



NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2013

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Impressum

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD //

Dear FASE members and colleagues,

It is our pleasure to present the summer issue of the FASE Newsletter dedicated to two important events for our Society.

First of all, we are pleased to inform you that the FASE webpage went online and you can access it under

<http://forensicanthropology.eu/>

Although some parts of the website are still under construction, we hope that it will soon become an important medium of

communication between FASE members and will provide a wealth of information regarding workshops, continuing education programs, and job offers in the field of forensic anthropology and related sciences. We hope that forensic anthropologists from Europe and worldwide will use the website as a platform for professional discussions as well as for posting and finding information relevant to our discipline.

We are proud that the launch of the FASE webpage coincides with the **10th FASE Anniversary**. We are celebrating this milestone by dedicating part of this Newsletter to a summary of FASE activities that have been organized during the Society's first

decade from its foundation in 2003 and also by the **one-day forensic anthropology Symposium** held on 28 September in Heidelberg. The Symposium will be held alongside the FASE advanced workshop and you can find more information on these events in this Newsletter and also on the website.

This Newsletter issue also includes its usual sections: In the section regarding FASE activities you will read about a forensic anthropology workshop held in March in Sri Lanka, about FASE participation at the MEPROCS workshop on craniofacial superimposition, and about the next FASE basic workshop in Croatia.

In the section on Forensic Anthropology News, we introduce FOROST, an important international project that aims to make forensic anthropology photographic material and specimens (trauma and pathology) freely available to anthropology practitioners.

In the section dedicated to forensic anthropology institutions and laboratories across Europe, you can find a brief description of Portuguese institutions with important forensic anthropology tradition and practice.

We hope that you will find this Newsletter interesting and we look forward to your suggestions, queries and opinions.

We would like to remind you that the Newsletter, and from now on also the FASE webpage is open to anyone since the most important part of our Society are our members and their active participation in the further development of FASE.

Editorial team

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear FASE members and colleagues,

I am proud of the new **FASE webpage** and I want to thank the younger members of this FASE Board who have done a good job in getting the webpage online. I would also like to thank Waruna Ratnayake who provided his IT skills and time.

The idea of promoting **European laboratories and institutions**

working with forensic anthropology in the Newsletter couldn't be done at a better time. It's a great step forward and allows the community to get to know each other better.

Furthermore, in the light of **certification of forensic anthropology** starting in Latin America and Great Britain, FASE shall not miss

the train and with improved communication and cooperation will hopefully start the certification process after the next FASE event in September.

The **PMI advanced course** has reached its capacity with registered participants from almost 10 different countries. We look forward to have a fruitful **10th anniversary Symposium** where presentations will be held on the state-of-art in our discipline.

All contributions to this Symposium are very welcome: please bring your own cases, share your research, promote your institution, let us know what is going on with forensic anthropology in your country, and come to discuss with us the future of this important forensic science.

Looking forward to see you in Heidelberg!

Eugénia Cunha

FASE ACTIVITIES

10 YEARS OF FASE //

In September 2013, FASE will celebrate its **10th anniversary**.

In 10 years, the number of members has quadrupled, and 40 countries are now represented in FASE.

Since its creation in **September 2003** at the XIXth IALM

Congress in Milan, FASE has been actively involved in the development of forensic anthropology primarily in Europe but has been also involved in teaching and advisory activities in other parts of the world.

The **aims** of FASE in these years were to encourage the study

and practice of forensic anthropology, establish and enhance its standards and promote knowledge and research in the field. FASE aims also to encourage and promote adherence to high standards of ethics, conduct and professional practice in forensic anthropology, as well to promote training and certification in forensic anthropology.

Six 40-hour workshops in forensic anthropology and four advanced courses covering different topics, such as trauma

analysis, osteopathology, and identification of the living were organized until now.

