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# NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY



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## CONTENTS

Editorial	<b>3</b>
President's Page	<b>5</b>
<b>MEETING REPORTS</b>	
AFIO in AAFS Meeting, New Orleans, USA, and in IAFS Triennial Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria	<b>12</b>
IOFOS Supports Scientific Exchange at the 7 <sup>th</sup> International Conference of Dentistry In Pristina, Kosovo	<b>15</b>
Institutional Visits in Kosovo: Strengthening International Cooperation in Forensic Odontology, Pristina, Kosovo	<b>17</b>
COST Action CA24147 – Advancing Knowledge on AI-Driven Age Estimation, Belgrade, Serbia	<b>21</b>
Forensic Odontology and IOFOS Session at the 24 <sup>th</sup> Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS), Sofia, Bulgaria	<b>23</b>
INTERPOL's 35 <sup>th</sup> Disaster Victim Identification Conference, Lyon, France – Global DVI Experts Gather Highlighting International Cooperation and Forensic Innovation	<b>26</b>
<b>EDUCATION REPORT</b>	
Forensic Odontology Fellowship Programmes in India	<b>29</b>
<b>MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT</b>	
IOFOS Triennial Meeting, 9–11 September, 2026	<b>34</b>

## IMPRESSUM

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**Cover Photo:** *Chalé Palace of Paço de Arcos, Vila Galé, Portugal*; **Credit:** *Cristiana Palmela Pereira*

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As I prepare to write this editorial, I cannot but help think how fast the last three years as Editor of the IOFOS Newsletter has passed.

All six issues have been the architect of the President of the IOFOS, Dr. Prof. Cristiana Palmela Periera, who is ever so sure of what articles need

to be included and which events to be covered. And that is not an easy task considering the plethora of meetings and educational programmes ongoing in the world of forensic odontology. And it has simply amazed me how much is going on in this niche area—how many full-time and part-time professionals interested in this area of dentistry have been working to make it and the society we serve better.

And the ubiquitous IOFOS President has ably ‘sheperded’ the news items deemed worthy of publishing. And I have of course been more than enthusiastic to propose the inclusion of noteworthy events. I am particularlry pleased that forensic odontology events from Souteast Asia and South Asia have been covered, which is in continuation to similar articles from the term of the previous editor Dr. Marin Vodanović.

It has been a wonderful experience for me, not just serving as editor of the newsletter and corresponding with many around the world while compiling each issue, formatting the contributions, page setting and other technical work, but also serving the IOFOS and the broader

forensic dental community as a member of the Executive Board, having regular meetings with them, resolving to take the specialty forward little by little through executive action. All of this has overlapped with my national commitments—first as Secretary, then as President-elect and now as President of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology in the preceding three years.

The global experience gained by me surely will be passed on to younger/junior enthusiastic dentists in India who can make even better contributions on the world stage and to the global growth of forensic odontology. And that is always the focus—progress and evolution of forensic odontology so that diverse countries and different strata of society gain from its application.

Let me sign off by thanking the IOFOS for giving me the opportunity to serve the global forensic odontology fraternity. Special mention to the Executive Board—Dr. Stefano Garatti, Dr. Ricrdo Henrique Alves da Silva, Dr. Vilma Pinchi, Dr. Hrvoje Brkic and Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira—for their support and guidance in preparing and circulating the Newsletters these past three years.

Best regards to everyone.

*Namaskāra!*

### **Instruction for Authors**

IOFOS Newsletter is published biannually in June and December. Contributions should be sent by e-mail to [news1-editor@iofos.eu](mailto:news1-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

**Cristiana Palmela Pereira** ♦ President, IOFOS ♦ Tenured Professor, University of Lisbon, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Lisbon, Portugal ♦ [president@iofos.eu](mailto:president@iofos.eu); [cpereira@edu.ulisboa.pt](mailto:cpereira@edu.ulisboa.pt)



Dear colleagues and friends, as I write what will be my final President's Message for the IOFOS Newsletter during this mandate (2023-2026), I find myself reflecting on how quickly the last three years have passed. They have been

years of hard work, challenges, growth, friendship, and many achievements. Above all, they have been years dedicated to strengthening our global forensic odontology community in IOFOS. Since my last newsletter in December 2025, many important activities have taken place.

In March 2026, IOFOS was represented at the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Study Group on Forensic Age Diagnostics (AGFAD) in Berlin. The meeting brought together experts from different countries and featured excellent scientific presentations on forensic age estimation, one of the most important and rapidly evolving fields within forensic odontology. It was a pleasure to see IOFOS actively participating in these scientific discussions.

In April 2026, IOFOS received the honour of being invited to Kosovo by the Dental Chamber of Kosovo for its 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of

Dentistry. As President of IOFOS, I had the privilege of participating in the opening ceremony of the conference organised by the Dental Chamber of Kosovo. On the following day, together with members of the IOFOS Executive Board, we actively contributed to the International Conference on Forensic Anthropology, where we delivered scientific lectures and engaged in discussions with colleagues from different disciplines working in human identification and forensic sciences.

During this visit, I was warmly received by the Director of the Institute of Forensic Medicine and had the opportunity to visit the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Pristina. Together with several members of the IOFOS Executive Board, we also met with the Rector of the University of Pristina and visited the forensic science laboratory, where we were welcomed by their director.

Discussions focused

IOFOS President at AGFAD, Berlin.





on establishing future collaborations and strengthening academic and scientific partnerships. This intensive and highly productive agenda was made possible through the invaluable support of the Ambassador of Kosovo to Portugal, Dr. Edona Maloku Bërdyna, to whom we express our sincere gratitude.

As part of the visit to Kosovo, IOFOS President Prof. Cristiana Pereira was received by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Edona Maloku Bërdyna, Ambassador of Kosovo to Portugal (top-left).

More recently, representatives from the Kosovo forensic community visited Portugal, and we had the pleasure of meeting again at the Embassy of Kosovo in Lisbon while discussing their participation in the upcoming IOFOS Congress.



