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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD //

Dear FASE members and colleagues,

We are happy to present this mid-year issue of our Newsletter.

The organization of our FASE Advanced Course "Anthropology and Migration" and Symposium, which will take place in September in Milan (Italy) is in full swing. Read below about the details and see the list of excellent guest speakers, who will deliver lectures on topics related to migration, including identification of deceased migrants, and torture and age assessment in the living. During the Course, there will also be enough space for discussions and practical exercises. As for the Symposium, the call for abstracts ends 1 July – so hurry up! Considering the current situation in Europe and worldwide, many of you have certainly got a unique

insight into migration issues and we hope for a wealth of contributions, closely linked to forensic anthropology, migration and identification. Please check our webpage: www.forensicanthropology.eu and Facebook page "FASE: Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe" for updates on the Advanced Course and Symposium.

Although FASE is primarily a European organization, we highly value international input and experiences. Among others, this issue offers you a glimpse into the practice and education opportunities in forensic anthropology in South Africa, and into the discussions of the DVI meeting in Singapore.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the FASE Advanced Course and Symposium in September!

Have a great summer!

Your Editorial team

FASE EVENTS

FASE ADVANCED COURSE IN MILANO

Schedule

14.09.2017 (Thursday 9 AM) to
15.09.2017 (Friday 6.30 PM)

Registration on site

Thursday, 14 September (8-9 AM)

Location

Istituto di Medicina Legale,
Via Luigi Mangiagalli 37, 20133
Milan, Italy

Organiser

Professor Dr Cristina CATTANEO
Laboratorio di Antropologia e
Odontologia Forense (LABANOF), Sezione
di Medicina Legale, Università degli Studi
di Milano, Milan, Italy

Preliminary Programme :

**Identification of Deceased Migrants on
Three Continents (14 September 2017):**

Invited lectures and discussion of
situations and cases

**Torture Assessment and Age Estimation in
Migrants (15 September 2017):** Invited
lectures and discussion of cases

**FASE Symposium (call for abstracts,
deadline 1 July 2017): 16 September 2017**

ANTHROPOLOGY AND MIGRATION

FASE ADVANCED COURSE

14-15.09.2017

Milano, Italy

Invited speakers

**Dr Oran FINNEGAN/Dr Morris TIDBALL-
BINZ**, International Committee of the Red
Cross (ICRC), Geneva, Switzerland

Assoc. Professor Dr Kate SPRADLEY,
Department of Anthropology, Texas State
University, USA

Professor Dr Douglas UBELAKER,
Smithsonian Institution, National Museum
of Natural History, Washington, D.C., USA

Professor Dr Maryna STEYN, Faculty of
Health Sciences, University of
Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Professor Dr Andreas SCHMELING, Institut
für Rechtsmedizin, University of Münster,
Germany

Professor Dr Duarte Nuno VIEIRA, Faculty
of Medicine, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Professor Dr Eric BACCINO, Department of
Forensic Medicine, University Hospital of
Montpellier, France

Dr Laurent MARTRILLE, Service de
Médecine Légale, University Hospital of
Nancy, France

Dr Danilo DE ANGELIS, Laboratorio di
Antropologia e Odontologia Forense
(LABANOF), Sezione di Medicina Legale,
Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy

Registration form is available at: <http://bit.ly/2qnj1h2>

Deadline for registration and payment of the registration fee: 15 August 2017
Registration fees include morning and afternoon coffee breaks, USB key with course material:
**FASE members 250 €/ Students 150 €/FASE non-members 350 € (the fee includes the registration to
the FASE Symposium on 16 September 2017)**

Registration fee needs to be paid in full by bank transfer: ACCOUNT information will be available by the
beginning of June (indicate your name and status (student, FASE member, FASE non-member) clearly,
any fees associated with the transaction need to be carried by the applicant)

**Topics with a focus on migration, and
identification are preferred, but all topics will
be considered. Oral communications and
posters will be accepted.**

ANTHROPOLOGY AND MIGRATION FASE ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM

16 September 2017

Milan, Italy

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Deadline 1 July 2017

**FASE SYMPOSIUM will take place after the FASE
Advanced Course (14-15 September 2017) at
Istituto di Medicina Legale, Via Luigi Mangiagalli 37,
20133 Milan, Italy**