Through FASE symposiums and special sessions in international meetings, the society promotes state of the art research, and helps to develop collaboration and knowledge exchange between forensic anthropologists, pathologists and related scientists.

| WORKSHOPS IN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Italy, Milano | September 2004 |
| Hungary, Budapest | August 2006 |
| Spain, Madrid | May 2008 |
| Denmark, Copenhagen | October 2010 |
| Turkey, Istanbul | June 2012 |

| ADVANCED COURSES | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Portugal, Coimbra | July 2007 |
| UK, Edinburgh | September 2008 |
| Portugal, Coimbra | May 2009 |
| Portugal, Funchal | September 2011 |
| Germany, Heidelberg | September 2013 |

| SYMPOSIUM AND MEETING SESSIONS | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Germany, Frankfurt | October 2004 |
| Tunisia, Monastir | June 2005 |
| Hungary, Budapest | August 2006 |
| Portugal, Coimbra | July 2007 |
| Italy, Macerata | September 2007 |
| UK, Edinburgh | September 2008 |
| Denmark, Copenhagen | October 2010 |
| Madeira, Funchal | September 2011 |
| Turkey, Istanbul | July 2012 |

FASE ADVANCED COURSE ON PMI AND FASE SYMPOSIUM //

As we already informed you in our previous Newsletter issues this year's Advanced Course will be held in **Heidelberg from 26 to 27 September**.

On **28 September** a FASE Symposium will be held to celebrate the 10th anniversary of FASE.

FASE ADVANCED COURSE ON PMI

The topic of the course is the estimation of the post-mortem interval (PMI). The prerequisite for a reliable PMI estimation is the examiner's knowledge of the decomposition processes and taphonomic alterations of the human cadaver but also his/her familiarity with the modern technology that can be applied in the field or in the laboratory.

During the two-day course a variety of methods and approaches to PMI estimation will be addressed, including decomposition sequences and entomological evidence. Geological, archaeological and analytical aspects of PMI estimation, including radiocarbon dating methods will also be discussed.

The participants will also have the opportunity to visit the Isotope Laboratory at the Curt-Engelhorn-Centre Archaeometry



Heidelberg, Germany- the location of the next FASE advanced course and FASE symposium- September 2013

in Mannheim (<http://www.cez-archaeometrie.de>).

FASE SYMPOSIUM

The happy occasion of the 10th anniversary of FASE will be

honoured by a range of oral and poster presentations from the participants, with the key note being delivered by a special guest, **Dr. Bradley Adams**, the Director of the Forensic Anthropology Unit at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner in New York (USA).

The course and the Symposium will be held at the **Institute of Forensic Medicine of the Heidelberg University**.

You can find the full program and registration form on our webpage: forensicanthropology.eu.

You can either register for:

- both the advanced course and the Symposium (FASE members: 230 Euro; non-members: 300 Euro) or

- for the one-day Symposium only (FASE members: 50 Euro; non-members: 80 Euro).

The **deadline for abstract submissions** for the Symposium is **20 July 2013** and the deadline for registrations is **31 July 2013**.



To register please email Prof. Cunha at **cunhae@ci.uc.pt**.

We look forward to seeing you in beautiful Heidelberg!

Frank Ramsthaler
for the Organising Committee and the FASE Board



Join us in the FASE **Advanced Course on Postmortem Interval** and the **FASE Symposium** which will celebrate also the 10th FASE anniversary. The events will take place in Heidelberg, Germany from September 26-28 2013! Abstract submission is still open!

FASE NEW WEBPAGE //

FASE has it's own website now!!!

