



# Newsletter

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## *Message from the President of the FASE Board*

We are particularly happy to see this first number of FASE newsletter. It means not only that the efforts of the forensic anthropology European community were worthwhile but, above all, that forensic anthropology in Europe is striving to reach high standards and is working towards harmonisation of procedures and thorough education and possibly certification for future professionals in the field.

This is a channel of communication to FASE members which means that it is yours. In order to promote it and to turn it into an interactive scientific forum, we count on you. Scientific news, short reports/cases, meetings, workshops and job announcements are very welcome.

*Eugénia Cunha*  
*FASE President*  
*April 2011*

## *Message from the Editorial Board of the FASE newsletter*

Dear FASE members,

The editorial board is pleased to bring you the first issue of the FASE newsletter and, in this way, fulfill one of the society's goals. The main purpose of this newsletter is to provide easy dissemination of information between members and between the board and the members. As such, the newsletter will provide you with periodic information about the society's activities and other relevant FASE information.

We also wish to update you regularly on whatever might be relevant to

FASE members. That is why we want to hear from you. Send submissions about upcoming events, meetings, student projects, interesting cases, new courses and degrees, books, software release, research opportunities for students, funding, member news (awards, projects, social events, career news, notes from the field) and other information. Since the newsletter is still a project in progress, the outline of the newsletter will become more definite, as we establish this important dialogue. Hopefully, this year we will have two issues on the newsletter (spring and fall), but once we are in



### *Newsletter submissions*

[fase.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fase.newsletter@gmail.com)

Next Issue (Oct 2011):

***Send contributions before  
September 30th***



## Message from the Editorial Board of the FASE newsletter (continued)

“ The main purpose of this newsletter is to provide easy dissemination of information between members and between the board and the members ”

full operation we hope to bring you four issues every year.

This first issue, in addition to advertising forthcoming events, will mostly give you more details about what FASE is, its goals and how it works. Consequently, inside you will find the founding statement of FASE and its current statutes. Because the newsletter is meant to be a vehicle of member information, this first issue also publishes the most complete and up to date list of members. Currently, one of hot topics is international certification of forensic anthropologist and the FASE board has been leading the discussion and proposing rules for the certification process. Inside you can also find a special piece with more details provided by the board. The IAIFS meeting in Madeira, next September, will be paramount

to this process, where there will be a special presentation detailing the current state of affairs. We urge you to watch this presentation and actively participate. Don't forget to check our message about the student prize at the IAIFS meeting in Madeira, next September, and the Call for participation in an Initial Training Network for submission to the European Commission.

We hope you enjoy this first issue. Do not hesitate to comment on any matter related to the newsletter.

All the best,

Hugo Cardoso  
Pierre Guyomarc'h  
Katerina Puentes  
Luis Coelho



FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY SOCIETY OF EUROPE  
A section of the International Academy of Legal Medicine

**President:**

Eugénia CUNHA  
(Coimbra - Portugal)

**Vice President:**

Cristina CATTANEO  
(Milano - Italy)

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## FASE goals and statutes

### FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY SOCIETY OF EUROPE (FASE)

#### 1. Name and aims

The Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe aims to bring together anthropologists, forensic pathologists, odontologists, geneticists and other experts in the fields of forensic medicine and forensic science in the scientific and academic promotion and development of the discipline of forensic anthropology across Europe.