Registration form is available at: <http://bit.ly/2qnj1h2>

Abstract submission please email to: fase.newsletter@gmail.com (type "FASE Symposium Abstract" in the Subject and
indicate clearly the preferred type of presentation (oral or poster))

Deadline for registration and payment of the registration fee: 1 August 2017

Registration fee 50€ includes coffee breaks (**combined fees** for both the Advanced Course and Symposium available:
FASE members 250 €/ Students 150 €/FASE non-members 350 €)

Registration fee needs to be paid in full by bank transfer: ACCOUNT information will be available by the beginning of
June (indicate your name and status clearly (student, FASE member, FASE non-member), any fees associated with the
transaction need to be carried by the applicant)



Registration on site: Saturday, 16 September (8.30-9.00 AM)

For those who want to register to one or both events:

PLEASE TRANSFER THE REGISTRATION FEE TO:

Account Holder: IALM: 269-860142.40A

SWIFT code: BIC UBSWCHZH80A

IBAN: CH37 0026 926986014240A

Please indicate clearly your name and status (student, FASE member etc.) on the transaction

Disclaimer: All transaction fees must be carried by the participant. In case of any discrepancies in the amount of the transaction, the participant will be required to pay the difference at the registration counter in cash.



PLEASE FOLLOW OUR WEBPAGE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES!

FASE FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CERTIFICATION 2017 UPDATE ON CERTIFICATION

VENUE AND DATE FOR THE EXAMINATION:

Istituto di Medicina Legale, Via Luigi Mangiagalli 37,
20133 Milan (Italy),

Sunday 17 September 2017 (full day) and Monday 18
September 2017 (morning)

CHANGES TO THE DATES:

Due to the number of candidates and the changes to the certification procedure, it is likely that it may not be possible to complete the exam in one day. Therefore, the candidates are advised to be prepared to continue with the exam on Monday morning.

CHANGES TO THE CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Candidates, who will be invited for the examination, will need to attend both the written and practical examination. Level 1 candidates need to fulfill the same requirements as Level 2 candidates plus complete a practical oral examination that will focus on two case scenarios.

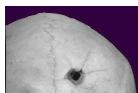
The written exam consists of questions on forensic anthropology theory, methods, and general knowledge. The practical exam for both Level 1 and 2 candidates consists of specimen evaluation including assessment of fragmentary remains, human/non-human identification, taphonomy, aspects of the biological profile, and

pathological changes/trauma.

The change in the procedure concerns the fact that all candidates will sit all parts of the examination, as opposed to only being able to proceed with the exam if completing the written part successfully (achieving 80% or greater).

The complete examination is considered as passed when the candidate achieves a result of 80% or greater. The results will be announced to the candidates within a week of the date of the exam.





FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

AAFS ANNUAL MEETING

New Orleans, February 13-18 2017

by Eugenia Cunha

This year the meeting's title was "Our future reflects our past: the evolution of forensic science". As usual, Anthropology sessions were very crowded, I would say the most crowded of all sessions.

The numerous posters and oral communication focused on several issues, including ancestry, taphonomy, postmortem interval, morphometrics, and isotope analyses.

Worth mentioning are the sessions "Identification of Unknown Remains", "Forensic Border Coalition", and "Trauma: Peri- vs. Postmortem, Sharp and Blunt Force".

Three outstanding presentations were particularly interesting: "Determination of Short (48 hr) Post Mortem Intervals" by Pierre Antoine Peyron, France, "New Challenges in Forensic Identification" by myself and "Innovative Methodologies in Forensic Anthropology Casework" by Ann Ross.

Notably, many young students presented their research, signaling that a new generation of forensic anthropologists is on the way. Yet, I continue to note an underrepresentation of European students. Therefore, I would recommend them to apply for AAFS grants available particularly for student for the purpose to attend AAFS meetings.

Two FASE Board members attended the meeting, myself and Ann Ross. Besides, there were attendees from a few European countries, including the UK, Spain, France, and Italy.

I would highlight the seminar "Women in the Sciences: Examining Systemic Barriers and Becoming Agents of Change", co-organized by Ann Ross, which analyzed how gender-specific societal bias in the sciences creates barriers for the advancement of women, contributes to gender inequity in leadership positions, and undermines forensic science's ability to live up to its full potential.