<http://forensicanthropology.eu>

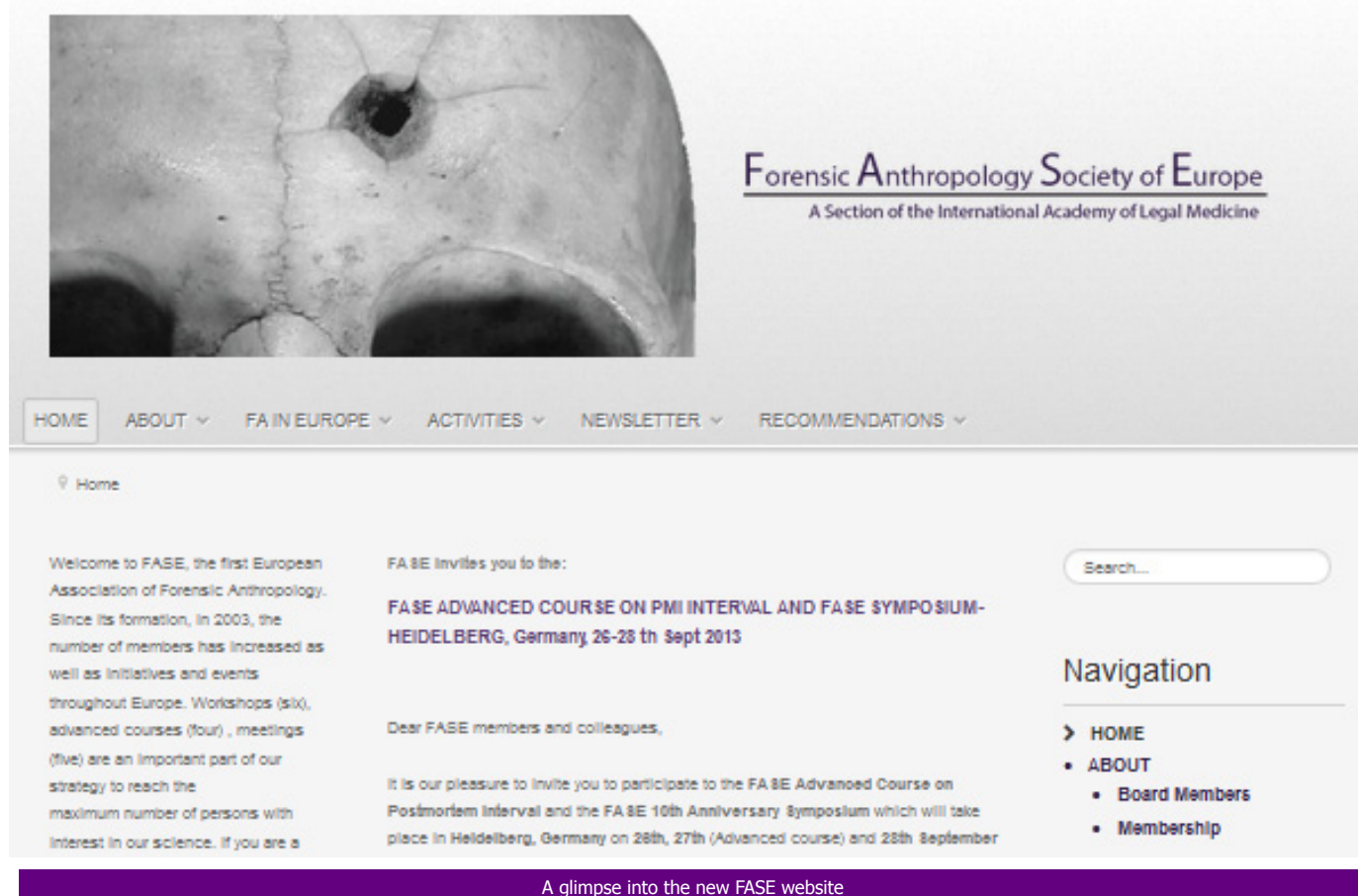
In the recent years the interest in forensic anthropology has exploded and the number of FASE members is growing. Therefore FASE decided to expand its outreach to the scientific community by launching its own webpage:
<http://forensicanthropology.eu>

The front page informs you about the **latest news and announcements** concerning FASE events, such as currently the forthcoming FASE advanced course and Symposium. The website also contains **information about FASE** as an organization, introduces the FASE Board members and shows the **membership modalities**. Furthermore you get information about **FASE activities**, such as the latest news concerning the **certification process**.

In addition, you can access the **current and past issues of the FASE newsletter** and a list of recommended journals and publications on forensic anthropology and related topics. More content is on its way.

Please visit us on <http://forensicanthropology.eu>!

We hope you will enjoy the website and we look forward to your posts and feedback!



A glimpse into the new FASE website

FASE WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY ICRC IN COLOMBO //

In March 2013 Prof. Cunha and I travelled to Colombo (Sri Lanka) on behalf of FASE to deliver a 40-hour workshop on forensic anthropology to local forensic pathologists and odontologists.

