



I.O.F.O.S. e- Symposium

December 6th, 2025

2:00 pm CET

ADVANCEMENTS IN FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY EDUCATION

Session 1

Chairmans: Professor Hrvoje Brkic (Croatia) and Dr. Gwenola Drogou Saout (France)

Professor Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva (Brazil)

Forensic Odontology Division, USP - University of São Paulo, FORP - Ribeirão Preto School of Dentistry

Title - Challenges in Forensic Odontology education - from theory to practice

Biography: Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva, from Brazil, is Professor and Coordinator of the Forensic Odontology Division at USP - Ribeirão Preto School of Dentistry, working in teaching and research activities in undergraduate course in Dentistry, as well as Specialization, Master's, and PhD Programs. Among other activities in Forensic Dentistry, he works as an Expert Witness for Dental Malpractice Litigance at São Paulo State Court. Vice-President of IOFOS and Deputy Chair of the INTERPOL DVI Forensic Odontology Sub-Working Group.

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Professor Ilenia Bianchi (Italy)

Laboratory of Personal Identification and Forensic Morphology, Department of Health Sciences, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

Chair of Department: Professor Vilma Pinchi

Title: Postgraduate Education in Forensic Odontology in Italy: Current Pathways, Perspectives, and Challenges

Biography: Ilenia has a PhD cum laude in Legal Medicine at the University of Macerata. She is a Tutor of the Master Course in Forensic Odontology and is a Research Fellow in Legal Medicine at the University of Florence. Doctor Bianchi serves as a reviewer for several international journals and lectures in Italian and English for national and international conferences. She has published several scientific papers, and her research focuses on dental ID, age estimation, alternative matrices in forensic toxicology, dental DNA in PMI estimation, professional liability of the dentist, and malpractice/negligence.

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Professor Ashith B. Acharya (India)

SDM University, Dharwad

Research Team: Dr. Sudeendra Prabhu (Yenepoya Deemed to be University, Mangaluru), Dr. Jayasankar P. Pillai (Government Dental College, Ahmedabad), Dr. Manisha Khorate (Goa Dental College, Bambolim)

Title: Evolution of Forensic Odontology Undergraduate Education in India in the past 20 years

Biography: Professor Dr. Ashith B. Acharya is India's first forensic dentist and a global top-100 forensic researcher, with about 50 publications. He heads India's first exclusive department of forensic odontology in SDM College of Dental Sciences, Dharwad, which has contributed immensely to developing forensic odontology in India. Prof. Acharya is Editor of the IOFOS Newsletter and President of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology.

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Session 2

Chairmans: Professor Ricardo Silva (Brazil) and Professor Sigrid Kvaal (Norway)

Professor Ivana Savić Pavičin

Department of Dental Anthropology, University of Zagreb School of Dental Medicine, Croatia

Chair of Department: Professor Hrvoje Brkić

Academic Staff: Professor Marin Vodanović, Assoc. Professor Ivana Savić Pavičin, Professor Jelena Dumancić

Title: Forensic odontology education in Croatia

Biography: Ivana Savić Pavičin was born on July 11, 1980 in Zadar, Croatia. She graduated from the School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb in 2004. Specialized in Dental Pathology and Endodontics in 2011. Since 2004 has been working at the Department of Dental Anthropology, where she participates in the teaching of integrated undergraduate and graduate studies in Croatian and English programs, and in postgraduate doctoral and specialist studies. She was elected to the title of Associate professor in 2021. The main areas of her scientific and professional work are the biology and pathology of bone tissue (especially osteoporosis and its impact on the jaw bones), dental anthropology, dental stem cells, forensic dentistry and endodontics.

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Dr. Valon Nushi (Portugal)

Forensic Odontology Department, Scholl of Dental Medicine University of Lisbon

Chair of Department: Professor Cristiana Palmela Pereira

Academic Staff: Professor João Aquino Marques, Dr. Ana Rodrigues

Title: Curricular guidelines for postgraduate on forensic dental medicine education

Biography: Valon Nushi is a dentist specialized in forensic odontology, focused on investigative science. With a strong passion for the intersection of dentistry and forensics, he is currently pursuing PhD studies in forensic odontology, further deepening his knowledge in this specialized field. Valon's work focuses on the application of Artificial Intelligence in age assessment, contributing to the advancement of forensic identification and justice.

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Professor John Berketa (Australia)

Craniofacial Biology and Forensic Odontology Research Group, University of Adelaide

Chair of Department: Professor Denice Higgins

Title: Teaching in the Adelaide Forensic Odontology Unit

Biography: Member of the South Australian DVI Odontology team as Team Leader in Scene and Postmortem phases. Involved in ongoing casework, teaching, supervision, and assessment of postgraduate students in the field of forensic odontology. Have assisted the South Australian Police regarding bitemark cases, retrieval of burnt and buried remains, CCTV reviews and personally involved in hundreds of identification case studies.

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ADVANCEMENTS IN FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY EDUCATION

Session 3

Chairmans: Professor Ashith B. Acharya (India) and Dr. Rebecca Gahn (Sweden)

Simen E. Kopperud (Norway)

Department for pedodontics, behavioral sciences and forensic dentistry, Institute of clinical dentistry, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Oslo, Norway

Title: Pregraduation teaching of forensic odontology in Norway (curricular plan, time, challenges, etc...)

Biography: Simen E. Kopperud is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Oslo, Norway. He is responsible for the teaching of Forensic Odontology for undergraduate dental students (bachelor- and master education) at the University of Oslo, in addition to supervising PhD-students and organising courses for postgraduates. Dr. Kopperud also works clinically as a dentist in the Norwegian Armed Forces and is Chief Dental Officer in the Norwegian DVI-team.

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Professor Helen Liversidge (UK)

Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom

Title - The challenge to do post graduate forensic odontology research

Biography: Helen studied dentistry in South Africa, settled in London as a dentist but studied further at UCL London before joining the children's section of the Dental Institute at the London Hospital Medical College. This became part of Queen Mary University of London. Her research has described the timing of deciduous and permanent teeth using known-age-at death skeletal remains and dental radiographs. Her research has tested the accuracy of dental age estimation methods using developing teeth and has improved the way this is done.

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Dr. Paulina Guzmán-Mella (Chile)

Centro de Investigación en Odontología Legal y Forense (cio), Faculty of Dentistry, Universidad de La Frontera (Temuco, Chile)

Academic Staff: Lidia Bravo Rodríguez DDS, Esp., PhD (c); Gabriel M. Fonseca, DDS, PhD

Title: Undergraduate teaching in Legal and Forensic Odontology: A SWOT Analysis of a Decade-Long Experience at the Universidad de La Frontera (Temuco, Chile)

Biography: Paulina Guzmán-Mella is a DDS candidate and MSc in Dentistry candidate at Universidad de La Frontera. She currently serves as Secretary of the Scientific Society of Dental Students and Collaborator in Research Center in Legal and Forensic Dentistry (CIO).

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Scientific Committee:

Cristiana Palmela Pereira
Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva
Hrvoje Brkic
Marin Vodanovic
Vilma Pinchi
Stefano Garatti
Ashith B. Acharya

Organizing Committee:

Cristiana Palmela Pereira
Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva
Hrvoje Brkic
Marin Vodanovic
Vilma Pinchi
Stefano Garatti
Ashith B. Acharya
Ilenia Bianchi
Ivana Savić Pavićin
Valon Nushi
John Berketa
Simen E. Kopperud
Helen Liversidge
Paulina Guzmán-Mella