlits.”

Finally, the gala dinner held in the sumptuous reception rooms of the town hall, was magnificent. Photobooth and music took the participants to the dance floor! The photos from the photobooth remain secret...

COST Action CA24147 – Artificial Intelligence Driven Dental AgeEstimation Network (AID-AgE)

Roberto Cameriere, Chair, COST Action CA24147 – Artificial Intelligence Driven Dental AgeEstimation Net-work (AID-AgE)
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The Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action CA24147 – Artificial Intelligence Driven Dental AgeEstimation Network (AID-AgE) is a European research network. The Action was approved on 19 May 2025, and formally commenced on 31 October 2025 in Brussels. It will run till 30 October 2029 and is coordinated by Prof. Dr. Roberto Cameriere (Chair), along with Prof. Dr. Ayşe Gulsahi (Vice Chair, Türkiye) and Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira (Scientific Grant Holder Representative, Portugal). The main goal of AID-AgE is to develop and validate artificial intelligence (AI)-based models for biological age assessment using biological markers — including dental structures — analysed through radiographic imaging, particularly two-dimensional orthopantomography (OPG), thereby improving the accuracy, reproducibility, and reliability of forensic and judicial evaluations.

Recognising that several European countries already have national projects underway in this field, AID-AgE aims to build a coherent and interoperable framework that aligns scientific, technical, and legal perspectives. The Action fosters the exchange of knowledge and harmonisation of methodologies, enabling the comparison and validation of AI-based models across jurisdictions.

Importantly, this initiative operates in full awareness of the European Union Artificial

Intelligence Act (EU Regulation 2024/1689), which establishes harmonised rules for the ethical and lawful deployment of AI systems, particularly those used in high-risk contexts such as justice and forensic sciences. The network therefore promotes the responsible, transparent, and explainable use of AI, ensuring that models developed for forensic age assessment comply with the principles of human oversight, fairness, and accountability required under the EU regulatory framework.

Through interdisciplinary collaboration between forensic odontologists, legal professionals, computer scientists, and ethicists, AID-AgE seeks to strengthen judicial trust in AI-based evidence and to support the creation of European standards and best



Dr. Roberto Cameriere presenting at the COST event

practices for the admissibility and reliability of AI-assisted forensic evaluations.

This topic is directly relevant to forensic odontology — a discipline that has long relied on radiographic imaging as a fundamental tool for biological age assessment and personal identification in medico-legal investigations. The assessment of age through the radiographic analysis of dental and skeletal structures remains one of the most robust and scientifically grounded parameters for assessing biological maturity, especially when other biometric markers are unavailable or compromised, or ethically limited. Such approaches are crucial in diverse forensic and humanitarian applications — including the age assessment of unaccompanied minors, migration and asylum procedures, disaster victim identification, and criminal casework — where radiological interpretation often provides key evidentiary support for legal and forensic decision-making. The integration of AI into this field is not designed to replace the forensic expert, but rather to enhance and support expert judgment throughout the analytical process. The expert is responsible for the decision.

Through machine learning and deep learning algorithms, large datasets of radiographic images — encompassing dental, craniofacial, and skeletal data — can be analysed in a standardised, objective, and reproducible manner, significantly reducing inter-observer variability and improving the consistency of evaluations. Nevertheless, the final interpretation must always remain under the supervision and responsibility of the forensic expert, whose

clinical experience and understanding of the medico-legal framework are essential for contextualising AI-generated results. In this sense, AI functions as an advanced decision-support system, reinforcing precision and reproducibility while preserving the irreplaceable role of human expertise in forensic interpretation.

The COST Action CA24147 – AID-AgE seeks to bridge the gap between traditional radiographic methodologies and emerging digital technologies, fostering an interdisciplinary network that unites odontologists, radiologists, forensic anthropologists, computer scientists, and legal scholars. By promoting collaborative research, shared standards, and ethical implementation of AI, the Action aims to establish a European framework for trustworthy, explainable, and scientifically validated AI applications in forensic and judicial age estimation.

The core group currently includes representatives from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Spain, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Türkiye, and Switzerland, reflecting the Action's strong international and multidisciplinary character. A central component of the project is the training and empowerment of young researchers, who represent the most valuable resource for the future of forensic odontology and forensic sciences as a whole.

