



## NEWSLETTER

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### Impressum

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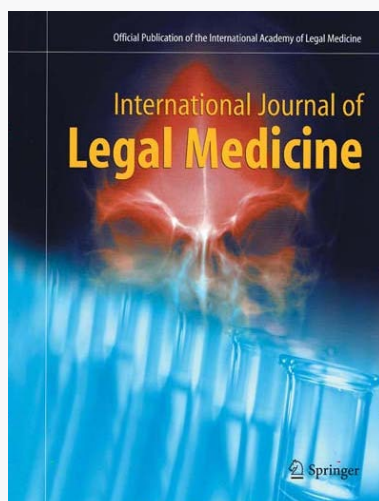
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## APPEAL TO ALL PRESENTERS AT THE SYMPOSIUM IN HEIDELBERG //



The editors of the **International Journal of Legal Medicine** (IJLM) have joined the celebration of the 10th FASE anniversary by offering to dedicate a **special issue to papers based on the oral or poster presentations** at the Advanced Course in Heidelberg.

Since the special issue of IJLM will retain all the characteristics (such as impact factor) as regular issues the submitted manuscripts will undergo a **peer review**. To speed up the process, Eugénia Cunha, Cristina Cattaneo and Niels Lynnerup agreed to **pre-review** the submissions. Following this pre-review, manuscripts will be submitted to the IJLM for **regular peer-review process**.

For the author guidelines please see the IJLM webpage: **link.springer.com/journal/414** or **www.editorialmanager.com/ijlm**, and particularly the 2007 Vol. 121 No. 6 dedicated to the 5th FASE anniversary.

The deadline for submissions to the pre-reviewers

([cunhae@ci.uc.pt](mailto:cunhae@ci.uc.pt); [cristina.cattaneo@unimi.it](mailto:cristina.cattaneo@unimi.it); [nly@sund.ku.dk](mailto:nly@sund.ku.dk)) is **1 March 2014**.

Dear FASE members and colleagues,

2013 has been a special year for FASE, particularly because of the celebration of its **10th birthday**. The year has had its ups and downs, but we must say that the “ups” definitely outnumbered the “downs”.

One of the highlights of the year has been the launch of the **FASE webpage**, which serves as a medium to connect and inform forensic anthropologists in Europe and around the world.

FASE has also continued to fulfill its goals to promote forensic anthropology training and support knowledge exchange by organising **workshops** in **Sri Lanka** and **Turkey**, but most importantly celebrated the 10th anniversary by bringing together forensic experts and students at the **Advanced Course and Symposium** in Heidelberg.

A major disappointment of the year was that the **FORANTEN project** had not got funded by the EU. However, the application received positive reviews and there is already a new and

improved submission under development so hopefully next year we can include FORANTEN under the “ups” category.

We would like to **thank you for your support and contributions** to the Newsletter this year and we hope for more interesting stories in the next.

We wish you a very joyous and successful 2014!

*Editorial team*

 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear FASE members and colleagues,

Looking back at the year of 2013, I would highlight the effort by FASE Board members to go ahead with the **certification issue**. I do consider that this has been our major achievement. Otherwise, I feel that the European forensic anthropologists would have “missed the international train”. This was not an easy task and I hope that the first exams, scheduled for May 2014, will be a success.

I would also like to mention the **10th FASE anniversary**. The Symposium held in Heidelberg hosted attendees from 21 different countries, proving its success. I look forward to the publication of the special issue of IJLM with contributions from the Symposium.

I am happy to say that FASE is gaining more and more recognition in and outside of Europe, which has been reflected in many requests for **FASE events** this year, such as the 40-hour forensic anthropology workshop in Sri Lanka and the 16-hour course on trauma and identification at the Turkish Police Forensic Laboratory in Ankara that I am currently writing from.

As FASE president I wish all the members a happy 2014, full of very good personal events. Particularly I look forward to 2014 as being the first year with forensic anthropology diplomates from FASE/IALM.

I also hope that the number of FASE members will increase and that a main international project on forensic anthropology will be achieved.

**We count on all of you to make FASE grow!**

*Eugénia Cunha*

 FASE ACTIVITIES LOOKING BACK AT THE 10 YEARS OF FASE

In **2000**, at the 18th IALM meeting in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) it was decided that the time has come to create a **forensic anthropology section of the International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM)**. The decision became a reality in

**September 2003** at the 19th IALM Congress in Milan, where IALM officially accepted the foundation of the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE) as its first scientific sub-section.

And so, in **2013**, we **celebrate FASE's 10th birthday!**

In the previous Newsletter we summarised FASE activities in the past 10 years.

In this issue, we would like to **honour the people who created FASE**, carried it on its journey up to now and hopefully will continue to do so for years to come. When you look at the FASE Board members lists four names will stand out: Eric Baccino, Eugénia Cunha, Cristina Cattaneo, and Niels Lynnerup. These four amazing forensic scientists, despite of their busy schedules, have found time and energy to "nurture" FASE from its birth up till now.