The event was organised by [Dr. Ananda Samarasekera](#), the Chief Judicial Medical Officer at the Institute of Legal Medicine and Toxicology in Colombo, in collaboration with [Education, Training and Research Unit](#) and [Institute of Legal Medicine and Toxicology](#) of Sri Lankan Ministry of Health and was sponsored by the [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\)](#).

The workshop took place at the Institute of Toxicology and Legal Medicine in Colombo and had an audience of around 40 practicing forensic pathologists and odontologists, and registrars training to become forensic practitioners.

The workshop consisted of 25 hours of theoretical lectures and 15 hours of practicals. The Institute and also The University provided [recent skeletal remains for the practicals](#) from their museums and exhibitions. Some of the participants also shared their own cases, which was invaluable for the registrars, because they could learn how to proceed with skeletonised remains in real life, and also how discussions with colleagues and specialists from other disciplines can



Captivated audience of Sri Lankan current and future forensic pathologists and odontologists

provide a deeper insight into the case. I myself learned how a crocodile bite looks on a skull.

[Sri Lanka](#) as a country has its share of mass graves, either due to the recently ended civil war or due to natural disasters, such as the tsunami of 2004. Therefore, the local forensic

pathologists and odontologists encounter human skeletal remains on a regular basis and without having a single forensic anthropologist in Sri Lanka they welcomed the opportunity to learn about the methods and approaches of forensic anthropology.

To use the words of one of the participants, the importance of the workshop was best acknowledged by the fact that more than 80% of forensic pathologists from around the country left their institutes and offices for a week to participate at the workshop. And they were very interested and engaging audience!

The workshop covered a **wide range of topics** from how to construct a biological profile to how to approach mass graves and cremains. One of the topics that provoked a lot of discussion was on the definition of the perimortem interval from the pathological

and anthropological point of view and how to distinguish post-, peri- and ante-mortem alterations on skeletal remains. In general, the participants asked many qualified questions so even the theoretical sessions were very interactive and allowed us to address topics particularly relevant for Sri Lankan forensic practice.

I hope I also speak for Prof. Cunha when I say that despite the extremely spicy food and weather too hot and humid even for



Prof. Cunha on pathological bone alterations

the locals the participants of the workshop were amazing and Sri Lanka is a beautiful country with a lot of potential not only for tourism but also for forensic anthropology.

We thank the organisers, especially **Dr. Samarasekera** and **Dr. Lwin** and the **ICRC** for hosting us and big "istuti" also to **Yasuni and Jayanie** for taking such a good care of us!

by Zuzana Obertova

FASE AT THE MEPROCS WORKSHOP IN GRANADA //



MEPROCS (*New methodologies and protocols of forensic identification by craniofacial superimposition*) is a EU-funded project (FP7-SEC 2011), which aims to facilitate the application of craniofacial superimposition in forensic practice by defining protocols, harmonizing methods and establishing best practice for this method. MEPROCS is coordinated by the **European Centre for Soft Computing**. It comprises a consortium of **seven partners and eight associated partners**. **FASE** acts as a supporting institution for the whole project.

<http://www.meprocs.eu/>

Till now MEPROCS has organized **six meetings** in Mieres (Spain), Coimbra (Portugal), The Hague (Netherlands), Jerusalem (Israel), Madrid (Spain) and Granada (Spain). The last meeting was held in **Granada** from **27 May to 29 May 2013** and was structured as an international workshop attended by both MEPROCS partners and external researchers. **FASE** was represented at the workshop by three FASE Board

members: Prof. Eugenia Cunha, Prof. Cristina Cattaneo (also representing LABANOF, which is one of the associated partners) and dr. Anja Petaros.

The workshop had **three different panels** covering the following topics: "craniofacial superimposition techniques", "criteria for assessing consistency between the skull and the face", and "reliability of craniofacial superimposition". One morning and one afternoon session were dedicated to each panel. The morning sessions included oral presentations given by international experts in the field, while the afternoon sessions were dedicated to round-table discussions.