In May 2026, several members of our community participated in the Training School of COST Action CA24147 – AID-AgE (Artificial Intelligence Development for Age Estimation), held in Belgrade. The event was exceptionally well organised and provided two days of intensive learning and scientific exchange focused on artificial intelligence and age estimation. We also had the opportunity to visit the School of

The conference and visit to institutes in Pristina, Kosovo, were excellent.



Teaching, learning and socialising at the COST Action CA24147 – AID-AgE organised in Belgrade, Serbia.

Dental Medicine and further strengthen international collaborations. We would also encourage colleagues with an interest in forensic age estimation, dental anthropology, artificial intelligence, and related fields to explore the activities of COST Action CA24147 – AID-AgE, chaired by Prof. Roberto Cameriere. This growing international network brings together researchers and professionals from multiple disciplines and countries, providing excellent opportunities for scientific collaboration, training, mobility grants, and the development of future research initiatives. New participants are warmly welcome, and further information can be found on the COST Action website.

Shortly afterwards, forensic odontology was once again prominently represented during the International Association of Forensic Sciences Congress (IAFS). The IOFOS-

IAFS Session featured presentations dedicated to human identification delivered by Prof. Hrvoje Brkić, Prof. Simen Kopperud, and myself. We also had the privilege of serving as moderators for the forensic odontology scientific oral communication session. The IOFOS–IAFS Workshop on Age Estimation in Human Remains, delivered by Prof. Hrvoje Brkić and myself, was exceptionally successful and attracted considerable interest from participants. The high level of engagement demonstrated the continued relevance and importance of age estimation in forensic practice and research. Congratulations are due to the IAFS organisers and to the Past President, Prof. Yanko Kolev, for an outstanding congress. We are now looking forward to the next IAFS Congress, which will take place in 2029 in Rio de Janeiro under the presidency of Dr. Hélio Buchmuller. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr.

Buchmuller and his team for their successful candidature. After three previous attempts, their perseverance and unwavering commitment have finally been rewarded. This achievement is a testament to their dedication, vision, and hard work over many years. My warmest congratulations to Dr. Buchmuller and the entire Brazilian team on this well-deserved success.

I would also like to highlight the excellent session organised by the COST Action CA22106 – Migrant Disaster Victim Identification (MDVI), chaired by Caroline Wilkinson. The session brought together experts from different forensic disciplines for a highly productive afternoon dedicated to the challenges and innovations in migrant disaster victim identification. I was pleased to contribute by presenting some of the international results and developments emerging from the AIdentifyAGE project, demonstrating how trustworthy artificial intelligence may support forensic age estimation and human identification in humanitarian and migration-related contexts. The MDVI Action continues to play an important role in fostering international collaboration and developing innovative approaches for the identification of missing and deceased migrants.

Most recently, I attended the 35<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) Conference in Lyon, where productive discussions took place regarding international cooperation and future developments within forensic identification. As always, it was encouraging to witness the important role forensic odontology continues to play within the DVI community.

Beyond meetings and conferences, significant work has continued behind the scenes. During this period, IOFOS reviewed and published two important documents addressing quality assurance and recommendations for dental and skeletal age assessment. These documents reflect our commitment to scientific excellence, harmonisation of practices, and evidence-based forensic work.

We have also proposed IOFOS as a liaison organisation to the FDI World Dental Federation, further strengthening our international visibility and collaboration with the wider dental profession. We are waiting for the results.

Within ISO, we continue to closely follow the development of terminology documents and await future decisions regarding the proposed new Subcommittee on Forensic Odontology within ISO/TC 106. These developments have the potential to significantly influence the future standardisation of our discipline worldwide.

One of the most demanding and rewarding projects of this mandate has undoubtedly been the organisation of the IOFOS International Triennial Meeting, which will take place in Lisbon from 9–12 September 2026.

I am delighted to share that the response from the international community has been extraordinary. Our workshops are fully booked, we have more or less 90 scientific presentations, and the participants will be travelling from all corners of the world to join us in Lisbon. The Organising Committee is working tirelessly to ensure a memorable scientific and social programme, and we look forward to

welcoming all of you with the warmth and hospitality for which Lisbon is known.

For those who have not yet completed their registration, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

Education has also remained one of our priorities. I am particularly pleased that during this mandate we successfully established the IOFOS Education Committee. Similar committees have existed for many years in other dental specialties, and it was important that forensic odontology finally gained a dedicated structure to support education, training, and curriculum development worldwide.

In addition, I would like to remind colleagues that the European postgraduate programme in Forensic Odontology, currently the only programme fully aligned with European postgraduate credit requirements in this field, remains open for applications for the 2026–2027 academic year. The programme is delivered entirely in English and has a duration of one academic year in Faculty of Medicine University of Lisbon.

I am also delighted to announce the return of the Ferdinand Strom Award, which had been inactive for some years, as I present with my candidature as President. Alongside this prestigious distinction, we will once again present the Sakher Al-Qahtani Awards for Best Student Oral Presentation and Best Student Poster during the Lisbon meeting. Supporting young colleagues and recognising excellence remains one of IOFOS' most important missions.

As I conclude this message, I would like to thank all members of the Executive Board, our member societies, committee members, collaborators, and friends around the world. Everything achieved during these three years has been possible because of your dedication, enthusiasm, and support.

Serving as President of IOFOS has been one of the greatest honours of my professional life. While much remains to be done, I am proud of what we have accomplished together and confident that the future of forensic odontology is bright.

I look forward to seeing you all in Lisbon this September.

With my warmest regards,

Prof. Cristiana Palmela Pereira  
 President, IOFOS  
 2023–2026



The IOFOS President, Dr. Cristiana Pereira, Treasurer Dr. Hrvoje Brkic with colleagues at the IAFS Meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria – all in a casual mood following a good day's work.



At the International Association of Forensic Sciences Congress (IAFS) meeting, the IOFOS–IAFS Session featured presentations dedicated to human identification delivered by Prof. Hrvoje Brkić, Prof. Simen Kopperud, and IOFOS President Prof. Cristiana Pereira. They also had the privilege of serving as moderators for the forensic odontology scientific oral communication session. The IOFOS–IAFS Workshop on Age Estimation in Human Remains delivered by Prof. Brkić and Prof. Cristiana Pereira was very successful and attracted considerable interest from participants.