Naturally, all the other past and present Board members need to be praised for their contributions and involvement with FASE. Last but not least, we would like to acknowledge **Douglas Ubelaker** who supports the Society by sharing his knowledge

and experience at the FASE events.

We thought that words are not enough to describe the enthusiasm and dedication of all these people to forensic anthropology and FASE so here is some pictorial evidence: to **2014 as being the first year with forensic anthropology diplomates from FASE/IALM**.

I also hope that the number of FASE members will increase and that a main international project on forensic anthropology will be achieved.

**We count on all of you to make FASE grow!**

#### FASE BOARD 2003-2006

President	Eric Baccino
Vice-President	Eugénia Cunha Randolph Penning
Secretary	Cristina Cattaneo
Treasurer	José Prieto
Auditors	Hélène Borrman Niels Lynnerup Yves Schuliar

#### FASE BOARD 2006-2009

President	Eric Baccino
Vice-President	Eugénia Cunha José Prieto
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Treasurer	Yves Schuliar
Auditors	Niels Lynnerup Ildiko Pap Frank Ramsthaler

#### FASE BOARD 2009-2012

President	Eugénia Cunha
Vice-President	Cristina Cattaneo
Secretary	Laurent Martrille
Treasurer	José Prieto
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Auditors	Niels Lynnerup José Prieto Frank Ramsthaler

#### FASE BOARD 2012 -

President	Eugénia Cunha
Vice-President	Cristina Cattaneo
Honorary FASE board member	Eric Baccino
IALM representative	
Board members	Niels Lynnerup Yalçın Büyükk Anja Petaros Pierre Guyomarc'h Zuzana Obertová Melanie Ratnayake

FASE has now almost **200 members** and we hope to grow and strive in numbers and in actions.

You, as FASE members **help us to carry the good name of the Society and to put its goals and ideas into practice.**

We are very grateful for your support in the past 10 years and we hope that through FASE activities and the new webpage we will continue to provide a platform for sharing knowledge and interest in forensic anthropology and related disciplines.



COPENHAGEN, FASE WORKSHOP 2010,  
Gerald Quatrehomme, Douglas Ubelaker, Eugenia Cunha



## FASE events PHOTO ALBUM



FASE Workshop, Copenhagen, October 2010



Eugénia Cunha at the FASE Forensic Anthropology workshop, Copenhagen, 2010

FASE Board Member Niels Lynnerup at his workplace



Participants of the FASE Basic Workshop in Copenhagen, 2010



Douglas Ubelaker at one of the FASE Workshops



FASE workshop, Istanbul, 2012



Eric Baccino teaching at the practicals at the FASE workshop in Istanbul, 2012



Cristina Cattaneo at the FASE Workshop in Istanbul, 2012



Cristina Cattaneo and Laurent Martrille at the forensic anthropology session at the IALM meeting in Istanbul, 2012

Eugénia Cunha at the FASE workshop in Colombo, Sri Lanka 2013



Eugénia Cunha, Cristina Cattaneo and Eric Baccino at the FASE Symposium, Heidelberg, 2013



FASE Symposium in Heidelberg, 2013



# Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe

A Section of the International Academy of Legal Medicine

HOME ABOUT FA IN EUROPE ACTIVITIES NEWSLETTER RECOMMENDATIONS

Home

Welcome to FASE, the first European Association of Forensic Anthropology. Since its formation, in 2003, the number of members has increased as well as initiatives and events throughout Europe. Workshops (six), advanced courses (four), meetings (five) are an important part of our strategy to reach the maximum number of persons with interest in our science. If you are a forensic anthropology student, if you are developing research on this subject, if you are an expert, do not hesitate to join us and to help us to develop this society. Kind regards  
Prof. Eugénia Cunha

FASE invites you to the:

**FASE ADVANCED COURSE ON PMI INTERVAL AND FASE SYMPOSIUM  
HEIDELBERG, Germany, 26-28 th Sept 2013**

Sorry, you can't register for the PMI course anymore. The advanced course is complete.

Dear FASE members and colleagues,

It is our pleasure to invite you to participate to the FASE Advanced Course on PMI Interval and the FASE 10th Anniversary Symposium which will take place in Heidelberg, Germany on 26th, 27th (Advanced course) and 28th September 2013.

Please, do not forget that the deadline for abstracts' submission is July 31st.



FASE Advanced Course - Heidelberg 2013 (Bone Quiz)



FASE Advanced Course, Heidelberg, 2013- visit to the Isotope Laboratory



FASE Advanced Course- Heidelberg 2013, practicals

## FASE Certification for Practicing Forensic Anthropologists- C-FASE

### // PRELIMINARY CONCERNS

The goal to certify forensic anthropologists stems from the increasing knowledge of and need for this discipline in judicial cases and the consequent proliferation of courses of dubious origin and more importantly to address the growing issue of “self-made” experts.