By gathering experts in craniofacial superimposition and anthropology from all over the world, such as K. Imaizumi (**Japan**), A. Abramov and E. Veselovskaya (**Russia**), O. Cordon (**Spain**), P.T. Jayaprakash (**Malaysia**), J. Clement (**Australia**), C. Cattaneo (**Italy**), C. Wilkinson (**UK**), M. Steyn (**South Africa**), D. J. Humpire (**Peru**), E. Espejel (**Mexico**), R. Jankauskas (**Lithuania**), and A.H. Ross (**USA**) the morning sessions succeeded in presenting different states of the art of the discipline worldwide. were filled with presentations on the state of the art of craniofacial superimposition in different parts of the world. In this manner participants and project partners were able to compare methodologies, identify their

common aspects as well as differences, and also highlight the limitations and advantages of the individual methods.

The **round table discussions** were very interactive, full of different opinions and many questions to solve. Therefore, a firm and focused coordinator was needed in order to keep the discussions to the point and solve at least some of the many issues raised.

Although the round tables followed the topics of the panels, most time and energy was dedicated to the **clarification**

of terminology and to **summarizing, defining and assessing the usefulness of facial and cranial points and landmarks** used in craniofacial superimposition.

The workshop also offered a **pleasant social program** that introduced the participants to the most charming corners of Granada, including a visit to the Alhambra with its captivating beauty and rich history. Another social activity was the conference dinner in a local restaurant with a stunning view of Alhambra, where the workshop discussions continued in a friendly and cheerful atmosphere.



Prof. Jankauskas - Craniofacial superimposition reliability session



View of Alhambra

NEXT FASE WORKSHOP ON FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY //

After the successful workshop held in Istanbul, Turkey during the 22nd Congress of the International Association of Legal Medicine (IALM) in 2012, we are happy to announce that the next biannual basic 40 hours workshop on forensic anthropology will be organized in **Croatia 2014**.

The workshop will be organized in cooperation with the **Anthropological Center of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ACCASA)**, Zagreb and the **Department of Forensic Medicine and Criminalistics, Rijeka University School of Medicine, Rijeka**.

The local coordinators of the workshop will be Prof. Mario Šlaus (ACCASA) and Anja Petaros (University of Rijeka)

The workshop will provide both **theoretical lectures** (human-non human remains, biological profile, identification,

mass graves and commingled remains, bone trauma) and **practical sessions**. Both the archaeological specimen from the ACCASA osteological collection (which counts over 4 500 skeletons) and contemporary remains will be used during the practicals.

The theoretical lectures will be in part dedicated to the identification process of the 1991 Croatia War victims, handling and processing of bones for DNA analysis and bone radiology.

We hope that the workshop will attract practitioners (anthropologists and forensic pathologists) and students from all over Europe, and particularly from its Eastern part.

Detailed information on the workshop, the workshop program and fees will be announced at the beginning of 2014.



The city of Rijeka and the city of Zagreb, Croatia



Forensic osteology is the science of determining the circumstances surrounding the death of one or more individuals from the features, composition, and context of bony remains.

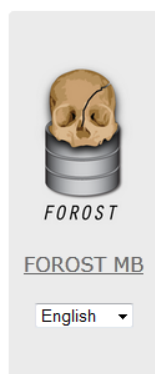
The stories bones tell have long been of interest to anthropologists, and over the last 30 years osteological trauma analysis has become a central part of criminal investigation and the documentation of genocide and other atrocities. Law enforcement at international, federal, and local levels, as well as global human rights groups and health organizations benefit tremendously from access to comparative cases with high resolution images.

FOROST.org is a public **image metabase** dedicated to free dissemination of forensic osteology data to academic, humanitarian, and law enforcement communities worldwide. The principal content of FOROST.org is a **searchable set of descriptive data and photos of skeletal lesions** that links users to **collections of many institutions from several countries around the world**.

The FOROST metabase and search engine are managed by a collaboration between the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), through the Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas (IIA), and California State University, East Bay (CSUEB).