The INTERPOL DVI meeting was organised in Lyon, France, on 1-4 June 2026.



## Association Francaise d'Identification Odontologique (AFIO) in AAFS Meeting, New Orleans, USA, and in IAFS Triennial Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria

Gwénola Drogou Saout ♦ President, AFIO ♦ [gwenola.drogou@gmail.com](mailto:gwenola.drogou@gmail.com)

From 9–14 February 2026, the **AAFS** Meeting was organised in New Orleans, and several AFIO members participated as speakers or delegates. Dr. Lise Malfroy Camine, Secretary General of AFIO presented the results of her PHD thesis “Virtual Bonescape: Integrating Two Recovery Methods, Virtual Re-Association of Fragmented Remains and Scene Reconstruction, in a Disaster Victim Identification Context” in the Anthropology session.

Dr. Gwénola Drogou Saout, President of AFIO, presented “The Identification of Bodies Using the Automated Search Notice in Forensic Odontology in France” during the Odontology session.

In addition to the exchanges during the scientific sessions, we participated in festive events with international forensic dentists. It was carnival in New Orleans, and we were able to enjoy the city’s incredible atmosphere.

Bottom-left: The AFIO French team; top-right: Dr. Yanko G. Kolev (President of IAFS), Dr Lise Malfroy Camine (AFIO General Secretary), Dr. Fabrice Dedouit (President of ISFRI) and Dr. Gwénola Drogou Saout (President of AFIO); right: a glimpse from the carnival at New Orleans.





Top-left: AFIO General Secretary Dr. Lise Malfroy Camine, President Dr. Gwénola Drogou Saout and webmaster Dr. Géromine Fournier; right: supervisory team of the forensic odontology workshop at the IAFS meeting comprising of Dr. Aliénor Traissac, Dr. Gwénola Drogou Saout, Dr. Géromine Fournier, and Dr. Lise Malfroy Camine; bottom left: participants at the workshop.

During the **IAFS** meeting, the AFIO organised a workshop “*Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Forensic Odontology (But Were Afraid to Ask)*” proposed by Dr. Geromine Fournier, Associate Professor in Toulouse and Dr. Gwénola Drogou Saout and also supervised by Dr. Lise Malfroy Camine and Dr. Alienor Traissac. This Workshop was a great success. The participants, who were not dentists, got caught up in the game. They completed the AM and PM dental forms and made comparisons with great enthusiasm. The congress was also an opportunity for Lise Malfroy

Camine to present her thesis work in anthropology to the international forensic community. This congress provided an opportunity to reconnect with forensic specialists from France and around the world, and of course to meet new experts. The posters and presentations were varied and of excellent quality.

# 36<sup>TH</sup> AFIO CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 30  
OCTOBER 1 - 2 2026

CONGRESS AND GALA  
AT  
PALAIS DES PAPES  
AVIGNON

## WEDNESDAY WORKSHOP

**Body damage repair:**  
Experts and practitioners  
**Forensic odontology:**  
DVI exercise

## THURSDAY

Instruments breakage  
Deviant practices in dental centers  
Judge and report  
Sinus lift complications  
Experts in the ring

## Gala evening

## FRIDAY

Homicide in France  
Feedback:  
identification cases  
Brussels and Nice  
attacks 10 years later  
Testimony at the Assize Court

French Odontological  
Identification Association



[www.afioasso.org](http://www.afioasso.org)

[afio.identification@gmail.com](mailto:afio.identification@gmail.com)

**AFIO** is pleased to announce its next congress, which will be held from 30 September 30 to 2 October in the magnificent Palais des Papes in Avignon, France. The language of the congress is French.

On Wednesday (30 September), two workshops are being organised: one on personal injury expertise and another on a mission to identify victims of disasters.

Thursday (1 October) is dedicated to compensation for personal injury, including

the expectations of judges and practical expert cases.

Friday (2 October) is dedicated to identification, including a special session on cold cases and one on the presentation of expert witnesses at the Assize Court.

And of course, the festive events will be extraordinary, with a gala evening in the Palace of the Popes on the Pont d'Avignon.

The registration form can be found on the AFIO website: <http://www.afioasso.org/>.

## IOFOS Supports Scientific Exchange at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Dentistry, Pristina, Kosovo

Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva ♦ Vice-President, IOFOS ♦ [ricardohenrique@usp.br](mailto:ricardohenrique@usp.br)

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Dentistry in Kosovo was successfully held on 17–18 April 2026, in Pristina, Kosovo, bringing together dentists, researchers, and students to discuss contemporary developments in Dentistry, Dental Anthropology, and Forensic Odontology.

The conference was organized by the Kosovo Dental Chamber in collaboration with the Anthropological Dental Association of Kosovo, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Blerim Kamberi, President of the Kosovo Dental Chamber, and Prof. Dr. Ferit Koçani, President of the Anthropological Dental Association of Kosovo.

The event served as an important platform for international scientific exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration, and a major highlight of the conference was the international scientific session entitled “Key aspects of Dental Anthropology and Forensics today,” focused on current advances and challenges in dental anthropology, human identification, and forensic sciences. The session emphasised the growing importance of dental and skeletal analyses in medico-legal investigations, disaster victim identification, and anthropological research, while also promoting discussion on emerging methodologies and international best practices.



Members of IOFOS Executive Board and the Organising Committee of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Dentistry (left panel); lectures by IOFOS President, Treasurer, Vice President & Secretary (lower panel, L-R).

The conference received the IOFOS accreditation, reflecting the organisation's commitment to supporting high-quality scientific initiatives and fostering global cooperation in Forensic Odontology, and members of the IOFOS Executive Board participated as keynote speakers: Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira (Portugal), President of IOFOS; Prof. Dr. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva (Brazil), Vice-President of IOFOS; Prof. Dr. Marin Vodanović (Croatia), Secretary of IOFOS; Prof. Dr. Hrvoje Brkić (Croatia), Treasurer of IOFOS.

The conference demonstrated the increasing interest in forensic odontology and

dental anthropology within the Balkan region and highlighted the importance of international partnerships in promoting education, research, and professional development.