AID-AgE will promote their active involvement through training schools, scientific exchanges, and short-term mobility programmes, offering opportunities for collaboration, technical specialisation, and advanced skill development in forensic radiology and AI-assisted methods. A key aspect of this training is the development of competencies in image labelling and annotation, which are essential to ensure data quality, standardisation, and interpretability of AI models. Properly annotated datasets are fundamental for the reproducibility and reliability of algorithms, helping to avoid common pitfalls such as biased or over-tuned models, which may show excellent internal performance but fail when applied to external populations. At the same time, the Action recognises that image segmentation in radiographic datasets,

particularly in dental and craniofacial regions, remains a technical challenge. Therefore, training initiatives will emphasize critical awareness and methodological rigour, guiding researchers to balance automation with expert oversight, and to understand the limits and responsibilities associated with AI-driven analysis in forensic applications.

In line with COST's inclusive mission, the Action also seeks to expand its network beyond Europe, fostering partnerships with African, Asian, and Central and South American countries, which are often directly affected by humanitarian and legal challenges related to identification and age determination in migration contexts. Through this open, inclusive, and interdisciplinary approach, AID-AgE aims to de-

velop and validate trustworthy AI-based tools for biological age estimation from radiographic images, while advancing the creation of new European and global standards in forensic odontology that uphold both scientific excellence and ethical responsibility.



Delegates from across Europe participated at the COST Action CA24147 AID-AgE event

AldentifyAGE International Seminar, Lisbon, Portugal

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On 18 November 2025, the AldentifyAGE International Seminar was organised in the Aula Magna of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon, Portugal. The AldentifyAGE project, led by Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, aims to develop a scientifically validated and ethically compliant system for dental age assessment based on artificial intelligence (AI) in order to support evidence-based and responsible decision-making.

The seminar opened by welcoming remarks by the Dean of Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Dr. João Eurico, the Vice-Rector of the University of Lisbon Prof. Dr. Francisco dos Santos, Deputy Prosecutor Dr. Rui Cardoso and the principal investigator (PI) of the project Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira.

The first speaker of the scientific programme was Prof. Dr. Arlindo Oliveira, Full Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico. He presented results on the task of accurately predicting the functional outcome of ischemic stroke patients, primarily utilising data derived from Computed Tomography scans in conjunction with clinical variables. Three major deep learning architectures for the image-only approach and a hybrid approach centred on automatically extracting a known imaging biomarker as an intermediate step were explored. Crucially, no experiment, including the complex hybrid models, demonstrated a statistically significant performance difference compared to

the very simple LR 2vars model (Age and NIHSS), reinforcing the widely reported finding that age and NIHSS are overwhelmingly strong mRS predictors.

The subsequent speaker was Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, Tenured Professor at the School of Dental Medicine of the University of Lisbon and the PI of the project. In her presentation she emphasised that within the topic of dental age estimation the role of artificial intelligence has become increasingly relevant, as deep learning models can support expert decision making by automating image interpretation, minimising human variability, and enhancing reproducibility and efficiency while ensuring methodological consistency and scientific transparency. The AldentifyAGE project thus integrates advanced AI techniques, large-scale dental imaging datasets, and strict adherence to international forensic and regulatory standards. Its overarching goal is to develop trustworthy and explainable AI models for dental age assessment that can be recognised as low-risk systems under the EU Artificial Intelligence Act.

The seminar continued with a presentation by Prof. Dr. Alexandre Francisco, Full Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico. He spoke about the use of national and European digital infrastructure for advancing AI in forensic dentistry. The development and deployment of AI models for forensic dentistry are computationally demanding.



(L to R) Prof. Dr. Francisco dos Santos, Prof. Dr. João Eurico, Dr. Rui Cardoso, Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira

Training deep learning models requires access to large datasets, significant processing power, and efficient algorithms. National and European digital infrastructures, such as the National Distributed Computing Infrastructure (INCD), now the National Center for Advanced Computing (CNCA), and the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU), provide the necessary resources to overcome these challenges.

Prof. Dr. Paulo Sousa Mendes, Full Emeritus Professor at the Law School of the University of Lisbon and Scientific Coordinator of the LLM in Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice and its Regulation, discussed the tension between thinking and reasoning in the use of AI, referring to the evolution from traditional AI to more advanced systems. He stressed that it is up to the

jurisprudentes to assume the academic and social responsibility of making full use of digital technology and AI to improve the service that Law provides to society, defending the humanity of persons and ensuring just solutions for each concrete case in which conflicts and misunderstandings exist.