**Quality control** over who can qualify as an expert forensic anthropologist must be offered at the European/international level.

However, this certification is intended for the **younger and new generation** as only recently the appropriate cultural tools for proper awareness and training in Europe and internationally has become available and widespread. Thus, the academic society is now in a position to create this professional certification. After several years of deliberations, the Committee of Examiners has been chosen according to academic and professional qualifications.

For the **older generation** of practitioners who have been **practicing for at least 10 years**, certification will be granted based upon their CV, qualifications, academic status and professional experience (e.g. honoris causa).

At the present time, certification will only focus on **human remains** and not the assessment of the living.

After consideration of the recent academic events in the European and American scenarios we have come to the conclusion that certification concerns the validation of individuals for professional activity, with levels of certification being divided into **two basic categories**:

- a lower level (**level II**) where minimal qualification for handling skeletal remains and providing assistance to senior personnel (e.g. pathologists or anthropologists) is achieved; and
- a full qualification (**level I**) where the certified person is considered independent practitioner in medicolegal issues that can be addressed by a forensic anthropologist.

### // LEVELS

#### Level II

An anthropologist who works under **close supervision of a supervisor** whether they are a forensic pathologist or anthropologist.

**Responsibilities** may include data collection, which can include maceration, inventory, radiography, standard measurements, photography, initial notes, analyses, etc.

The applicant must hold a **Master's degree** in biological

anthropology or related fields (e.g. biology, natural sciences, biochemistry and medicine).

In addition, the applicant must show participation in relevant and continuing education in forensic anthropology by being **member of FASE** – Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe, and being able to provide **proof of assisting with casework**, such as initial data collection, co-signing reports, letter from supervisor detailing laboratory responsibilities, and attending relevant workshops.

#### Certification will be performed in two phases:

- 1) an initial **evaluation of the CV**; and
- 2) for those candidates who pass the CV evaluation, a **written and practical examination**.

The written examination will consist of a set of 10 questions on forensic anthropology methods (see FASE webpage for details). The practical exam will be performed on a human skeleton with questions concerning human/non-human identification, aspects of the biological profile, and trauma.

#### Level I

Level I can **independently conduct forensic anthropological analyses, write and sign reports, and testify in court**. The conditions for being accepted as Level I diplomate include:

- the same qualifications as Level II apply, plus holding an **MD** or a **PhD** degree
- expertise (**10 cases**) and **3 years of experience** after degree completion
- **practical evaluation**, including at least two real-life case scenarios, with the assessment results being presented orally by the candidate

### // APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Fill in and submit the **application form**

2. The CV and request should be sent to the FASE Committee along with the **cases submitted for evaluation (notarised in the original language and translated to English)**.

**For Level I**, an official request and submission of forensic casework to respective agency, such as prosecution's office, judge/magistrate, police, medical examiner office or similar country specific agency is also needed.

**For Level II**, a recommendation from the direct supervisor and clear evidence of contribution to forensic cases must be submitted for evaluation.

3. Any other relevant documentation.

## // CERTIFICATION LOCATIONS

Candidates, who have been approved for examination, can **sit the exam in one of the following locations:**

Milan, Coimbra, Montpellier, Granada and Raleigh (USA)  
or at scheduled FASE meetings.

The applications and written examinations will be evaluated by the entire **Examination Committee**.

Practical and final Level I examinations will be evaluated by three members of the Scientific Committee locally.

## // DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of CV: **February 28 2014**

Shortlisting for Level I and II: **March 15 2014**

Examination **Milan-Coimbra May 2 2014**

Examination for Level I: **May 3 2014**

## SUMMARY OF THE ADVANCED COURSE and FASE SYMPOSIUM IN HEIDELBERG //

From 26th to 28th September 2013, the beautiful city of Heidelberg, Germany served as a stunning background for the **FASE Advanced Course** and the **FASE symposium**, by which FASE celebrated its 10th anniversary.

This year's course was dedicated to **post-mortem interval** and was organized with support of Frank Ramsthaler and the **Institute of Traffic and Legal Medicine, University of Heidelberg** that provided the space for the two events and arranged the schedule and the lectures for the PMI advanced course. The course brought together participants of different professional backgrounds (forensic anthropologists, archaeologists, and anthropologists) from 21 different countries. It lasted two days and included a visit to the Mannheim Radiocarbon Laboratory.

The course covered a very important subject, essential to any forensic death investigation and aimed to offer a multidisciplinary view on the topic, covering the pathological, archaeological and anthropological way of approaching the PMI assessment problem. However, this was only partially achieved. The topics presented during the two days did not cohere perfectly - while the first day focused specifically on the subject of the course, the second day covered a much more varied range of topics, some of them not related directly to the main aims of the course.

During the first day, the participants were able to attend the presentations of E. Baccino and S. Potente who discussed on different methods of **PMI estimation in an early post-mortem period** offering new insights on the problem and their personal experience. While these two lectures were for sure interesting for all the participants, they were more related to the medico-legal practice than forensic anthropology practice which deals with skeletal or decomposed remains at best. The presentations that followed, one by J.