IOFOS continues to strengthen its mission of advancing forensic odonto-stomatology worldwide, supporting the dissemination of scientific knowledge across borders, and congratulates the Kosovo Dental Chamber and the Anthropological Dental Association of Kosovo for organising an excellent scientific meeting.

## Institutional Visits in Kosovo: Strengthening International Cooperation in Forensic Odontology

Jeta Kelmendi ♦ Dental Editor, ALB-MED PUBLISHER ♦ [jeta@alb-med.com](mailto:jeta@alb-med.com)

During the official visit to Kosovo within the framework of the Final Conference Programme held on 17-18 April 2026 at Hotel Emerald, Strauss Hall, in Pristina, several important institutional meetings were organised to strengthen international cooperation, academic exchange, and future collaboration in forensic odontology and dental anthropology.

The visit provided an important opportunity to connect IOFOS with key institutions in Kosovo, including the Kosovo Forensic Agency, the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Pristina, the Rectorate of the University of Pristina, and representatives of dental and medical education. The meetings highlighted the growing interest in forensic odontology and dental anthropology in Kosovo and the need to build sustainable international partnerships in these fields.

The conference brought together distinguished local and international lecturers and created a valuable scientific platform for professional exchange. The programme included plenary lectures in dentistry, dental anthropology, and

forensic odontology. Of particular relevance to IOFOS was the scientific session held on 18 April 2026, moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jeta Kelmendi and Dr. Ditor Haliti. The session included lectures by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferit Kocani on dental paleopathology and by Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira on forensic odontology in DVI operations, from international protocols to practical casework.

The programme continued with contributions from Prof. Dr. Sc. Hrvoje Brkic on dental age and sex assessment using dento-anthropological parameters, Prof. Dr. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva on forensic odontology practice in Brazil, and Prof. Dr. Marin Vodanovic on risk management in dentistry. The participation of IOFOS representatives and international experts gave the

Final Conference Programme held on 17-18 April 2026 at Hotel Emerald, Strauss Hall, Pristina, with the participation of local and international experts in dentistry, dental anthropology, and forensic odontology.





Visit to the Kosovo Forensic Agency, with Dr. Shemsi Duriqi, Executive Director, and representatives of the IOFOS delegation.

conference a strong international dimension and supported professional dialogue, academic cooperation, and future collaboration.

One of the key institutional visits took place at the Kosovo Forensic Agency, where the delegation was warmly received by Dr. Shemsi Duriqi, Executive Director, and his team. The meeting enabled a constructive exchange on international cooperation in forensic odontology, particularly within the IOFOS framework and in connection with academic institutions such as the University of Lisbon – Faculty of Dental Medicine and CEAUL. The discussions focused on strengthening professional capacities, promoting scientific cooperation, and supporting the development of forensic dental sciences through shared expertise and institutional experience.

Another important meeting was held at the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Pristina, where the delegation was received by Dr. Agron Thaqi, Acting Director of the Institute. The visit offered insight into the Institute's multidisciplinary work and its ongoing development in forensic sciences. The delegation had the opportunity to engage with a dedicated professional team, including Prof. Flamur Blakaj, Prof. Ditor Haliti, Dr. Luisa Marinho, and Prof. Dr. Naim Uka. The meeting reflected Kosovo's institutional commitment to advancing forensic sciences and emphasised the value of international expertise and collaboration.

A special moment of the visit was the meeting at the Rectorate of the University of Pristina, where the delegation was received by the Rector, Prof. Arben Hajrullahu. The discussion focused on the University's vision for collaboration, innovation, academic development, and international partnerships. It also underlined the important role of higher education institutions in supporting scientific dialogue and research cooperation in emerging and interdisciplinary fields such as forensic odontology and dental anthropology.

The delegation also visited the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Pristina, where they were welcomed by the Dean, Prof. Dr. Sefedin Mucaj. During the meeting, the academic activities, institutional developments, and strategic priorities of the faculty were presented. The discussions addressed opportunities for academic exchange involving staff and students, as well as the development of joint



strengthening of its role within the European and wider academic network.

The visit also reflected a broader spirit of institutional cooperation. Prior to the activities in Kosovo, the President of IOFOS, Prof. Dr. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, was received by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Edona Maloku Berdyna, Ambassador of Kosovo to Portugal. This meeting emphasised the importance of academic diplomacy, international networking, and institutional support in advancing scientific

Visit to the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Pristina by Dr. Cristiana Pereira with Dr. Agron Thaqi and members of the multidisciplinary forensic team.

projects in medicine, dentistry, and forensic sciences. The meeting was considered an important step toward the internationalisation of the Faculty of Medicine and the

cooperation between Kosovo, Portugal, and other international partners.

Meeting at the Rectorate of the University of Pristina with Rector Prof. Arben Hajrullahu and international colleagues.



Overall, the institutional visits in Kosovo reinforced the importance of building strong and sustainable partnerships in forensic odontology. They demonstrated a shared commitment to capacity building, academic exchange, interdisciplinary cooperation, and the promotion of forensic odonto-stomatology in Kosovo. The visit was marked by warm hospitality,

meaningful professional dialogue, and a strong spirit of collaboration under the framework of IOFOS.

Visit to the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Pristina, with Dean Prof. Dr. Sefedin Mucaj and the IOFOS delegation from Portugal, Brazil, and Croatia.



The IOFOS President, Dr. Cristiana Pereira being felicitated at the conference organised in Pristina (above) and in the company of IOFOS Vice President Dr. Ricardo Henrique Alves da Silva, Secretary Dr. Marin Vodanović Treasurer Dr. Hrvoje Brkić as well as other delegates (below).