Forensic anthropology is the application of the science of physical anthropology to the legal process in order to identify human remains and assist in the detection of crime. Due to the increasing number of single forensic cases (along with mass disasters and war-related crimes) requiring expertise in the retrieval, recovery, identification and medico-legal study of badly decomposed, burnt and skeletonised human remains, forensic anthropology is a discipline frequently requested by magistrates and courts. Examples of cases in which expertise in forensic →

#### Editorial Board of the FASE newsletter:

Hugo Cardoso  
Pierre Guyomarc'h  
Katerina Puentes  
Luis Coelho



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## *FASE goals and statutes (continued)*

anthropology are required are: scenes of crime involving badly charred bodies, skeletonised remains, buried remains; the diagnosis of species of origin of skeletal remains; the diagnosis of post-mortem interval of skeletonised and/or buried remains; building a biological profile of unidentified remains (sexing, aging, diagnosis of race, stature, build, dental status, facial reconstruction); personal identification by comparison of bone and dental morphology, facial features); identification of living individuals; age determination of living individuals; the study and interpretation of trauma on skeletal remains, recovery and identification of victims of mass disasters, war crimes, torture).

The aims of FASE are therefore to:

- encourage the study of, improve the practice of, establish and enhance standards for and advance the science of forensic anthropology and related disciplines; promote knowledge and research in the field
- harmonise techniques and diagnostic procedures in forensic anthropology across Europe
- encourage and promote adherence to high standards of ethics, conduct and professional practice in forensic anthropology
- promote training and certification in forensic anthropology and eventually create Boards of certificats and inform the existence of trained forensic anthropologists in order to guarantee high quality performance in the medicolegal study of human remains;
- formation of working groups in different areas of forensic anthropology and accreditation of protocols and laboratories.

### 2. Membership

In order to become a member of FASE one must be a member of the International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM). Applications for membership must therefore be made to IALM, according to the statutes of the Academy, speci-

fying that he/she also wants to become a FASE member.

### 3. Board and General Assemblies

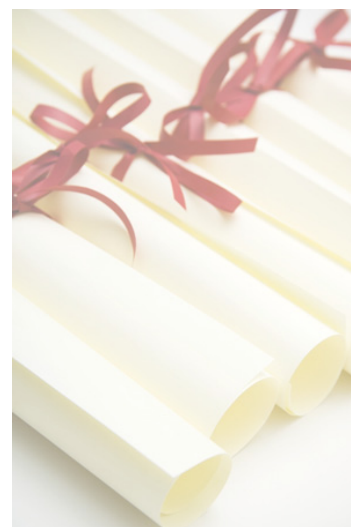
The members of FASE will constitute its General Assembly. The first Board will be elected at the IALM Congress in Milano, September 2003. Apart from the first Board election (in which Board members will be elected by the founding members of FASE present at the Milano meeting on February 8th 2003, officially announced at a preliminary FASE meeting held during the International Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting in Montpellier in September 2002), the General Assembly will elect members of the FASE Board, decide on congresses and meetings, on rules/statutes and other matters dealing with the aims of the Society. The General Assembly will meet once every year, at FASE or IALM meetings. Invitations to the meeting together with the Agenda of meetings will be forwarded by the Secretary of the Board six weeks before the date of the meeting.

The Board of FASE will be composed at least of: one President, one vice-President, a Secretary a Treasurer, an Auditor. Offices are of the duration of three years. All Board members can be reelected for a second term of office. The newly elected Board takes over official duties on the 1st of January following elections.

### 4. Meetings and Publications

FASE will have one scientific meeting and one general assembly every year (when possible in accordance with IALM meetings). One FASE member will be on the IALM Presidium Board.

For all other matters rules of FASE will comply to the statutes of the International Academy of Legal Medicine.



**// In order to become a member of FASE one must be a member of the International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM). Applications for membership must therefore be made to IALM, according to the statutes of the Academy, specifying that he/she also wants to become a FASE member //**

*List of FASE members (as of May, 2011)*

Last Name	First Name	Country	E-mail Address	Affiliation
Baccino	Eric	France	e-baccino@chu-montpellier.fr	Faculty of Medicine , University of Montpellier
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Ferrão	Maria Paula	Portugal	pferrao48@gmail.com	Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal
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*List of FASE members (as of May, 2011) (continued)*

Last Name	First Name	Country	E-mail Address	Affiliation
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Subirana Domènech	Mercè	Spain	25402msd@comb.cat	Institut de Medicina Legal de Catalunya (IMLC) Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
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Yves	Schuliar	France	schuliar@yahoo.fr	Scientific deputy director Institut de recherche criminelle de la Gendarmerie Nationale 1 blvd Theophile Sueur 93110 Rosny-sous-Bois France

*Not a member? Join Us!*

Fill out the form at the IALM site to apply as member.