Participants at the FASE Advanced Course, Heidelberg, Germany - Sept 2013



Visit to the Mannheim Radiocarbon Laboratory

Amendt on **forensic entomology** and the lectures held at the Isotope Laboratory in Mannheim by B. Kromer, N. Lynnerup on **radiocarbon testing, studies and caseworks** and M. Verhoff on **morphological and chemical techniques used in PMI estimation**

on bone were much more related to forensic anthropology practice at medical examiner's offices.

Herein we would like to express our appreciation to **Bernd Kromer** and his team, not only for lecturing at the course, but also for offering to the participants a guided tour throughout the noteworthy Mannheim Laboratory.

As written before, the lectures of the second day moved away from the main goal of the course, but still managed to catch the attention of the participants. The lectures covered the topics on **archaeology practice, field methods, documentation and modern archaeology** and were offered by P. Held and H. Meller.

It is our opinion that the presentation of a **field 3d scanner and handheld x-ray**, while showing the importance of implementing new technology in forensic work, should have been presented separately from the main lectures as it is customary at other meetings for products of commercial interest.

To summarise, the course was interesting and well accepted, yet with some shortcomings. The problems noted during the course will for sure serve as an admonition for the forthcoming FASE courses and workshops organizers. We thank all the participants of the course, especially those who took time to answer to our course evaluation survey and point out all the pros and cons of the advanced course.

The **symposium**, held on the 28th September, was a perfect occasion to celebrate the **10th FASE anniversary**. The symposium offered a one-day program of oral and poster presentations. The beautiful anatomical theatre of the Heidelberg University served as an unconventional location for the symposium, charming but still suitable for the event. The opening session started with a short presentation on the **FASE 10 year activity** by Eugenia Cunha and Cristina Cattaneo, which focused on the milestones of FASE development since 2003.

The opening session was enriched by the lecture given by **Dr. Bradley Adams, D-ABFA** on the forensic anthropology practice at the **New York City's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**. The presentation of real-life experience, followed by presentation of case studies was very attractive for the participants. In his lecture, Dr. Adams presented the general

organization of the Unit, which brings together the largest number of anthropologists outside of the US Department of Defense, as well as the every-day problems and cases that a forensic anthropologist faces in a medico-legal setting of such a huge city as New York. Dr. Adams knew how to catch the attention of the participants, and presented the outstanding work that is being conducted in NY Chief Medical Examiner Office, especially the one associated with the identification process of the victims of the 9/11 tragedy. This was a great opportunity for the attendees of the symposium to get acquainted with the practical aspects of forensic anthropology as well with the professional reality of US colleagues which is quite different from the European one. Dr. Adams took the opportunity to invite all the interested participants to apply for the Visiting Scientist program at the NY Chief Medical Examiner Office which allows the fellows to immerse themselves in the daily routine of the OCME-NY Anthropological Unit for one month (more information available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ocme/html/anthro/anthropology.shtml>).

After the invited lecture, the formal poster and oral presentation program of the symposium started. The Symposium brought together presenters from 21 countries with 19 oral and 10 poster presentations. The presentations were divided in four different sessions and covered a variety of topics. Most of the presentations were **case reports** (10/29), while others focused on **biological profile** (8/29), **taphonomy** (6/29), **identification** (2/29), **PMI and dating** (2/29) and **forensic anthropology accreditation** (1/29). It is noteworthy to see an **increase in forensic anthropology case reports** that showcase the implementation of forensic anthropology in medico-legal practice and not only in academic circles. When compared to the forensic anthropology session of the last years' meetings and conferences an increase in prospective taphonomy research can be noted, while trauma research (excluding trauma case reports) is still less represented during these events.

The **full papers** which will be scored by the pre-reviewers and IJLM reviewers will be published in the special issue of the **International Journal of Legal Medicine**, published by Springer. More information on the publication process of the papers is available on page 1 of the Newsletter.



Invited lecture on FA practice at the New York Chief Medical Examiner Office by Bradley Adams, PhD, D-ABFA

## From the pen of the attendees....

In late September 2013 FASE arranged an advanced course in forensic anthropology as well as a FASE symposium. The meetings were held in Germany, in the picturesque and sunny Heidelberg, at the Institute of Forensic Medicine, University of Heidelberg.