## COST Action CA24147 – Advancing Knowledge on AI-Driven Age Estimation, Belgrade, Serbia

Ana Rodrigues ♦ PhD Scholar, University of Lisbon, Portugal ♦ [ana.rodriques.3@gmail.com](mailto:ana.rodriques.3@gmail.com) | Roberto Cameriere ♦ Chair, COST Action CA24147 ♦ [roberto.cameriere@unimol.it](mailto:roberto.cameriere@unimol.it)

The COST Action CA24147 – Artificial Intelligence Driven Dental Age Estimation Network (AID-AgE) successfully held its Training School in Belgrade, Serbia, on 11–12 May 2026. Hosted by the School of Dental Medicine, University of Belgrade, the event brought together approximately 45 researchers, clinicians, forensic practitioners, and early-career investigators interested in age estimation and the growing role of artificial intelligence in forensic sciences. Focused on Forensic and Radiographic Methods in Age Estimation Based on AI: Practical Applications and Knowledge Transfer, the Training School was designed to promote capacity building, strengthen international collaboration, and facilitate the exchange of expertise among participants from different scientific backgrounds. The scientific programme offered a



Delegates at the famous Church of Saint Sava, Belgrade.

comprehensive overview of current developments in forensic odontology and biological age estimation. Topics included age estimation in children and adults, archaeological approaches to age assessment, methods used for legal age determination, and emerging applications of artificial intelligence in forensic and radiographic analysis. Particular attention was devoted to discussing both the opportunities and the challenges associated with the integration of AI into routine forensic practice. The programme featured contributions from internationally recognised experts, including Prof. Cristiana Palmela Pereira, Prof. Hrvoje Brkić, Prof. Ivan Galić, and Prof. Roberto

Prof. Dr. Ksenija Želić Mihajlović – responsible for organising the Training School – addressing the gathering, as others look on.





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

Cameriere, together with local organisers led by Dr. Ksenija Želić Mihajlović. Their lectures stimulated lively discussions and encouraged the exchange of ideas among participants representing different countries and disciplines. In addition to the scientific sessions, the Training School provided valuable networking opportunities that further strengthened the AID-AgE community. A social dinner held in the historic Skadarlija district offered participants an informal setting to

continue discussions, establish new collaborations, and experience Serbian culture and hospitality. The Belgrade Training School represented another important step toward achieving the objectives of the AID-AgE network, contributing to the harmonisation of age estimation practices, the dissemination of knowledge, and the development of future collaborative research initiatives in forensic age assessment.

## Forensic Odontology and IOFOS Session at the 24<sup>th</sup> Triennial Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS), Sofia, Bulgaria

Eddy de Valck ♦ Dentist, Forensic Odontologist, Belgium ♦ [eddy.de.valck@telenet.be](mailto:eddy.de.valck@telenet.be)

Sofia was the venue for the well-attended Triennial Meeting of the IAFS. Over 1500 people from all continents participated in this one-week meeting, chaired by Prof. Dr. Yanko Kolev, which covered all aspects of forensic sciences through lectures and workshops to share knowledge, build partnerships and lay out the future of forensic sciences for the next decade and beyond. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with old acquaintances and to get to know young enthusiastic colleagues active in various disciplines. Forensic odontology was well presented and delivered a number of workshops:

- Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) : Principles, Pro-tocols, and Practice: Eddy De Valck (Belgium), Marta

Garazdiuk (Ukraine), David Williams (USA)

- Humanitarian Forensic Odontology to Spot Human Rights Violations: Evi Untoro (Indonesia), Ivana Cukovic-Bagic (Croatia), Shirley Lewis (USA), Akiko Kumagai (Japan), Mario Torreggianti (Italy), Emilio Nuzzolese (Italy)
- Dental Age Assessment in Cadavers: Hrvoje Brkic (Croatia), Cristiana Palmela Pereira (Portugal)
- Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Forensic Odontology: Gwenola Drogou Saout (France),

Dr. Eddy de Valck delivering his presentation (top left), and with the IOFOS President Dr. Cristiana Pereira, Treasurer Dr. Hrvoje Brkić, and other delegates at the event.



Geromine Fournier (France), Lise Malfroy Camine (France), Alienor Trayssac (France)

Thursday (28 March 2026) was the day of forensic odontology with IOFOS President Cristiana Palmela Palmeira and Treasurer Hrvoje Brkic lecturing on Forensic Dentists in DVI team (CPP) and Forensic Odontology in Mass Disasters (HB). They both gave an excellent overview of the role of the forensic odontologist as a member of the DVI team in Mass Disasters. CPP documented the Interpol ID system with yellow and black notices and the Interpol Identify Project which has been successful in cold cases. HB strolled through important disasters to stress the input of dental features as a primary identifier in DVI. As a conclusion he pointed out that the quality of forensic odontology depends on the quality of the AM/PM data, the quality of the Forensic Odontologist and the importance of lifelong learning.

Simen Kopperud (Norway) spoke on the topic "What when no dental restorations?" With less dental care needed for the young generations other methods will have to be explored like palatal rugae, dental anomalies and implants. The future looks promising with the development of a national implant register (IRS = Implant recognition system) and a digital AOX system to identify implants.

There were also individual presentations by Denice Higgins (Australia) on Identification of edentulous deceased using X-rays and how missing teeth pattern can lead to identification. For X-rays the conclusion was that the outcome depends on the

availability and quality of the AM and PM radiology material. The missing teeth pattern should be viewed as supportive comparative evidence rather than a standard method.

Eddy De Valck (Belgium) presented the 70-year-old cold case of the mining disaster of the Bois du Cazier coal mine where a multidisciplinary team attempted to identify 14 unidentified victims. The important role of odontology as comparison material, source of DNA and as age determination material were highlighted. So far seven of the 14 unidentified coal miners have been identified and the process still continues.

We also had lectures on research by young forensic odontologists-to-be. Oana-Michaela Ciobanu (Romania) shared her research on the Mandibular Canine Index by AI for sex estimation in a Romanian population. Lei Shi (China) talked about Automated Dental Age estimation from OPG by machine learning and deep learning, while Ana Corte-Real (Portugal) shared her findings in Dental technologies in forensic odontology: advancing ethical innovation.

The IAFS meeting chaired by Prof. Dr. Yanko Kolev brought together experts and delegates from diverse continents fostering global connections and collaborations.

**Post Script: Denice Higgins** ♦ University of Adelaide, Australia ♦ [denice.higgins@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:denice.higgins@adelaide.edu.au)

The IAFS 2026 meeting highlighted how much forensic odontology continues to grow and evolve within the wider field of forensic science. A major theme throughout the conference was the increasing use of advanced imaging technologies, digital workflows, and multidisciplinary approaches to support identification efforts. Presentations covered topics ranging from disaster victim identification and age estimation to artificial intelligence, forensic radiology, and the use of 3D datasets, showing how new technologies are influencing everyday practice.