Subsequently, Prof. Dr. Andreas Schmeling, Professor of the Institute of Legal Medicine at Münster University Hospital and chairman of the Study Group on Forensic Age Diagnostics (AGFAD) presented the AGFAD recommendations for forensic age assessments in living adolescents and young adults. In order to achieve the highest possible accuracy, several methods of age assessment should always be used: a physical examination with medical history, an X-ray examination of the hand and a dental examination with an orthopantomogram. If the hand ossification is completed, an additional CT scan of the clavicles should be performed. To ensure quality control of the issued age assessment reports, AGFAD has been conducting proficiency tests since 2002.

The scientific programme concluded with a presentation by Prof. Dr. Hrvoje Brkić, Full Professor at the Dental School of the University of Zagreb. He spoke about dental age assessment in live adult individuals and cadavers. His recommendation was to use non-destructive methods in forensic and bioarchaeological research. The three most common non-destructive age assessment methods are the analysis occlusal tooth wear, tooth root translucency, and the pulp-to-tooth surface ratio. In order to

increase the level of confidence and success rate in age assessment a combination of several methods should be used.

Finally, Dr. Chandra Gracias, Court of Appeal Judge, Tribunal da Relação de Coimbra and Dr. Rui Cardoso, highlighted the success of the seminar. The AIdentifyAGE seminar united an international network of researchers, practitioners and policymakers working at the crossroads of artificial intelligence, medical imaging, law, and dental age assessment. The presentations showed

the rapid advancement of digital technologies and their potential to enhance accuracy, ethical standards, and efficiency in dental age assessment. The seminar also underscored the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration when tackling one of the most sensitive and socially impactful tasks in forensic science: assessing chronological age through objective, reproducible, and fair methods. Plans for future editions of the AIdentifyAGE International Seminar are already underway.



(L to R) Prof. Dr. Hrvoje Brkic, Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira and Prof. Dr. Andreas Schmeling.

34th Annual Congress of the Portuguese Dental Association

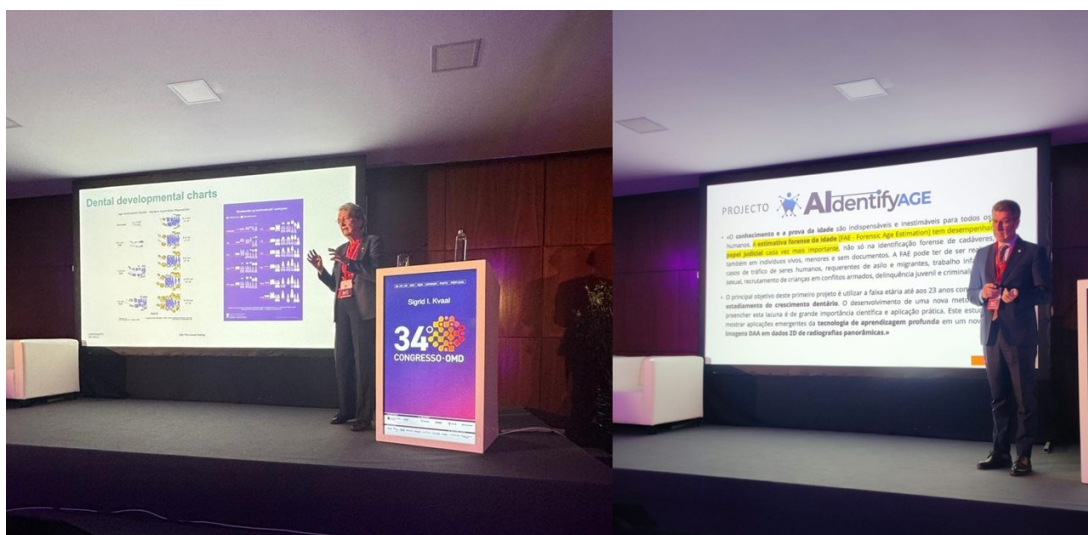
Ana Margarida Rodrigues, Invited Assistant, Faculty of Dental Medicine, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal
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The Portuguese Dental Association (PDA) traces its origins to the professional reorganisation of dentistry in Portugal during the late 20th century. Created to regulate the dental profession, uphold ethical standards, and promote high-quality oral healthcare, the PDA has played a central role in shaping modern dentistry in the country. Over the years, it has expanded its scientific, educational, and public-health missions, supporting continuous professional development and representing Portuguese dentists nationally and internationally. Today, the PDA stands as a key institution in advancing dental practice, protecting patients, and strengthening the professional identity of dentists in Portugal.