Moreover, the Young Forensic Scientist Forum deserves a special note. The Forum was co-organized by Amanda Hale, a FASE member and also FASE certified level II practitioner and was dedicated to "What Shapes Our Future?: Foundations and New Directions".

FORENSIC LABORATORY, HVIRU, SCHOOL OF ANATOMICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND (SOUTH AFRICA)

The Forensic Anthropology Laboratory at the School of Anatomical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand has been re-established recently under the newly formed Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU).

The laboratory is directed by Prof Maryna Steyn and Dr Desiré Brits and comprises a total of four experienced analysts. It also relies heavily on assistance from forensic anthropologists in training from the complement of post-graduate students involved in the discipline.

The laboratory functions in collaboration with the Forensic Pathology Services (FPS), Johannesburg, and currently receives cases from all the southern cluster FPS mortuaries in the Gauteng Province.

Cleaning and maceration of remains are done at the FPS.

Since its re-establishment in February of 2016, the lab has received a total of 50 cases and has completed 35 cases in the course of its year of activity. From the cases analysed, there have been four positively identified cases (three via DNA confirmation, and one via secondary identifiers - clothing and facial reconstruction), three cases of possible identification, and two cases which are now awaiting facial reconstruction hopefully allowing positive identification. Two cases solely required trauma analysis in victims of known identity and one case only required an age estimate.

Recently we have had the pleasure of hosting **Dr Hans de Boer**, a visiting scholar from the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, assisting the usual staff complement with case work, while preparing to obtain a forensic anthropology

accreditation. This collaboration has proved very fruitful for both parties and will most likely persist both as a working and a research collaboration.

The laboratory welcomes visiting scholars who want to obtain experience in skeletal analysis.

The Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU) aims to study modern human variation, how this variation came to be, and some of its practical applications (e.g., when it comes to human identification in forensic contexts or use in assessing modern growth processes). Through this research more information is gained on **modern human adaptations**, specifically with respect to patterns of health and disease. Research at the

unit focuses mostly on skeletal remains and dentitions of currently living and past (anatomically modern) humans and their environmental contexts.

HVIRU specifically has five focus areas, namely • Forensic Anthropology, • Craniofacial Identification, • Bioarchaeology, • Taphonomy and • Modern Human variation.

Within the field of forensic anthropology specific emphasis is placed on age, sex and stature estimation, while the craniofacial identification research focuses on facial approximation and facial image comparison. For more information visit <https://www.wits.ac.za/anatomicalsciences/hviru/>.

FORENSIC PATHOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY IN JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

by Hans de Boer

In the Netherlands pathology residents have the opportunity to do choose international internship in order to gain experience.

Historically, the relation between our Dutch Forensic Anthropology group and Forensic Anthropology in South Africa has always been strong.

My own anthropology professor (prof. George Maat) has

Wits School of Anatomical Sciences offers both masters and PhD degrees for national and international students.



Maryna Steyn, Hans de Boer and Nicholas Bacci (Laboratory Manager) in the Forensic Anthropology laboratory

Both degrees are fully research based and is done under supervision of academics from Wits and other collaborating institutions. For more information contact Prof M Steyn at maryna.steyn@wits.ac.za.

Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU)



HVIRU

been an honorary professor in Pretoria for almost ten years now, and our department in Amsterdam has two South African staff members (dr. Lida van der Merwe and Kerri Colman, MSc). We've also collaborated, and continue to collaborate, closely with prof. Ericka L'Abbe of the University of Pretoria, and prof. Maryna Steyn of the University of the Witwatersrand.

Naturally, when I was offered the opportunity to spend the first three months of 2017 anywhere I wanted, it took me only half a second to decide on Johannesburg, South Africa.

Thinking of South Africa, most people will directly think of stunning landscapes, the amazing wildlife and an overall very agreeable climate. However, South Africa is also a country of big social-economic problems, a large and mainly uncontrolled influx of asylum seekers from other parts of the African continent, and a government that struggles to find the discipline to redistribute wealth and resources in a prudent way. As an effect, crime rates in South Africa are exceedingly high, while the institutions tasked with the investigating of violent and unnatural deaths face very limited funds and a chronic shortage of personnel.

South African law dictates that all unnatural deaths are investigated by the Forensic Pathology Services (FPS). The FPS is a nation-wide, governmental funded service consisting of mortuaries, pathologists and supporting personnel, organized in clusters. The city of Johannesburg is part of the Southern Gauteng cluster, which deals with approximately 14 000 autopsies a year, distributed over eight mortuaries. The medico-legal laboratory of Johannesburg is the biggest of the cluster, and performs approximately 4000 autopsies a year.