One of the most noticeable trends was the closer connection between forensic odontology, forensic anthropology, and forensic radiology. As medical imaging becomes more accessible and sophisticated, forensic odontologists have more opportunities to contribute to identification work through the interpretation of craniofacial anatomy, not just dental evidence. Overall, the conference provided valuable insight into where the field is heading and emphasised the importance of collaboration across forensic disciplines.

I found the talks and workshops of great value and had the opportunity to catch up with existing friends and colleagues as well as meet new ones, not only in the field of forensic odontology but also from pathology, radiology and anthropology.

## INTERPOL's 35th Disaster Victim Identification Conference, Lyon, France – Global DVI Experts Gather, Highlighting International Cooperation and Forensic Innovation

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DVI experts from across the globe gathered at INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon, France, in early June for a series of important meetings and presentations dedicated to advancing Disaster Victim Identification (DVI). The annual INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Conference, held from 2–4 June, was preceded by the meeting of the INTERPOL DVI Forensic Odontology Sub-Working Group (FOSWG) on 1–2 June. Together, these events highlighted the growing importance of international cooperation, scientific innovation, and multidisciplinary collaboration in responding to disasters and mass-fatality incidents worldwide.

The 35<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Conference brought together forensic specialists, police investigators, pathologists, odontologists, geneticists, fingerprint experts, and humanitarian organisations to exchange operational experiences, emerging technologies, and best practices. Across three days of presentations and discussions, participants examined the increasing complexity of DVI operations and reaffirmed the importance of coordinated responses in providing timely and accurate victim identification.

A major focus of the conference was the presentations of recent mass-fatality incidents. Case studies included the Crans-Montana bar fire in Switzerland, the Gloria Funicular derailment in Lisbon, and the Adamuz train accident in Spain. Presenters

outlined operational responses, identification methodologies, and lessons learned from incidents involving large numbers of victims, often representing multiple nationalities and requiring extensive international cooperation.

Additional operational reviews covered Hong Kong's response to the 2025 Tai Po Alarm No. 5 Fire, South African bus accidents involving foreign nationals, the Bondi Beach mass-fatality shooting in Australia, a major highway disaster in India, and the recent Air India crash. The presentations explored the challenges associated with mass disasters, including victim recovery, family assistance, forensic identification, international coordination, and the practical application of INTERPOL DVI standards under significant operational pressure.

Beyond operational considerations, the conference emphasised the humanitarian dimension of DVI work. Several presentations focused on rights-aware investigations in mass grave contexts and the transition from war-crimes evidence collection to long-term humanitarian identification efforts in post-conflict environments. Speakers highlighted the importance of victim-centred approaches, legal frameworks, and ethical decision-making in situations



Delegates from around the world participated at the INTERPOL's 35<sup>th</sup> Disaster Victim Identification Conference.

where forensic findings carry profound humanitarian, political, and social implications.

Advances in forensic science and technology featured prominently throughout the conference. INTERPOL's DVI Unit presented developments designed to accelerate identification processes through the implementation of the Quicksan methodology. Technical sessions explored postmortem fingerprinting in CBRN environments, best practices in postmortem facial photography, digital evidence management through the SIRDE platform, evidence-based approaches to postmortem DNA sampling, enhanced DNA identification strategies for complex disaster settings, comparative medical imaging, and AI-assisted forensic age estimation using dental imaging.

While technological innovation continues to transform forensic identification, presenters consistently stressed the importance of maintaining scientific rigour, quality assurance, and internationally recognised standards when adopting new tools and methodologies.

Complementing the conference discussions, the INTERPOL DVI Forensic Odontology Sub-Working Group (FOSWG) meeting provided a dedicated forum for forensic odontologists to address developments within forensic odontology. The meeting brought together 39 registered representatives from 23 countries, with additional participants joining virtually, reflecting the continued growth and global reach of the forensic odontology community.

The gathering served as an opportunity to share operational experiences, emerging research, technological advancements, and best practices related to forensic dental identification. Special recognition was given to retiring FOSWG leader Dr. Ruediger Lessig for his longstanding contributions to INTERPOL DVI activities. Participants also paid tribute to the late Dr. David Sweet, whose pioneering work and dedication left a lasting impact on forensic odontology worldwide.

A recurring theme throughout the odontology meeting was the increasing integration of advanced technologies into forensic dental practice. Presentations highlighted developments in AI, automated dental comparison systems, three-dimensional imaging for identification purposes, and emerging ISO standards. These innovations are expected to improve both the efficiency and accuracy of forensic dental identification in routine casework and disaster scenarios in the future.

Participants in the FOSWG also addressed ongoing operational challenges, particularly the collection, accessibility, and management of ante-mortem dental records. Despite advances in technology, the availability and quality of dental records remain critical determinants of successful identification outcomes. Discussions focused on strategies to improve record

standardisation, accessibility, and international compatibility.

Country reports presented during the FOSWG meeting reinforced the continuing importance of forensic odontology in both mass-fatality incidents and routine human identification cases. Several recent incidents demonstrated that dental evidence accounted for a substantial proportion of positive identifications, particularly in cases involving fragmented, burned, decomposed, or otherwise compromised remains. These experiences reaffirmed the discipline's value as a reliable and often indispensable primary identifier.

The main conference concluded with updates from INTERPOL's specialist sub-working groups covering forensic odontology, pathology and anthropology, forensic genetics, and friction ridge and facial comparison disciplines. Additional presentations examined the use of jewellery as a secondary identifier, virtual reconstruction of fragmented remains, migrant identification initiatives, and forensic challenges associated with conflict-related fatalities.

The 2026 INTERPOL DVI meetings demonstrated the strength of the global forensic community and its shared commitment to advancing science, fostering international cooperation, and ensuring that victim identification remains accurate, ethical, and humane in an increasingly complex world.