The 34th Edition of the Portuguese Dental Association Annual Congress took place on 6–8 November 2025, in Porto, themed ‘**Skills in Dentistry in the 21st Century**’. The scientific programme was multidisciplinary, blending clinical, scientific and socio-professional sessions. Highlights of the congress included a pre-conference course on oral traumatology, numerous hands-on courses, a forum with the dental industry, multiple thematic sessions and dedicated panels focussed on the several fields of dentistry.

Concurrently, the large dental trade fair *Expodentária* was hosted, bringing together over 120 exhibitors showcasing the latest technologies, materials and services in dentistry.

The Forensic Odontology session took place on 7 November, from 9 am to 1 pm, and included two presentations — the first was delivered by the internationally renowned Prof. Dr. Sigrid Kvaal, titled “Technological information in the field of expertise: dental age estimation”. In this brilliant presentation full of scientific content, Prof. Kvaal presented the different methods and scoring systems for dental age assessment, in children, subadults and adults. In this presentation two critical points were highlighted, the first is the so-called ‘age mimicry’, which occurs when there is an uneven distribution of individuals across different age groups, the second concerns the limitations of using regression formulas to estimate age.



Professor Dr. Sigrid Kvaal and Dr. Rui Cardoso were resource persons at the 34th Portuguese Dental Association conference

The second presentation titled “Expertise in the medico-legal age estimation context: the law, was presented by the Deputy Prosecutor General Dr. Rui Cardoso, director of the Portuguese Central Department of Investigation and Criminal Action (DCIAP)

and consultant of the AIdentifyAGE Project. The session focussed on the legal and procedural foundations of forensic medical examinations for age assessment, analysing the general regime for expert reports and the special regime applicable to forensic medical assessments, including technical criteria, regulatory framework, and limits of expert evidence. The AIdentifyAGE Project is a Portuguese-led research initiative that aims to develop advanced AI-driven methods for estimating the age of living individuals in forensic and migratory settings where reliable documentation is missing. The ultimate goal is to enhance objectivity, robustness and transparency in age assessment tasks in migration and forensic identification contexts.

Each session ended with follow up conclusions and a series of questions from the audience.

The presence of this field at the 34th Annual Congress of the Portuguese Dental Association shows the significant growth forensic odontology has experienced in recent decades, driven by advances in technology and an increasing need for accurate age assessment in legal and criminal investigations.



Speakers and moderators in the forensic odontology sessions (L to R) Deputy Prosecutor General Dr. Rui Cardoso, Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, Prof. Dr. Sigrid Kvaal and Court of Appeal Judge António Bessa Pereira.

16th Annual Meeting of SOFIA, and 1st Congress of Medical-Dental Legislation and Forensic Sciences of the USCA, Asuncion, Paraguay

Gabriel M. Fonseca, Secretary of SOFIA, Associate Professor, Universidad de La Frontera, Temuco, Chile,
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The 16th Annual Meeting of the Sociedad de Odontoestomatólogos Forenses Iberoamericanos (SOFIA) and the 1st Congress of Medical-Dental Legislation and Forensic Sciences of the Santa Clara de Asís University (USCA) was convened in Asunción, Paraguay, on 12–14 November, 2025. This event was supported by the USCA and patronised by the International Organization for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology (IOFOS). The conference featured 27 speakers from nine countries who addressed nearly all traditional areas of the speciality, but also with a particular emphasis on the integration of new technologies, automation, and artificial intelligence in forensic odontology. Distinguished participants included President of the IOFOS, Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira (Portugal), Vice President Prof. Dr. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva (Brazil), as well as the

President of SOFIA, Prof. Dr. Lourdes Gómez Jiménez (Dominican Republic).