The subject of the advanced course was Postmortem Interval and the two-day programme had a broad interdisciplinary approach, mirroring the practical work in the field where estimation of postmortem interval - at least in my own experience - often involves several different experts. The work within forensic anthropology is by its nature interdisciplinary, but especially in estimation of postmortem interval the traditional bone examination needs assistance from nearby and even remote fields of expertise. The course took off from the very early signs of death from the forensic pathologist's point of view and landed in the long perspective from the archaeologist's point of view, including among other the importance of soil properties for the long term preservation of organic tissues. The subject was approached from both practical hands-on experience and theoretical reasoning. Among the practical parts were demonstrations of modern tools for archaeological field and lab work like 360 degrees photographing, and a hands-on bone quiz. We also had the opportunity to visit the laboratory of Curt-Engelhorn-Center in Mannheim and actually see their work with radiocarbon dating which gave an extra dimension to the more theoretical parts and a good background to later case presentations. The topic of forensic entomology was also discussed. One strength of the course was the broad approach of the subject and the diversity of the lecturer's professional background.

Directly after the advanced course, a one-day FASE symposium took place in a most unexpected, but still quite appropriate setting; an old autopsy theater with tiles, sink and steeply

sloping audience seats. The main lecturer Dr Bradley Adams began by sharing his experience in forensic anthropology in New York City, USA, and talked about their victim identification work after the September 11 attacks. Both oral and poster presentations of different aspects of forensic anthropology followed, and in the late afternoon we had listened to more than 25 presentations.

Just as important as the course programme and the symposium presentations was the social part of the meeting. It is a true joy to meet people not only from Europe, but from all around the world, who share a common interest in forensic anthropology. I met many interesting people during this meeting who made me grow both personally and professionally. I think it is important to emphasize that some aspects of the profession are linked to interpersonal contacts. To discuss difficult cases, to compare traditions and to learn from other's solutions of practical problems are a few topics crucial to get ahead in the professional development. These examples are also some of the most important things I brought back home from Heidelberg. If there is something we should try to develop further, I would suggest that future meetings even more facilitate social interactions and net-working by offering also a social program, especially for our new FASE members.

Thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make these days possible. I am already looking forward to the next FASE meeting! See you all then!

by Ankin Güvencel

Resident in forensic medicine and forensic anthropology  
Umeå, Sweden

## WELCOME NOTE FOR THE NEXT BASIC FASE WORKSHOP IN ZAGREB, CROATIA

In 2014, FASE along with the Anthropological Centre of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Department of Forensic Medicine and Criminalistics, Rijeka University School of Medicine will organize the FASE 7th FASE Basic Workshop on Forensic Anthropology. its traditional five day (40-hours) workshop on the basic aspects of forensic anthropology. The [Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb, Croatia](#) will be the host of the FASE **7th European workshop on forensic anthropology**.

The Workshop will take place in Zagreb, Croatia from  
**8th to 12th September 2014.**

The course aims to introduce the participants to the basics of forensic anthropology practice with numerous interesting lectures, case presentations and most importantly practical work with bone remains.

The workshop will be divided in **two sessions**: the morning sessions will focus on lectures given by renowned experts about the assessment of the biological profile, identification, trauma analysis etc., while the afternoon sessions will cover



Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb, Croatia

the practicals. The participants of the workshop will be able to work on **archaeological and recent skeletal remains**, by utilising their knowledge gained from the morning lectures. The workshop will provide access to **hands-on experience** that we believe is the most important part of the teaching process in forensic anthropology.

Alongside the basic topics, the workshop will cover some additional topics that could be of interest also to non-beginners: **bone biomechanics**, **imaging techniques** in forensic anthropology, **facial approximation**, **photography** and most importantly **writing of a forensic anthropology report**.

The last day of the workshop is going to be dedicated to the **Croatian forensic anthropology/odontology experience**, focusing on the identification process of the victims of the

1991 Croatian War with lectures on forensic archaeology, forensic anthropology and odontology in Croatia, as well as DNA analysis.

All the additional information, the detailed schedule of the workshop with the names of the lecturers and information on the venue, accommodation and costs of the workshop will be **available online from end of January/ beginning of February 2014**, and will be emailed through our FASE mailing list.



If you are interested in the workshop or have any queries regarding the event you can contact Anja Petaros, MD by mail:

[anja.petaros@yahoo.com](mailto:anja.petaros@yahoo.com)



City of Zagreb, Croatia - host of the 7th FASE Basic Workshop on Forensic Anthropology

## FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

### FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORIES ACCROSS EUROPE

Since the next FASE Basic Workshop on Forensic Anthropology will take place in Zagreb, Croatia, co-organised by the Anthropological Centre of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ACCASA) and the Department of Forensic Medicine and Criminalistics, Rijeka University School of Medicine, this Newsletter issue will be dedicated to the presentation of the **ACCASA**- the main anthropological/bioarchaeological research facility in Croatia.

### // **ACCASA** - ANTHROPOLOGICAL CENTRE OF THE CROATIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS - between bioarchaeology and forensic anthropology

Biological anthropology and bioarchaeological research in Croatia started at the end of the 19th century with the pioneering paleoanthropological studies that dr. Dragutin Gorjanović Kramberger conducted on the Neanderthal skeletal remains recovered in Krapina, Croatia. From that time on, anthropological research has flourished, as evidenced by the

foundation of the Croatian Anthropological Society in 1977 and the Institute of Anthropology in 1992.