Forensic autopsies in South Africa not only include violent deaths, suicides and traffic accidents, but also medical autopsies and unexpected sudden death. The case mix I was able to experience was therefore extremely varied, whilst the sheer amount of cases assured a steep learning curve and loads of practical experience. The high incidence of HIV/AIDS and other infectious disease provided me with the opportunity to gain experience in disease related deaths which I thus far only knew from textbooks. Undoubtedly these experiences will stay with me the rest of my professional career, and allow me to be a better overall forensic pathologist.

Forensic Anthropological casework in the Southern Gauteng cluster is outsourced to the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU) at the University at the Witwatersrand. In the Netherlands, anthropology cases are often limited to human/non-human and basic biological profile determination, and spending one day a week at the HVIRU was a welcome opportunity to expand on my experience in other fields of Forensic Anthropology. Similar to the situation at the mortuary, the number of cases at the HVIRU is staggering when compared to Dutch numbers,

whilst the cases I encountered covered the full spectrum of Forensic Anthropology. I dealt with (advanced) biological profiling, blunt and sharp trauma, gunshots, slight to severe taphonomic alteration, cremated remains and juvenile skeletal parts. And all that in just over 10 cases! The exposure to so many cases in such a short amount of time has helped me to improve my skill set and I will certainly benefit from this experience in the future.

One of the biggest current challenges in South Africa relates to the high number of unidentified deceased individuals at the mortuaries, with approximately 10% of all autopsied individuals remaining unidentified. The South African Police Services, The International Committee of the Red Cross, Wits University and The FPS have recently teamed up to address this problem, and I was lucky enough to become a part of this project. Hopefully we will be able to improve the current situation and provide closure to the next of kin of the victims.

Of course, the amount of case work puts a huge strain on the FPS and related institutions, and this is unfortunately not met by governmental support. In my experience, working in South Africa means constantly struggling to make the most out of the available resources. This makes everyday life adventurous, but can be frustrating as well. This especially holds for the pathology cases, in which a little bit of extra resources could mean the difference between an unascertained and definitive cause of death.

Notwithstanding the challenges they face on a daily basis, I've noticed that our colleagues in South Africa are amongst the most friendly, hospitable and welcoming I've ever met. Their level-headedness and pragmatic working style is very refreshing, and it's been a delight to work with such skilled, passionate and dedicated people. I am deeply indebted to prof. Vellema and prof. Steyn and their staff (especially Nicholas Bacci) for having me, and will undoubtedly be back soon.

And to anyone looking for an internship in Forensic Anthropology; I can wholeheartedly say that South Africa has everything you are looking for (and most likely even more...).

INTERPOL DISASTER VICTIM IDENTIFICATION (DVI) WORKING GROUP MEETING IN SINGAPORE -

REPORT OF THE SUB-WORKING GROUP FOR PATHOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Singapore, 15-18 may 2017

by Hans de Boer

The annual meeting of the **INTERPOL working group and sub-working groups on Disaster Victim Identification (DVI)** was held from the 15th till the 18th of May 2017. The goal of this meeting was a) to keep the INTERPOL DVI guide and the related forms up to date and b) to facilitate DVI experts of various expertise to share experiences and best practices.

As per usual, the meeting consisted of plenary sessions and a few 'break-out' sessions in which the four specialist sub-working groups (i.e. DNA, ridgeology, odontology and pathology and anthropology) and the overarching working group (mainly consisting of police officers) discussed issues pertaining to their respective specialty.

The plenary sessions were dedicated to **updates of the INTERPOL unit for DVI**, and presentations of case studies, technical improvements or training sessions. Amongst others, the DVI teams of France and The United Kingdom presented their management of the recent terrorist attacks in their respective countries. Several presentations were dedicated to forensic odontology techniques or training, whereas also some large-scale training sessions for specific disaster scenarios were presented.

The sub-working group on pathology and anthropology had two break-out sessions, each lasting about three to four hours. Since this was the first time that the meeting was not being held in Lyon (France) but in Singapore, a lot of the regular (mostly European) visitors were unable to attend, whereas many colleagues from the Pacific region were finally able to join. Of the total of about **25 sub-working group members present**, a substantial number were 'first-timers'.