On the inaugural day of the event, as a pre-congress activity, four courses were conducted — one each by Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira (*“Age Estimation: Dental Age Assessment, Bone Age Assessment and Artificial Intelligence”*), Prof. Dr. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva (*“Professional Malpractice: The Role of Forensic Odontology in Prevention and Expert Analysis”*), Prof. Dr. Marta Maldonado (Argentina, *“Assessment of Stomatognathic Damage”*), and Prof. Dr. Gabriel M. Fonseca (Argentina/Chile, *“Oral Injury Analysis on Autopsy Table”*). The day concluded with a poignant visit to the Ykua Bolaños Memorial, the site of a tragic fire in 2004 that resulted in the loss of 400 lives and injured more than 300 people. The visit was conducted under the guidance of survivors and relatives of those



Left: (L to R) Prof. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva, Prof. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, Vice President and President of the I.O.F.O.S. respectively, and Prof. Lourdes Gomez Jiménez, President of SOFIA; Right: Attendees at the XVI SOFIA Annual Meeting during the opening ceremony.



Left: Prof. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, President of the IOFOS delivering her lecture titled "Age Estimation: Dental Age Assessment, Bone Age Assessment, and Artificial Intelligence" at the pre-congress event; Right: (L to R) the four speakers at the pre-congress event—Prof. Gabriel M. Fonseca, Prof. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, Prof. Marta Maldonado, and Prof. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva.

who perished in the supermarket fire, with a particular focus on celebrating life beyond suffering.

The formal commencement of the 16th Meeting occurred on the second day, during which the authorities of the IOFOS, SOFIA, and USCA welcomed more than 150 participants. Following traditional dances and exemplary management by the host, Prof. Dr. Ana Amarilla Guirland (Paraguay), presentations were delivered by Prof. Dr. Palmela Pereira, Prof. Dr. Alves da Silva, and speakers from Peru, Mexico, Paraguay,

Argentina, and Bolivia. These presentations encompassed a range of topics, including the role of forensic odontologists in identification processes, detection of child abuse and maltreatment, assessment of oral damage, professional responsibility and legislation, and recommended standards for professional training in forensic odontology. These discussions were approached from an interdisciplinary perspective, generating contrast and alignment in the new technological and quality assurance paradigms. The day concluded with the 16th SOFIA Annual Assembly,



Participants of the 16th Annual SOFIA meeting visiting the Ykua Bolaños Memorial.



Prof. Ana Amarilla Guirland delivering the official welcome to the 16th SOFIA Annual Meeting.

during which the intention to align SOFIA with the Triennial IOFOS Congress for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology in Lisbon, Portugal (9–11 September, 2026) was reaffirmed. Subsequently, a convivial dinner not only reinforced the mutual commitment to advancing forensic odontology but also strengthened the affectionate and collegial relationships that have consistently characterised SOFIA the last 16 years.

The third day continued with presentations from lecturers from Argentina, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Mexico, and Paraguay. The lectures addressed topics such as the significance of postmortem intraoral evaluation, forensic odontology in gender-based crimes, intraoral ballistics of evidence, dental identification, and the integration of this specialty into routine medicolegal autopsies. The day also featured poster presentations (winning poster Sosa et al. from Paraguay: *"Evaluation of*

the Content of Dental Leave Certificates Prepared by Odontologists in Two Public Institutions in Paraguay"), oral presentations (winning paper Villalobos et al. from Brazil: *"Multidisciplinary Approach to Human Identification: Forensic Anthropology and Odontology in Long-Standing Cases"*), and a new edition of the "Prof. Mario Cantín Award." SOFIA awarded a prize of US\$ 300 to student Paulina Guzmán Mella from Chile for her presentation entitled *"Undergraduate Teaching in Legal-Forensic Odontology: A SWOT Analysis of a Decade-Long Experience in Chile"*. The evaluation panel was composed of Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, Prof. Dr. Lourdes Gómez Jiménez, and Prof. Dr. Marta Maldonado.

Emotional moments were experienced in remembrance of Chilean Prof. Mario Cantín, a SOFIA member who passed away at a young age but had a distinguished career in the field. Additionally, a tribute was



Prof. Dr. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva is conferred the 'Prof. Luis Ciocca Gómez' medal by the President of SOFIA, Prof. Dr. Lourdes Gómez Jiménez (R), and the Secretary, Prof. Dr. Gabriel M. Fonseca (L).

paid to Prof. Luis Ciocca Gómez, a founding member from Chile who recently passed away. In his honour, SOFIA established a distinction in his name: a medal awarded to SOFIA members who have distinguished themselves through their actions, services, or outstanding academic, expert, or management activities in forensic odontology, thereby making a significant impact on the community at the regional, national, or international levels. This inaugural

distinction was awarded to Prof. Dr. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva, who accepted the award amidst applause and deeply emotional moments of gratitude.