## Forensic Odontology Fellowship Programmes in India

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### The Indian Board of Forensic Odontology Fellowship

The Indian Board of Forensic Odontology (IBFO) was established by the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (IAFO) in 2014 to provide structured, high-quality professional training to dental surgeons interested in applying dentistry to law and justice. Over the past decade, the Fellowship has contributed to strengthening the forensic-odontology workforce in India by combining theoretical teaching with practical exposure and professional mentorship.

The Fellowship in Forensic Odontology is a one-year, module-based programme delivered through a blended-learning format. Online classes and study materials provide participants with a comprehensive theoretical foundation, while assignments encourage independent learning and critical application of the concepts taught. The online component is complemented by an intensive week-long in-person contact session, generally conducted during March or April at the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, New Delhi. A second in-person contact session is held in association with the IAFO Annual National Conference, usually in September.

A major strength of the Fellowship is its emphasis on practical, case-oriented

learning. The curriculum covers dental identification; comparison of antemortem and postmortem dental data; disaster victim identification in accordance with INTERPOL principles; dental age estimation; forensic dental anthropology; forensic radiography and photography; bite-mark investigation; forensic facial reconstruction and superimposition; dental DNA; child and vulnerable-adult abuse; crime-scene procedures; and medico-legal documentation. Participants are also introduced to dental jurisprudence, ethics, report writing, courtroom presentation, and the responsibilities of an expert witness. Practical sessions, laboratory exercises, mortuary observation, and discussions of relevant forensic cases help translate academic knowledge into professional competence.

Completion of the program requires satisfactory attendance, submission of assignments, and successful performance in the prescribed written and/or practical assessments. Candidates found proficient are awarded the "Fellowship of the Indian Board of Forensic Odontology" by the IBFO and IAFO.



Highlights from the IBFO Fellowship in-person contact programme: mortuary demonstrations; fellows and faculty participating in interactive lectures; case-based discussions, and hands-on forensic odontology training across various core fields, including age estimation, bitemark analysis, facial reconstruction, forensic dental photography, and evidence collection.

The next intake will be the eleventh batch for the 2026–2027 cycle. The formal commencement date is expected in October 2026. Based on the established annual schedule, applications are expected to open around September–October 2026, followed by the commencement of the online modules. Confirmed dates and application information will be communicated through the official IAFO and IBFO channels.

Through this Fellowship, the IBFO continues to advance education, ethical practice, and professional collaboration in forensic odontology, enabling trained dental professionals to contribute more confidently to human identification, disaster response, and the administration of justice.

## The Indo-Pacific Academy of Forensic Odontology Fellowship

The Indo-Pacific Academy of Forensic Odontology (INPAFO) launched its Fellowship in 2023 to promote professional excellence, academic growth, clinical advancement, and research engagement in forensic odontology. The fellowship gives participants a structured platform to improve their knowledge and abilities while advancing forensic odontology in the Indo-Pacific area.

The Fellowship of INPAFO (Fell. INPAFO) is a professional certification and accreditation of training standards in forensic odontology. Fell. INPAFO is not an academic degree but a recognition of an individual's



Dentists from around India have enrolled and graduated with the INPAFO Fellowship following robust assessment process.

successful completion of a rigorous programme of assessment, training, and professional development. The fellowship aims to encourage lifelong learning, evidence-based practice, and active participation in the forensic odontology community.

Dr. Priyanka Kapoor is the chair of the INPAFO Fellowship Committee, which oversees the programme. Each cycle admits a maximum of five applicants. Only INPAFO members with at least two years of membership and a track record of making scholarly contributions in forensic odontology or related fields are eligible.

Four components make up the one-year fellowship: two practical assignments, an essay, a multiple-choice test at the annual INPAFO conference, which are marked by an external expert. Besides, participation in five national and international online lectures is mandatory. To successfully finish the program, candidates must receive at least 50% in each component.

The first batch of fellows completed the programme during the 10th International

Conference of INPAFO held at Seema Dental College & Hospital, Rishikesh. Their achievement reflected dedication to professional development and highlighted the growing interest in structured forensic odontology training within the region. Since its inception, the Fellowship Programme has become an important initiative for nurturing competence, encouraging scholarly activity, and promoting high standards of professional practice.

INPAFO continues to promote excellence, acknowledge accomplishment, and develop professional capability through its Fellowship and Honorary Fellowship programs. The official INPAFO website, [www.inpafo.in](http://www.inpafo.in), is updated frequently with information about the entire fellowship.

These programmes support the ongoing development of forensic odontology in the Indo-Pacific area, promote international cooperation, and raise professional standards.

### The DY Patil University Fellowship

The Fellowship in Forensic Odontology and Applied Jurisprudence, offered by the prestigious NAAC 'A++' accredited DY Patil Deemed to be University, Navi Mumbai, stands as a premier 12-month programme established in 2016 to seamlessly bridge the gap between dental science and the legal system. Tailored for professionals holding degrees in medicine, dentistry, or their international equivalents, the curriculum is masterfully structured into four sequential modules delivered in a flexible hybrid

format that balances online study with intensive, hands-on campus training.

The exhaustive syllabus delves deeply into the history of the discipline, advanced age estimation methodologies—spanning clinical, morphological, histological, and radiographic techniques—and the complex legal frameworks governing forensic dentistry. Participants also master critical identification procedures, including sex assessment from teeth and cranial bones, bite mark analysis, disaster victim identification, and the extraction of DNA from dental remains. Beyond standard methods, the curriculum explores alternative identification markers such as lip prints, palatal rugae, and denture markings, alongside the fascinating realms of dental anthropology and archaeology.

This academic journey culminates in a rigorous seven-day offline immersive module, including a comprehensive one-day final examination. Throughout the programme, students are immersed in an advanced educational framework where theoretical didactics meet practical application under the close guidance of expert mentors. Utilizing the university's state-of-the-art infrastructure and sophisticated armamentarium, fellows gain unparalleled real-world experience through interactive mock crime scenes, mock courtroom trials for legal testimony training, detailed analysis of resolved cases, and invaluable live observations of post mortems and oral autopsies during mortuary visits.



Following COVID lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, in-person classes were conducting adhering to strict infection control protocols.