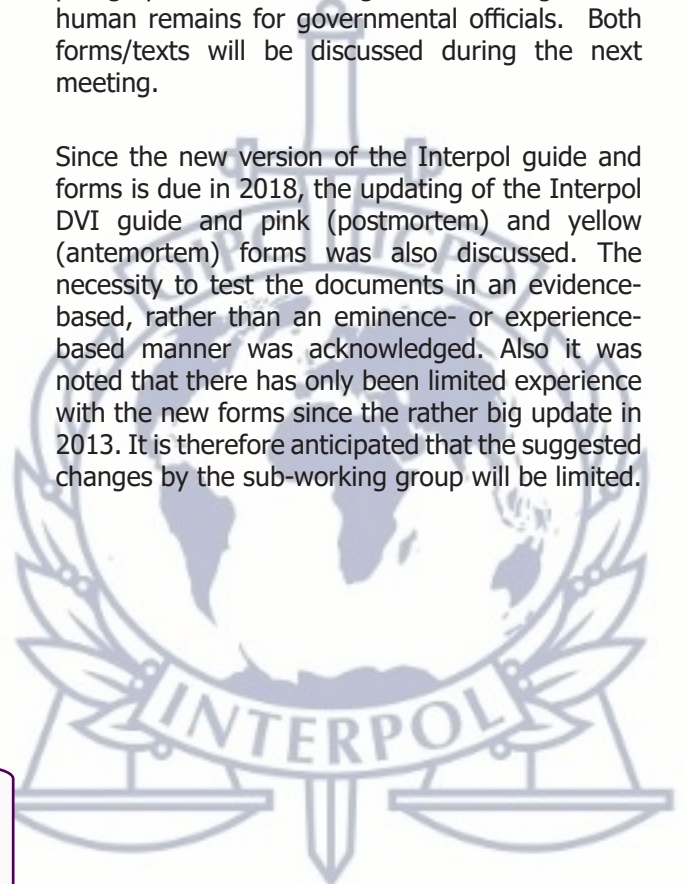
The first break-out session was mainly dedicated to • technical issues pertaining to the organization and membership of the sub-working group. Due to the absence of the substantial number of experienced sub-working group members, these issues (for example, terms of reference, membership status and the need for a deputy chair) will be further discussed in subsequent meetings and by e-mail.

In the second break-out session, a document on • the role of forensic anthropologists within DVI, prepared by a group of sub-working group anthropologist was discussed. The document aims to familiarize other forensic specialists

and governmental officials with the expertise of forensic anthropologists, and as such gives a succinct description of the expertise of forensic anthropologists, and their added value during the various steps of the DVI process. The document was accepted without major changes by the other members of the working group and will be presented to the overarching INTERPOL working group for consideration to add it to the INTERPOL DVI guide.

Furthermore the sub-working group recognized the added value of • postmortem radiology (for example, CT-scanning) in DVI. It was acknowledged that radiology findings are best recorded in a separate form and the sub-working group is currently in the process of developing this form. In addition, a small group of people has taken it upon themselves to write an advisory paragraph on the management of fragmented human remains for governmental officials. Both forms/texts will be discussed during the next meeting.

Since the new version of the Interpol guide and forms is due in 2018, the updating of the Interpol DVI guide and pink (postmortem) and yellow (antemortem) forms was also discussed. The necessity to test the documents in an evidence-based, rather than an eminence- or experience-based manner was acknowledged. Also it was noted that there has only been limited experience with the new forms since the rather big update in 2013. It is therefore anticipated that the suggested changes by the sub-working group will be limited.



Not a member? Join Us!

To become a member of FASE you can apply for membership at IALM, International Association of Legal Medicine. As a IALM member you have the option of becoming member of FASE that does not carry any additional fee and it allows you to receive various extra information on forensic anthropology in Europe.



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

[http://www.ialm.info/](http://www.ialm.info/lassociazione.html)

[lassociazione.html](http://www.ialm.info/lassociazione.html)

The next issue of the Newsletter is planned for **autumn 2017**.

We would appreciate if you could send us your comments, suggestions and contributions (comments on events; book reviews; discussions; interesting case studies etc.) by **October 2017**.

We also invite organizers to email us an invitation to relevant **events** that can be included in the next issue

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