SOFIA reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Ibero-American forensic odontology, strengthening its ties with the IOFOS, and fostering friendship and camaraderie among all its members.

200 Forensic Odontologists Graduated at Ribeirão Preto School of Dentistry, Brazil

Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva

Chair, Forensic Odontology, University of São Paulo Ribeirão Preto School of Dentistry, Brazil, ricardohenrique@usp.br

The year 2025 is a milestone year for the Forensic Odontology Division at the Ribeirão Preto School of Dentistry, University of São Paulo (USP), particularly for our Forensic Odontology Specialisation Programme. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Programme which, following the graduation of its 18th Group, has surpassed the significant milestone of graduating more than 200 Forensic Odontologists. In Brazil, Specialisation Programmes are regulated by the Ministry of Education and, in the field of Dentistry, there are regulations by the Brazilian Federal Council of Dentistry, which establishes a maximum of 12 students per group. The curriculum of our programme covers all areas related to Forensic Odontology and includes both theoretical and practical training. It also incorporates selected topics from the broader field of Criminal Sciences, since in Brazil dentists may work as Forensic Odontologists (in criminal, civil, labour, and administrative courts) and as Criminal Experts. After completing their undergraduate degree, dentists in Brazil may pursue this specialised training in Forensic Odontology. Our programme has a duration of 18 months, with one week of activities per month, totalling 700 hours of training.





The Indonesian Society of Forensic Odontology (InaSFO) Forensic Odontology Graduate Programme

Nurtami Soedarsono

Head of Indonesian College of Forensic Odontology, nurtami@ui.ac.id

The Indonesian Society of Forensic Odontology (InaSFO) remains an active member of IOFOS and is committed to contributing to the advancement of forensic odontology at both regional and international levels. The InaSFO had the opportunity to report the progress of the development of our forensic odontology graduate programme during the IOFOS meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in September 2023.

Indonesia now has two Master's programmes in forensic odontology and one Master's programme in forensic science. Since 2022, Universitas Indonesia, Faculty

of Dentistry, has established a specialist programme in forensic odontology. So far, 11 dentists have graduated as forensic odontology specialists, and currently we have another 11 students in the specialist programme. The initiatives have continued to evolve, and we are pleased to share that the Indonesian College of Forensic Odontology is currently in the advanced stage of improving national specialist and subspecialist programmes in forensic odontology. These programmes are supported by a nationally endorsed curriculum that aligns with the ICD-11 framework, ensuring international standards, consistency in competency development, and harmonisation with global forensic medical systems. In addition to that, fellowship programmes need to be established to ensure that specialist graduates are equipped to handle complex forensic odontology cases and to participate effectively in multidisciplinary forensic teams.



Postmortem dental examination as part of the forensic odontology specialist training (L); the latest national board exam for Specialist Graduates organised in July 2025 (R).

The InaSFO looks forward to giving its full report at the next IOFOS meeting in Lisbon in September 2026, hoping the update will be beneficial to the member societies and

dentists in general, particularly in the context of global alignment and the development of forensic odontology training pathways across regions.

5th Edition of the Certificate Programme in Forensic Odontology at the University of Turin, Italy

Emilio Nuzzolese, Course Director, emilio.nuzzolese@unito.it

From 20–25 April 2026, the University of Turin will host the fifth edition of the Course in Forensic Odontology, a leading professional training initiative in Italy dedicated to the scientific and practical aspects of human identification. The course will take place in an intensive residential format at the Personal Identification and Forensic Odontology Research Laboratory (LIPOF), located at Corso Galileo Galilei, Turin, with registrations open until 28 February, 2026.

Designed for dentists, medical examiners, biologists, archaeologists, and professionals in natural and legal sciences, the programme offers in-depth learning experience that bridges theory, laboratory practice, and international field standards. Dental hygienists are also welcome to attend as auditors.

The 80-hour course, delivered entirely in English, combines lectures, hands-on laboratory work, and digital learning sessions. Participants will benefit from two full days of practical training on human remains and osteological collections, applying forensic methods used in real investigation settings.