To support their scholarly pursuit, the university grants students' exclusive premium access to peer-reviewed literature and a specialized digital learning platform for seamless revision, while providing full hospitality, including food and beverages, during all on-campus training segments. Ultimately, student growth and mastery are meticulously measured and recognized under a highly structured university grading system, preparing graduates to stand as authoritative experts at the intersection of dentistry and the law.

## Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara University Fellowship

SDM University, Dharwad, offers a Fellowship programme, which is a one-year part-time hybrid programme (partly online which enrolled dentists can attend from their location, and partly classroom for which they need to visit Dharwad). The fellowship is open to all dentists working in India (eligibility for the fellowship is Bachelor of Dental Surgery).

The institution harbours India's first exclusive department of forensic odontology, set up in 2006, and is recognised by the local government as a 'State Referral Centre for Forensic Odontology'. The department, headed by Dr. Ashith Acharya, has assisted the police in several high-profile local and national odontological investigations. The fellowship programme commenced in 2016, and grew out of the institution's 10-day apprenticeship programme—a purely clinical/practical-oriented training module that originated in 2013—for dentists in India to enhance their knowledge and skills in forensic odontology for use in undergraduate teaching-learning activities, research, and assisting police in casework. Dr. Acharya serves as the principal faculty of the programme, which has trained and mentored approx. 120 dentists nationally—many of whom serve in the government and private sectors.

The one-year programme is intended to enhance knowledge and skills of dentists in forensic odontology and serve as a step in

their additional training and learning in the speciality. While the first half of the year-long programme focuses on lectures and developing theoretical skills, the second half focuses on practical training, case-based learning, forensic report preparation and submission, and assessment/evaluation. Towards the last 2-3 months of the programme, acclaimed international experts in forensic odontology deliver lectures and/or conduct hands-on sessions online. Applications are invited from interested dentists in April and the programme commences in June each year.



Dr. Acharya is seen with the Principal (Dean) of his dental college, Dr. Balram Naik, and some of the fellows from the 2025-26 batch (above) and the 2016-17 batch (below).



## IOFOS Triennial Meeting 2026, 9–11 September, Lisbon, Portugal

IOFOS Organising Committee ♦ Lisbon, Portugal ♦ [meeting2026.information@iofos.eu](mailto:meeting2026.information@iofos.eu)

The International Organization for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology (IOFOS) is an international organisation that provides a liaison between legal societies of forensic odontology on a global basis, by promoting advancement and research in forensic odontology. As such, IOFOS organises regular Triennial Meetings around the world.

This year the IOFOS Triennial Meeting is to be held in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal—specifically at the famous cultural and scientific institution called Gulbenkian Foundation.

This remarkable complex includes the Foundation’s headquarters, museum, and 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.

The elegant Auditorium of Gulbenkian will be the room for the IOFOS Triennial Meeting 2026 sessions, while exhibitors and refreshments will be located in the bright, spacious glass Foyer, easily accessible from multiple surrounding streets.

The IOFOS Triennial Meeting 2026 will bring together a global community of professionals, academics, researchers, and students to share their latest findings and advances in the field. The event will feature leading experts, distinguished scholars, and emerging researchers, all contributing to a diverse range of topics within forensic sciences.

The scientific programme will focus on the following topics:

- Forensic and Legal Age Estimation
- Bite Mark
- Human Identification
- DVI Process
- Malpractice

The Gulbenkian garden and yard.



- Dental Anthropology
- Body Damage Evaluation
- Forensic and Legal Medicine
- Forensic Sciences
- Criminalistics

To date, 34 oral communications will be presented on the Triennial Meeting 2026 in Lisbon, following by 10 student oral presentations, 32 e-posters, and nine invited lecturers from around the world, covering approximately 31 countries from different continents. Student presentations will be competing for the Best Student Oral Presentation and Best Student Poster Presentation. The award will be dedicated to in loving memory of Dr.

Sakher Al-Qahtani. The rewards will be announced on the final day of the meeting during its conclusion.

In addition to the scientific sessions, the IOFOS Triennial Meeting 2026 will feature a rich social and cultural programme, offering participants the opportunity to experience Portuguese culture while fostering meaningful networking.

The programme will begin with a Welcome Reception on Wednesday, September 9th at 20:00, serving as the official opening of the event. This reception will provide a

relaxed setting for participants to connect and engage, accompanied by light music and a welcoming atmosphere. The event will take place at the Portuguese Maritime Museum, Pavilion of Galeotas, a historic venue founded in 1863 by King Luís I of Portugal.

As part of the programme, participants will also have the opportunity to visit the picturesque medieval town of Óbidos, known for its cobbled streets, whitewashed

houses, ancient walls, and charming castle. The visit will include a guided walking tour, allowing attendees to explore its rich history and unique character.

The excursion will include lunch at the

Praia D'El Rey Marriott Golf & Beach Resort, where guests will enjoy a refined interpretation of traditional Portuguese cuisine, inspired by regional ingredients from the country's western coast. Participants are advised to wear comfortable, casual clothing for this activity.

The social programme will conclude with a Gala Dinner at Darwin's Café, an elegant restaurant located at the Champalimaud Foundation along the Tagus River. With stunning views, a sophisticated atmosphere, and exceptional cuisine, the



The Portuguese Maritime Museum (Museu da Marinha).

# MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Newsletter of the INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION for FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY (IOFOS)  
Volume 48, Issue 1, June 2026 | [www.iofos.eu](http://www.iofos.eu)

evening promises to be a memorable celebration of science, culture, and collaboration.

Greetings to all of you from sunny Lisbon—we can't wait to see you all in September.

The graphic features a light blue background with a stylized illustration of a suspension bridge on the left and a yellow tram on the right. At the top left, there are four logos: IOFOS, U M, and two circular emblems. A blue banner across the top contains the text "TRIENNIAL I.O.F.O.S. CONGRESS OF FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY". Below the banner, the text "September 9 - 11, 2026" and "Lisboa, Portugal" is displayed. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner.

IOFOS U M

TRIENNIAL I.O.F.O.S. CONGRESS OF FORENSIC ODONTO-STOMATOLOGY

September 9 - 11, 2026

Lisboa, Portugal