Today, several institutes and departments in Croatia conduct bioarchaeological research, and some of them also focus on forensic anthropology research and deal with forensic cases

related to criminal investigations or the 1991 War in Croatia.

The development of **forensic anthropology in Croatia**, although it is not yet recognized as an autonomous discipline, was triggered by events that followed the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia and culminated in the **1991 War**. During that time forensic anthropologists played an important role in the **identification of numerous victims exhumed from a large number of mass graves** (at present more than 147) scattered throughout Croatia. Much of this work was performed through the collaboration of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Criminalistics, University of Zagreb with today's Anthropological Centre of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.



Prof. Mario Šlaus with the ACCASA Osteological collection

The **Anthropological Centre of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts** is a newly founded scientific unit of the Academy, which evolved from the former Department of Archaeology. This research facility is not only the leading centre for **bioarchaeological research in Croatia**, focusing on bioarchaeological and paleopathological research, but also, because of the close collaboration it has developed with basically all medico-legal departments, deals with **forensic anthropology cases and research**.

The Centre is directed by **prof. Mario Šlaus**, the leading bioarchaeologist and forensic anthropologist in Croatia, who participated in over 2 500 forensic cases of identification and determination of the cause of death of the 1991 War victims. Prof. Šlaus, through his work and experience, gathered a **motivated team of young researchers and experts** involved in different types of bioarchaeological and anthropological research projects.

The team also includes collaborating researchers from outside institutions. These include the **School of Dentistry, University of Zagreb** (**Department of Forensic Odontology-forensic odontology and paleodontology research**), **University Hospital Dubrava Zagreb** (**Department of Radiology- radiology and paleoradiology research**) and the **School of Medicine, University of Rijeka** (**Department of Forensic Medicine and Criminalistics- forensic anthropology and forensic taphonomy research**).

At the **Department of Forensic Medicine and Criminalistics of the University of Rijeka**, with the support of the ACCASA, a **medico-legal Anthropological Unit and Laboratory** are being established (Anja Petaros being in charge of its establishment), that will exclusively focus on forensic anthropology and taphonomy research (the first of this type in Croatia).

The most important segment of the Centre, beside the interdisciplinary human workforce, is the **Osteological collection of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, founded by Prof. Šlaus** in 1991.

The collection contains more than **4500 skeletons** dated from the Mesolithic period to the late 18th century. The collection contains skeletons from both individual and mass graves that exhibit a wide variety of pathological changes that include clear osteological evidence for tuberculosis, leprosy, syphilis, rheumatic diseases, as well as numerous examples of ante- and perimortem trauma (mostly sharp-force and blunt injury trauma), making it a unique source of information, important



Bone processing at ACCASA



Scientists at the ACCASA Laboratory

both for bioarchaeological and forensic anthropology studies. Thanks to this collection and his team, prof. Šlaus has established important **international collaborations and research projects** like the joint **Smithsonian Institution - Croatian Government project** "Development of a Forensic Data base at the University of Zagreb" funded by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the State Department of the USA through the Smithsonian Institution (from 1995-2000); the collaborative project: "Development of an archaeological, bioarchaeological and paleontology data base for Croatia" (this collaborative project consisted of six projects from the fields of archaeology, anthropology, paleontology and linguistics and was funded by the Ministry of Science, education and sports of the Republic of Croatia from 2003-2007; the project: "Forensic and anthropological characteristics of victims of the 1991 War in Croatia" funded from 2007-2013, and the project: "Bioarchaeological analyses of medieval populations from Croatia" also funded from 2007-2013.

The last project that ACCASA proudly joined as a partner institution is **FORANTEN** (Forensic Anthropology Training Network), hoping that through it, it will help in the improvement of training, research collaborations and standardisation of forensic anthropology practice across Europe.

Today, the **main bioarchaeological research areas** of the Anthropological Centre include demography, subadult stress, infectious diseases, dental pathology and bone trauma. Bone trauma is the main area of research in **forensic anthropology studies**, along with the development of identification standards for the Croatian recent population.

Beside research, the ACCASA team **holds forensic anthropology classes** for archaeologists, naturalist and medical doctors through graduate and post-graduate programs at the University of Zagreb, Rijeka, Zadar and Split.



**ACCASA** would be very happy to **extend its collaboration to other institutions and practitioners interested in its work** and osteological collection, as well to offer research possibilities to visiting researchers. For any question regarding our work or collaboration please contact:

Prof. Mario Šlaus by mail: mario.slaus@zg.t-com.hr

Till then, we all expect you at the **7th FASE Basic Workshop on forensic anthropology** that will be held from 8-12th September 2014 in Zagreb!!!

by Prof. Mario Šlaus  
Director of ACCASA

## THE NEW AND IMPROVED FORANTEN PROJECT

This time last year, the **FORensic ANThropology European Network** (FORANTEN) Project was submitted to the European Commission in reply to the Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN) FP7-PEOPLE-2013-ITN Call. The partners' hard work and dedication during intense few months before submission resulted in an evaluation score of **83.4%** from the Evaluation Committee (the threshold being 70%). Even though the project has not been funded in that round, the **feedback from the Committee was positive**, especially concerning the scientific quality of the project, which scored highest in our application. This is extremely encouraging, as the Commission is now familiar with our project, and agrees with the forensic anthropology (FA) community on the importance and necessity to disseminate and harmonise both research and training of the discipline at an international level.