Throughout the week, the course will explore key topics such as personal identification, biological age estimation, bite mark analysis, biological profiling, and dental evidence documentation. One of the highlights is the focus on Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) — the process of identifying victims in mass disasters, large-scale accidents, and terrorist attacks — based on Interpol recommendations and NATO STANAG2464 military odontology standards.

The competencies gained are directly applicable to forensic and archaeological investigations and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration with Judicial Authorities, Law Enforcement, International Courts, Civil Protection, DVI teams, the Italian Red Cross, and cultural heritage institutions.

A multidisciplinary faculty of international experts under the direction of Dr. Emilio Nuzzolese, Associate Professor of Forensic Medicine at the University of Turin, the course brings together a distinguished team of international scholars and field professionals.

Among the invited lecturers are Dr. Hemlata Pandey, international forensic odontology expert; Prof. Margherita Michelletti Cremasco and Prof. Corrado Calì from the University of Turin; Prof. Robert Wood,



visiting professor at the same university; and Dr. Mario Torreggianti, forensic dentist and lecturer in Forensic Medicine. Additional speakers include Prof. Marco Sassoè, Dr. Vittorio Monasterolo, Dr. Silvestro Marschio (fingerprint specialist), Dr. Rosy La Malfa, Dr. Francesca Zangari, and bioarchaeologists Dr. Martina Friziero, Dr. Francesca Meli, and Dr. Lorenzo Bigo.

Further contributions will come from experts in forensic DNA analysis, bioarchaeology, and fingerprint identification, reinforcing the multidisciplinary and integrated nature of the programme. For more information and registration: Prof. Emilio Nuzzolese @ emilio.nuzzolese@unito.it.

IOFOS Triennial Meeting, 9–11 September 2026

The Organising Committee of the Triennial Meeting of the International Organization for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology 2026

The International Organization for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology (IOFOS) is an international professional organisation founded following the decision of the Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI) in 1968 to include this area of dentistry within all of its activities. Five years after the FDI officially recognised forensic odonto-stomatology as a new scientific field, a group of pioneers met to formalise their collaboration, establishing what became the IOFOS.

From the beginning, the founders emphasised the importance of structured, well-defined, and deliberate methods of work aligned with the organisation's fundamental objectives. During the inaugural meeting held in Paris in 1973, Professor Gosta Gustafson from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, was elected as the first President of IOFOS.

The IOFOS organises its meetings every three years, with the next congress slated for 2026 in Lisbon, Portugal, marking the 53rd anniversary since its establishment.

Venue: Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon

The IOFOS Triennial Meeting 2026 will be hosted at the prestigious Gulbenkian Foundation, located in the heart of Lisbon. This remarkable complex includes the Foundation's headquarters, museum, and

Lisbon



art library, all set within beautifully designed gardens. The venue features the newly redesigned CAM (Centro de Arte Moderna) building by architect Kengo Kuma in collaboration with landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic, offering a seamless blend of architecture and nature.

Originally designed by Ruy d'Athouguia, Alberto Pessoa, and Pedro Cid, the iconic modernist complex — inaugurated in 1969 — harmonises concrete, glass, and



Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

landscaped roofs in a unique architectural experience. The Gulbenkian Museum stands as a tribute to the Founder's vision of uniting art, architecture, and the natural landscape. The Foundation actively supports cultural, educational, and scientific initiatives worldwide. During the IOFOS Triennial Meeting, sessions will take place in its elegant auditorium, while exhibitors and refreshments will be located in the bright, spacious glass foyer, easily accessible from multiple surrounding streets.

Scientific Programme & Participation

The IOFOS Triennial Meeting 2026 will gather professionals, professors, researchers, experts, and students from all over the world to present their recent work and scientific advancements. The event will host some of the most renowned specialists, highly qualified academics, and motivated young researchers working across various domains of forensic sciences. The scientific programme will focus on the following topics:

- Forensic and Legal Age Estimation
- Bite Marks
- Human Identification
- DVI Process
- Malpractice
- Dental Anthropology
- Body Damage Evaluation
- Forensic and Legal Medicine
- Forensic Sciences
- Criminalistics
- Education

Participants will be able to present their work through oral or poster

communications, submitting their abstract until 26 January 2026. Additionally, special awards will be presented for the **Best Student Oral Presentation** and **Best Student Poster Presentation**, held in loving memory of **Dr. Sakher Alqahtani**. These awards will be announced on the final day of the conference, during the meeting's official conclusion.