All images are presented on FOROST.org with citable supplementary information that retains the name(s) of the describer and photographer. Results of a FOROST search never display FOROST iconography, and the final specimen result page is displayed with banners, logos, and several links to the participating institution. For example, when users search the FOROST metabase for blunt force trauma, a set of specimens is returned. Clicking a specimen in the returned set takes the user to a page with a specimen images and data. This page has the appearance of the institution's own website, with headers, footers, menus, banners, and several links to the institutions server. In this way, **institutions benefit from increased visibility, traffic, and scholarly citation** and the individuals involved similarly benefit from provisions that see that they receive formally reportable academic credit. Participating institutions have control of the banners and links from the specimen pages, and may remove images at any time for any reason. Individuals contributing also are listed as contacts on the 'Partners' page and with each specimen's data.

FOROST would like to maximize the number of cases that users can explore, as well as the exposure of participating institutions and scientists.



08/2013 Notice: Third international Seminar of Forensic Anthropology, Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas, UNAM, Mexico D. F. [Click Here for more details](#)

Forensic Osteology

Partners



Forensicosteology.org is dedicated to the free dissemination of forensic osteology data to academic, humanitarian, and law enforcement communities worldwide. The principal content of forensicosteology.org is the **FOROST metabase**. This free-access visual metabase of skeletal lesions links users to collections of many institutions from several countries around the world. These institutions retain the copyright on all information posted in the **FOROST metabase**. **References to hosted material accessed through this portal should be made to the collection or the**

FOROST WEBPAGE: <http://forensicosteology.org/>



If you have a collection that has specimens you think would be useful to the forensic osteology community, we hope that you will consider **participating in FOROST** as a partner by promoting your collection at **FOROST.org**.

We are especially interested in photographs of trauma, but any pathological skeletal lesions are welcome. Our server space is effectively unlimited, and we would like to host as many specimens as is practical for your institution.

Participation in and use of FOROST have steadily increased since its inception in 2007- the site currently hosts **876 images from 20 different institutions** around the world, including **488 images of skeletal lesions**- and will continue to do so as the metabase grows and its network of partners expands.

If you or your institution are interested in becoming a FOROST partner, or have any questions about FOROST, please feel free to contact



Dr. Sabrina Sholts
(FOROST regional coordinator, Europe)
at sabrina.sholts@gmail.com.

Contact information for other FOROST personnel is provided at FOROST.org,

as well as information about our **third annual international Seminar of Forensic Anthropology**, which will be held in Mexico City on August 26-30, 2013.

by FOROST team

// FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY AT THREE LEADING PORTUGUESE INSTITUTIONS

THE UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA

The **University of Coimbra** (www.uc.pt/en) founded in 1290 is the second oldest university in Europe.

The **Chair of Anthropology** was established as early as 1885 at the Faculty of Sciences and Technology. Nowadays Anthropology is integrated into the Department of Life Sciences established in 2010, which also includes Botany, Zoology, and Biochemistry (www.uc.pt/fctuc/dcv). ↗

Physical anthropology has a long tradition at the University of Coimbra and its existence is closely associated with the **documented skeletal collections** that had been established at the end of the 19th century and are still housed at the University. Nowadays there are **four main identified skeletal collections**, the most recent one with more than 100 skeletons originating from the 21st century and therefore representing an invaluable comparative source of information into recent, forensic cases.

The academic degrees in Anthropology are divided into three levels:

- 1) **under-graduate courses** in both physical and cultural anthropology;
- 2) **masters degree** in human evolution and skeletal biology, Masters degree in cultural anthropology or Masters degree in medical anthropology; and
- 3) **doctoral degree** (PhD) in **Forensic Anthropology** and in Biological Anthropology.

THE FORENSIC SCIENCES CENTRE (CENCIFOR) AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LEGAL MEDICINE AND FORENSIC SCIENCES (INMLCF)

The research in forensic anthropology is mainly undertaken at the **Forensic Sciences Centre in Coimbra** (CENCIFOR), the only forensic research centre in Portugal (www.cencifor.org). ↗

CENCIFOR is part of the **National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences** (INMLCF) (www.inml.mj.pt), with headquarters in Coimbra and divisions in Lisbon.

The Centre has a **Forensic Anthropology Unit** that undertakes research into topics relevant for the advancement of forensic anthropology, such as biological profile and traumatic injuries.

The research at the Centre benefits from both the forensic cases and the continuously expanding identified skeletal collections mentioned above.