As you may recall, FORANTEN has brought together **partners from 10 different countries**, all of them leading researchers and/or experts in forensic anthropology and related fields (archaeology, medicine, biological sciences, pathology, biology, legal practice, and information technology). This partnership covers the different levels of expertise of FA practice by embodying the inter-disciplinary characteristic for FA.

On 11 December 2013 the next Call will be released and we have already started working on an improved FORANTEN proposal. The **submission date is April 9th 2014**.

In addition to last year, we are joined by Dr René Gapert and his team of the University College Dublin (see table for details on the other institutions and the lead scientists participating in the project).

Institution	Country	Level	Lead Scien-tist	Academic	Non aca-demic
Physical Anthropology Department of Aix-Marseille Université	France	Level 1	Prof Pascal Adalian	X	
Physical Anthropology Department of Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	Spain	Level 1	Prof Assumpció Malgosa	X	
Centro de Ciências Forense	Portugal (Coimbra)	Level 1	Prof Eugénia Cunha	X	
Center of Anatomy and Human Identification, University of Dundee	United Kingdom	Level 1	Prof Sue Black	X	
Laboratorio di Anthropologia e Odontologia Forense, Università degli Studi di Milano	Italy	Level 1	Prof Cristina Cattaneo	X	
Institut de Recherche Criminelle de la Gendarmerie Nationale	France	Level 1	Dr Yves Schuliar		X
Forensic Odontology Department of the Faculté d'Odontologie, Université Bordeaux 2	France	Level 2	Dr Christophe Bou	X	

Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University	Slovakia (Bratislava)	Level 2	Dr Radoslav Beňuš	X	
Unit of Forensic Anthropology, University of Copenhagen	Denmark	Level 2	Prof Niels Lynnerup	X	
Edinburgh Unit for Forensic Anthropology, University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	Level 2	Dr Elena Kranioti	X	
Department of Anthropology and Human Genetics, Faculty of Science, Charles University Praha	Czech Republic (Prague)	Level 2	Dr Jana Velemínska	X	
Skeletal Investigation Laboratory, Teesside University	United Kingdom (Middlesbrough)	Level 2	Dr Tim Thompson	X	
Anthropological Center, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Art	Croatia (Zagreb)	Level 2	Prof Mario Šlaus	X	
dHal Software	Greece (Athens)	Level 2	Dr Demetrios Halazonetis		X

The FORANTEN project has **three main goals**:

- 1) to provide both **cutting-edge research and multi-faceted training programmes** for the future generation of anthropologists,
- 2) to promote the **uniformity of practice of FA in Europe**
- 3) to build **common European Forensic Anthropology tools** to be used by experts.

Although these goals remain unchanged, there have been a few regulation changes in the next ITN call, which will lead to a general reorganisation of the project.

The main one is that the **Level 1** partners **can only recruit Early Stage Researchers (ESRs)** i.e. PhD candidates, so the project no longer includes funding for Experienced Researchers (ERs). However, ERs can be recruited by the partners independently of FORANTEN to work towards the same goals (testing, uniformity and harmonisation of methods).

A maximum number of **15 ESR candidates** will be able to enter the programme, each working for the duration of 36 months.

As before, **Level 2** partners will be able to **provide secondments** and complementary training to ESRs as well

as **participate actively at the workshops and meetings** organised during the 4 years of FORANTEN.

The inclusion of both academic and non-academic institutions promotes **network-wide collaboration and dissemination**, while providing occupational integration possibilities for future FA graduates.

The project will **support FASE in its efforts to establish a European system of certification for forensic anthropologists**. One of the goals of FORANTEN is to form **FASE Gold Standards** at the end of the four years, which would incorporate **rules of standardisation and uniformity of the forensic practice in Europe**.

Following the demands of the Council of the European Union published in 2011 on "the creation of a European Forensic Science Area" by 2020, FORANTEN would provide an upstream contribution to the certification initiative by training future researchers in respect of the Council's requests for standardisation of FA practice.

Since the partners' motivation to build a **European Forensic Anthropology Network** is stronger than ever, we trust that this new and improved FORANTEN project will succeed.