The meeting will have six workshops that provide hands-on, interactive sessions on cutting-edge tools and methods in forensic odonto-stomatology. Participants will explore digital workflows, 3D comparison methods, advanced photography for forensic dental purposes, measurement techniques using specialised computer applications, and disaster victim identification education — all designed to enhance both theoretical understanding and practical skills in forensic dental science. The workshops have limited number of participants, so don't miss your spot!

Social and Cultural Programme

In addition to the scientific sessions, a rich social and cultural programme has been organised to enhance networking opportunities and offer participants a memorable experience of Portuguese culture.

Welcome Reception

The event will begin with a warm welcome reception where attendees can enjoy

Portuguese Maritime Museum



beverages and national delicacies while networking in a relaxed and engaging setting. Light music and a friendly atmosphere will introduce participants to the flavours and ambience of Portugal.

- **Date:** Wednesday, 9 September 2026 – 8:00 PM
- **Venue:** Portuguese Maritime Museum, Pavilion of Galeotas

Founded in 1863 by King Luís I of Portugal — himself a former Navy officer — the Portuguese Maritime Museum houses a remarkable collection reflecting Portugal's extensive maritime heritage, including the Navy's more than 700-year history.

Cultural Tour

A dedicated cultural tour will include a special visit to the Portuguese Navy Museum (Museu de Marinha). Participants will have the opportunity to explore historical ships, naval artifacts, and interactive exhibits highlighting the global maritime legacy of Portugal.

Óbidos Village



Following the museum visit, the group will gather for a welcome drink at the Pavilion of Galeotas, a unique space filled with historic royal barges, offering an unforgettable setting to conclude the tour.

- **Date:** Wednesday, 9 September 2026 – 6:30 PM
- **Venue:** Portuguese Maritime Museum

Excursion to Óbidos

Another organised activity will take participants to the enchanting medieval town of **Óbidos**, famous for its cobbled streets, whitewashed houses, ancient walls, and picturesque castle. Attendees will enjoy a walking tour through the village, experiencing its timeless charm and historical richness. The excursion includes lunch at the **Praia D'El Rey Marriott Golf & Beach Resort**, where guests will savour a

creative interpretation of traditional Portuguese cuisine inspired by the regional ingredients of Portugal's west coast.

Gala Dinner

The Gala Dinner will take place at Darwin's Café, an elegant restaurant belonging to the Champilimaud Foundation, beautifully located along the banks of the Tagus River. With breathtaking views, refined ambience, and exceptional cuisine, the Gala Dinner promises an unforgettable evening blending science, culture and celebration with breathtaking views.



Praia D'El Rey Marriott Golf & Beach Resort

Register now – Lisbon is waiting for you! More information on <https://iofos-2026-triennial-meeting.eu/>

Dr. David Sweet

Tribute from the IOFOS Executive Board

With deep respect and sorrow, the IOFOS Executive Board and the international Forensic Odontology community share this tribute to the esteemed Dr. David Sweet, whose life and legacy left an indelible mark.

A life dedicated to service and science

Dr. David Sweet established himself as a global authority in Forensic Odontology, a field in which he innovated and elevated the standards of forensic practice, especially in human identification. He led the Bureau of Legal Dentistry (BOLD) Laboratory, transforming it into an international reference centre. In addition, he founded the British Columbia Forensic Odontology Response Team — composed of dentists, hygienists, and technicians prepared to work in mass disaster scenarios both in Canada and abroad.

Well-deserved recognition and legacy

Dr. Sweet's lifelong dedication was recognised with highly prestigious distinctions, most notably with him being conferred Officer of the Order of Canada — the highest Canadian civilian honour — in 2008, for his pioneering role in Forensic Odontology and for his professional achievements. More than a brilliant researcher, he was a generous educator who inspired and trained generations of professionals.



The passing of Dr. David Sweet represents the loss of one of the brightest minds in Forensic Odontology, but it will never erase the impact of his contributions. The academic community, colleagues, forensic odontologists, society — indeed, all reap the rewards of his dedication.

May his memory live on and inspire many to follow in his footsteps.

Merry Christmas!



Season's Greetings

IOFOS Executive Board

Happy New Year 2026!