All forensic anthropology cases are examined at the INMLCF, which is governed by the Ministry of Justice and is mandated to

provide forensic science services to law enforcement agencies. It has a laboratory status acting as a national reference. The Forensic Anthropology Unit is organized within the Forensic Pathology Services.

Since 2011, the above mentioned institutions offer a conjoint **one-year post-graduate course in forensic anthropology**.



If you would like to know more about these institutions and their activities, please contact **Prof. Eugénia Cunha** at cunhae@ci.uc.pt

Prof. Cunha is currently a full professor at the University of Coimbra and has been a staff member since 1986, she develops her research within the Forensic Sciences Centre and is national consultant for forensic anthropology for the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences.

by Eugénia Cunha



Main entrance of Life Sciences Department



Practical class of anthropology at the Department of Life Sciences

16th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DENTAL MORPHOLOGY & 1st CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PALEODONTOLOGY //

16th International Symposium on Dental Morphology



1st Congress of the International Association for Paleodontology

16th International Symposium on Dental Morphology and **1st Congress of the International Association for Paleodontology** will be held in **Zagreb, Croatia, 26 - 30 August 2014.**

The organizers are the School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb, together with the International Association for Paleodontology and Croatian Association of Forensic Stomatologists.

The **program** of the meeting has been designed to accommodate a **rich social program** along with an outstanding and stimulating scientific experience. The scientific program is determined by three main areas: **dental morphology, paleodontology and forensic dentistry**. Dental evolution, dental growth and craniofacial development, dental genetics, clinical aspects of dental morphology, dental tissues and dental bioarchaeology are some of the topics that will be thoroughly addressed and discussed during the scientific sessions.

President of the scientific board is **Kurt W Alt** (Mainz, Germany) and scientific board members are: Roberto Cameriere (Macerata, Italy), Wendy Dirks (Newcastle, UK), Jelena Dumančić (Zagreb, Croatia), David W Frayer (Lawrence, USA), Eisaku Kanazawa (Matsudo, Japan), Thomas Koppe (Greifswald, Germany), Tomislav Lauc (Zagreb, Croatia), Carlos David Rodriguez-Florez (Manizales, Colombia), Ivana Savić Pavičin (Zagreb, Croatia), Mario Šlaus (Zagreb, Croatia), Tore Solheim (Oslo, Norway), Huw F. Thomas (Boston, USA), Marin Vodanović (Zagreb, Croatia), Elzbieta Zadzińska (Łódź, Poland), Lingxia Zhao (Beijing, China), Andrei Zinoviev (Tver, Russia) and Selma Zukić (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Having accomplished all necessary preparations we are now inviting all of you to attend the 16th ISDM and 1st IAPO congress and attain a genuine experience of the Croatian spirit.

IAPO members receive discounts on meetings organized by International Association for Paleodontology. We encourage all participants to register **for free IAPO membership**, just complete the online membership registration form at <http://paleodontology.com/index.php?id=72>

All details will be announced on

www.paleodontology.com

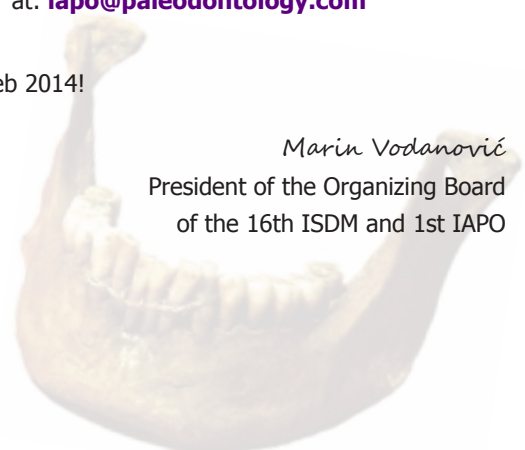
and on Facebook.



If you have any questions please contact us at: iaipo@paleodontology.com

See you in Zagreb 2014!
Welcome

Marin Vodanović
President of the Organizing Board
of the 16th ISDM and 1st IAPO



The next issue of the Newsletter is planned for **winter 2013**. We would appreciate if you could send us your comments, suggestions and contributions by **October 2013**.

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

(fase.newsletter@gmail.com)



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/>