*The FORANTEN Team*

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2014

February

**17.-22.02.**

AAFS 66th Anniversary Meeting  
Seattle, USA

[www.aafs.org/aafs-66th-annual-scientific-meeting](http://www.aafs.org/aafs-66th-annual-scientific-meeting)

### WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2014

January

**06.01.-14.02.**

Forensic Biology Summer School  
University of Otago  
New Zealand

[www.otago.ac.nz/summerschool](http://www.otago.ac.nz/summerschool)

February

## MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2014

- April** **08.-12.04.**  
83rd AAPA Annual Meeting + Paleopathology Association (PPA) North American Meeting  
*Calgary, Canada*  
<http://physanth.org/annual-meeting>  
<http://ucalgary.ca/AAPA2014>
- May** **15.-16.05.**  
4th Czech-Slovak Congress of Forensic Medicine with International Attendance  
*Prague, Czech Republic*  
[www.congressprague.cz/en/kongresy/ssl2014.html](http://www.congressprague.cz/en/kongresy/ssl2014.html)
- August** **26.-29.08.**  
Paleopathology Association (PPA) European Meeting  
*Lund, Sweden*  
[www.paleopathology.org/meetings.html](http://www.paleopathology.org/meetings.html)
- 26.-30.08.**  
16th International Symposium on Dental Morphology and  
1st Congress of the International Association of Paleodontology  
*Zagreb, Croatia*  
[www.paleodontology.com](http://www.paleodontology.com)
- September** **31.08.-04.09.**  
ANZFSS International Symposium  
*Adelaide, Australia*  
[www.aomevents.com/ANZFSS2014](http://www.aomevents.com/ANZFSS2014)
- 08.09.-12.09.**  
7th FASE Workshop on Forensic Anthropology  
*Zagreb, Croatia*  
[www.forensicanthropology.eu](http://www.forensicanthropology.eu)
- October** IAFS/AFSN/AMPLA "New horizons in forensic sciences"  
*Seoul, South Korea*  
[www.wff2014korea.org](http://www.wff2014korea.org)



## WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2014

- February** **09.02.-10.03.**  
Field School Somaliland  
Organized by CJA and Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team  
[www.cja.org](http://www.cja.org)
- March** **17.-21.03.**  
11th Virtopsy Course  
*Zurich, Switzerland*  
[www.virtopsy.com](http://www.virtopsy.com)
- 22.-23.03.**  
Two day Human Remains Recovery  
Texas State University, Forensic Anthropology Center  
*San Marcos, Texas, USA*  
[www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts](http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts)
- April** **14.-18.04.**  
Outdoor Recovery Course A  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>
- May** **27.-30.05.**  
Forensic Anthropology Field Methods  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>
- June** **02.-06.06.**  
Death-Scene Archaeology: Field Methods in the Location, Recovery, & Interpretation of Human Remains from Outdoor Contexts  
Department of Applied Forensic Sciences, Mercyhurst University  
*Erie, USA*  
<http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/contracted-services/forensic-anthropology/short-courses-in-forensic-anthropology>
- 02.-06.06.**  
Outdoor Recovery Course B  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>
- 09.-13.06.**  
Laboratory Methods in the Identification of Human Skeletal Remains  
Department of Applied Forensic Sciences, Mercyhurst University  
*Erie, USA*  
<http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/contracted-services/forensic-anthropology/short-courses-in-forensic-anthropology>
- 09.-13.06.**  
Outdoor Recovery Course C  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*  
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

The next issue of the Newsletter is planned for **spring-summer 2014**. We would appreciate if you could send us your comments, suggestions and contributions by **April 2014**.

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))



## 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/>



## WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2014

### June

#### 16.-20.06.

Analysis of Bone Trauma and Pseudo-Trauma in Suspected Violent Deaths  
Department of Applied Forensic Sciences,  
Mercyhurst University  
*Erie, USA*

<http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/contracted-services/forensic-anthropology/short-courses-in-forensic-anthropology>

#### 23.-27.06.

Forensic Anthropology Methods  
Texas State University, Forensic Anthropology Center  
*San Marcos, Texas, USA*

[www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts](http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts)

#### 23.-27.06.

Documentation and Interpretation of the Mass Fatality Scene  
Department of Applied Forensic Sciences,  
Mercyhurst University  
*Erie, USA*

<http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/contracted-services/forensic-anthropology/short-courses-in-forensic-anthropology>

### July

#### 07.-11.07.

Human Osteology  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*

<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

#### 08.-12.07.

Human Osteology  
Texas State University, Forensic Anthropology Center  
*San Marcos, Texas, USA*

[www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts](http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts)

#### 14.-18.07.

Introduction to Human Identification  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*

<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

#### 21.-23.07.

Skeletal Trauma and Pathology  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*

<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

### August

#### 28.07.-01.08.

Advanced Osteology Laboratory Methods  
Forensic Anthropology Center, University of Tennessee  
*Knoxville, USA*

<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/Osteology.html>

ADDITIONAL COURSES (INFORMATION FOR 2014 NOT YET AVAILABLE):

- <http://www.lifesci.dundee.ac.uk/cahid/courses>
- <http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/cds/shortcourses/forensicarchaeologyanthropology.html>