<http://www.ialm.info/>

If you are already a member and your name does not show up in the member list, please contact the FASE secretary. If you are a member and your name is on the list, please take some time to confirm your information and contact details. If you wish to update them, please contact the FASE secretary. If you have spotted a missing member; please also contact the FASE secretary, or ask your friend to do it.





## *International certification of Forensic Anthropologists*



On February, the 24th, during the 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, held in Chicago, FASE co-organized and presented the following breakfast seminar "Internationalization of forensic science disciplines : why certification is necessary in forensic anthropology ?" The authors were E. Cunha, E. Baccino, C. Cattaneo and L. Martille from Europe, Ann Ross and Erin Kimmerlee from USA and Jose Pablo Baraybar from American, representing ALAF. All were present with exception of Cristina Cattaneo and J.P. Barybar.

The summary of the seminar is given in here :

"After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the complexity of practicing forensic anthropology globally. This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by proposing a certification program that intends to validate a minimum set of criterion to practice forensic anthropology. During the last decade, there has been an exponential increase in the popularity of forensic anthropology due in part to the popular media and to the internationalization and globalization of the field with the advent of numerous wars, natural and manmade disasters. Current forensic anthropology practitioners come from various professional backgrounds ranging from archaeology to medicine, which is the result of the different academic requirements of the various countries. Since forensic casework has significant legal ramifications such as the documentation of human rights violations and identification and disposition of remains, preparation in traditional physical anthropology (e.g. archaeology, primatology, etc.) or pathologists with expertises in soft tissues, no longer suffice to qualify one as an expert. To further complicate this problem, legal precedence may be used across international courts, which means that national borders are irrelevant and

international standards and protocols must be universally relevant. Thus, with the legal implications there is an urgent need for the certification and of properly vetting of individuals to practice forensic anthropology in a global setting. Otherwise we will find ourselves addressing miss-identifications and other legal errors. A recent example, which illustrates the importance of properly vetting practitioners, is the situation that has recently occurred in Chile, where the disappeared were being erroneously identified, and as such an international committee and team had to be brought in by the Chilean courts to undo and bring resolution to the grieving families who suffered the assault of losing their family members for a second time when the remains had to be exhumed and returned to the legal system for these gross errors. It is not likely that this is unique to Chile and with the continued globalization of forensic anthropology and with multi-national teams assisting in the identification of victims of human rights violations and mass disasters. Forensic anthropology is at crossroads. An international certification program is critical to address the different educational, training backgrounds and professionals experience for practitioners, as well as the methods used from field work performed by the various agencies (e.g. NGO's) who contract anthropologists from various countries and would help to ensure that practitioners have the necessary minimum qualifications for forensic casework. Importantly, the purpose of certification is not to exclude individuals nor is it to keep anyone from practicing the craft, but again it is to ensure they meet the minimum standards to practice. Even in the United States, field recovery methods, report writing, acceptable methods standards for research, training and practice are highly variable and inconsistently applied. For individual certification, it is proposed that in order to meet these minimum standards, individuals would have to submit their pro-

“ **For individual certification, it is proposed that in order to meet these minimum standards, individuals would have to submit their professional Curriculum Vitae, submit examples of their cases (cases reports) and pass a standardized written examination** ”



## *International certification of Forensic Anthropologists (continued)*

professional Curriculum Vitae, submit examples of their cases (cases reports) and pass a standardized written examination. Unlike other forensic professions such as forensic pathologists, we are not licensed and are not required to be board certified in order to practice forensic anthropology—the courts ultimately determines whether a forensic anthropologist is considered an expert, which will also vary by jurisdiction. In the United States, the certification program ABFA (American Board of Forensic Anthropologists) is exclusive for US residents and does not address the growing global need. Therefore, pragmatically, we would like to bring together North American, Latin American and European experiences in order to address the globalization and internationalization of forensic anthropology as it is applied in all of its many contexts. Specific examples and cases from a variety of countries and international courts will be presented”

The different histories and roots of the science of forensic anthropology in Europe, USA and Latin America are reflected on the nowadays formations and backgrounds of the experts practicing forensic anthropology. It means that the realities are different. Nevertheless it is not impossible to uniformize and to try to reach the same standards across the world. The actual society, with so many mass disasters and crimes against humanity, needs it. That’s why an international system of certification is paramount.

The seminar was crowded; the full capacity of room was reached, near 100 persons from all over the world. The proposal was well accepted and the follow-up discussion was worthwhile and very useful for the creation of guidelines and for the process of accreditation itself. Valuable advices and suggestions were given by JPAC team, Physical Anthropology board of the AAfS as well as by Scientific

Working Group for Forensic Anthropology (SWGANTH) and from BAHID-British Association of Human Identification.

The International Academy of Legal medicine (IALM) will be the certifying agency. Certification is not pretended to be exclusionary, and is meant to cross international borders and to be acceptable by international courts. Certification levels were adapted from those proposed by Swganth, with three levels. Evaluation will be made on the basis of CV, case reports and reference letters written by referees not chosen by the candidate and also by years of expertise. Accreditation committee will be integrated by 10 members of the 3 continents involved. Updating will be mandatory.

The goal is to present all the formalities and process of accreditation during the IAFS meeting in Madeira, next September ([www.iafs2011.mj.pt](http://www.iafs2011.mj.pt))

In the follow up of the seminar presented at the AAfS meeting held in Chicago last February, which was a success, here you have a summary of the work that is being done and our plans for a near future. IALM will be the certifying agency: it's very independent, reliable and old enough. The process will be done by FASE, which is, as you all know, a section of this Academy. An update of this process will be done in Madeira, next September, during the IAFS meeting, probably after the section “Recent Developments in Forensic Anthropology”, on September the 14th. All FASE members are very welcome to participate in this presentation to give their comments and contributions. Pay attention to the updates of the FASE webpage, at [www.ialm.info](http://www.ialm.info) where you should go IALM sections, FASE and then events. We will announce there the exact time and location of this important discussion in Madeira.

I am looking forward to see you in there!

“ **The International Academy of Legal medicine (IALM) will be the certifying agency. Certification is not pretended to be exclusionary, and is meant to cross international borders and to be acceptable by international courts** ”

We want to hear from you.

Contact Us!



[fase.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fase.newsletter@gmail.com)

*Eugénia Cunha*



## Upcoming events 2011



3rd Annual Meeting of Spanish Association of Forensic Anthropology and Odontology  
2nd – 3rd June 2011  
Madrid (Spain)  
(For further information contact [prietoaf@med.ucm.es](mailto:prietoaf@med.ucm.es))

47e congrès international francophone de médecine légale  
8th – 10th June 2011  
Bordeaux (France)  
<http://medecinelegale2011.comm-sante.com/>

International Craniofacial Reconstruction Symposium  
20th – 21st July 2011  
University of Dundee (UK)  
(For further information contact [c.rynn@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:c.rynn@dundee.ac.uk))

19th International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS) Triennial Meeting  
12th – 17th September 2011  
Funchal, Madeira (Portugal)  
FASE, one of the meeting scientific sponsors, will organize a workshop on Facial reconstruction the 13th.  
<http://www.iafs2011.mj.pt/> (deadline for abstract submission: 31st May 2011)

5º Encuentro la Red Iberoamericana de Instituciones de Medicina Legal y Ciencias Forenses  
15th – 19th September 2011  
Funchal, Madeira (Portugal)  
<http://www.iafs2011.mj.pt/>

IV Congresso Ibérico de Medicina Legal  
15th – 17th September 2011  
Funchal, Madeira (Portugal)  
<http://www.iafs2011.mj.pt/>

10º Congresso Nacional de Medicina Legal  
15th – 17th September 2011  
Funchal, Madeira (Portugal)  
<http://www.iafs2011.mj.pt/>

I Congresso de Medicina Legal e Ciências Forenses dos Países de Língua Oficial Portuguesa  
15th – 17th September 2011  
Funchal, Madeira (Portugal)  
<http://www.iafs2011.mj.pt/>

II Seminario Internacional de Investigación Criminal de la Sociedad Española de Criminología y Ciencias Forenses  
(II International Seminar of Criminal Investigation of Spanish Society of Criminology and Forensic Science)  
10th and 11th of November  
Valladolid (España)

American Academy of Forensic Sciences 64th Annual Scientific Meeting  
20th – 25th February 2012  
Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA (USA)  
<http://www.aafs.org/aafs-2012-annual-meeting> (deadline for abstract submission: 1st August 2011)



Forensic Anthropology Course - The keys of a life history through their evidence  
Organised by the Spanish Society of Criminology and Forensic Science  
23rd – 25th June 2011  
Burgos (Spain)  
(Information & registration [www.seccif.wordpress.com](http://www.seccif.wordpress.com))

*19th IAFS meeting in  
Madeira, 12-17 September*

*(abstract must be  
submitted by May 31)*

We want to hear from you.  
Contact Us!



[fase.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fase.newsletter@gmail.com)





## *Student Prize at the IAFS Meeting*



For the next IAFS meeting in Madeira, the FASE opens a prize for the best student's abstract. This award of 300 euros is designed to help participating students defray the costs of attending the meeting. The FASE board members will evaluate the abstract submitted for the meeting. To be eligible, the paper or poster must meet the following criteria:

- the abstract should be quite complete, with objectives, methodologies and results;

- the first author must be a student enrolled in a Master or PhD degree in Europe;
- the abstract must have been accepted for presentation;
- the student must personally make the presentation.

The abstract must be sent by email. For participation and further information please contact Eugénia Cunha (cunhae@ci.uc.pt)

## *Call for the participation of an Initial Training Network (ITN)*

### **7th Framework Programme (Marie Curie Actions) FORANTEN (FORensic ANThropology European Network)**

After preliminary discussions during the FASE symposium in Copenhagen and the AAFS meeting in Chicago, it seems that the scientific context is dynamic enough to put in place new collaboration centred on Europe in order to improve the development of Forensic Anthropology (FA). The ITN system would provide an optimal framework to this goal through young researchers' career perspectives and the multiplication of exchanges between laboratories ([http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/initial-training\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/initial-training_en.html)).

Proposals can be made from July 20th 2011 and must be sent before January 19th 2012. If accepted, the ITN would start around September 2012 and fund mainly PhD students, some postdoctoral contracts, visiting researchers, workshops and meetings during 4 years. An ITN is based on a partnership distinguishing two levels of participants. Level 1, or full partners, directly implement the joint training program and recruit eligible researchers (they are signatories to the grant agreement and receive funding). Level 2 are associated partners that do not recruit but

provide research and complementary training (they are not signatories of the grant agreement). More information can be found in the guide for the applicants ([ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/calls/people/m-gfain-201102\\_en.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/calls/people/m-gfain-201102_en.pdf)).

Following the FASE purposes, FORANTEN will gather laboratories and research organisations around specific projects linked with the need of the participants and in accordance with the development of the discipline. The project may include (but is not limited to) the elaboration of European databases (morphometrics, forensic cases), the application of new materials and methods, and the development of scientific work groups between anthropologists, pathologists, odontologists and law enforcement officers.

The first step will be to define the coordinator for the application process, then to gather the participants willing to strengthen FA in Europe, and to elaborate the project itself.

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