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So long, colleagues!
Editor's page

Turning a leaf…

Three years has rushed by, and I am writing the last editorial of our IOFOS period here in Norway. It has been a most instructive and rewarding time, so it is with mixed feelings that we are handing over the responsibility of IOFOS and the Newsletter to another country during the General Assembly in IAFS Hong Kong. It has been fun being in the middle of things, and I feel we have succeeded in bringing the Newsletter out by e-mail, and thereby reaching a lot of people directly with the original product, instead of more or less successful copies. I am grateful for the nice and positive response sent me on mail. The world has definitely become a lot smaller, also for forensic odontologists.

Identification work after the Tsunami has taken a lot of time this last year for many nations, and we have been fortunate that all the 84 Norwegian citizens that died in Thailand have been identified. The international cooperation of identification teams will, however, continue also with Norwegian participation at least until Christmas. The international teamwork has been a good experience, and we are approaching a common platform of procedures and a world wide quality agreement. A lot more people have been trained in mass disaster identification work.

In February this year – 3 ½ years after the 9.11 attack on Twin Towers in New York, the identification work has come to an end. 1585 of the total 2749 victims have been identified. The families of the remaining 1164 victims have received the message from the ID-team that the DNA technology of today is not sufficient for a better result. This is the best we can do with the present knowledge. But there is hope that the technology will improve so that the remaining bodies will be connected to a name one day. There is always something to strive for, - more knowledge gives better results.

I would like to wish the next IOFOS team the best of luck in the next three years, and I would be more than happy if I could be of any help to the next editor.

Wencke Stene-Johansen wenckesj@online.no
This is the final page I write as the president of IOFOS. I have felt our executive board, including Sigrid Kvaal, Wencke Stene-Johansen and Leif Grusd has been a good team and shared the responsibilities. First of all I will thank them for their efforts and never failing enthusiasm. It is good for a president to have such a team. I think I have them all with me in the following comments.

First of all I would like to thank those of you who has used IOFOS and responded to our initiatives. Only because you have done so, we felt our work has been worth while. Here is also one of the difficulties with IOFOS. A number of persons and also presidents of national societies does not respond to correspondence and requests. There may be several reasons for that. In the future it is however necessary to have at least one representative in each society who is responsible for the contact with IOFOS if the president has some problems with that. For this and other reasons we have suggested supplementary instructions to the IOFOS regulations about the duties of the national societies. We will like each society not only to accept those at the General Assembly but also use them in practise.

IOFOS is an organization consisting of national societies and no individual members. It has been recommended, that interested forensic odontologists from countries where there is no society is accepted as member of other societies and we know that that has been practiced. It would have been impossible for amateurs on their free time to administer a world wide society of individual members. Now we have a society consisting of only 15 members and it should be easy to handle provided that the communication is good. E-mail provides to day an excellent opportunity for cheap and quick communication. I am sure the discussion about individual members will come up again because I know a number of people are not satisfied with IOFOS. In our mind they should sometimes look critically to their own society who may not bring information from IOFOS to them as the intention was.

One of the main achievements of this executive may be the introduction of the IOFOS’ recommendations for quality assurance. They may not be ideal or satisfy everyone, but they are good suggestions after a number of well qualified people’s advice. We hope they may help setting a standard, but we also hope people do not see these as a static tool. Improvements are possible and should be done in the future. We have tried to attract more societies as members without much success. We have by e-mail, writing and by telephone tried to approach societies and groups of forensic outside IOFOS. Some societies may be dissatisfied with IOFOS. We have to take that seriously and therefore a discussion about the politics of IOFOS at the General Assembly in Hong Kong is important.

Another reason for our failure is that some societies are loose and informal. Others may be a part of a forensic science society which is not interested in paying our fee.

We are proud of the Ferdinand Strom award as he was a Norwegian pioneer in forensic odontology. We are proud to be the first to give out this award. In accordance with what we think is best, we have suggested supplementary instructions for that award to be decided on at the General Assembly.
Another issue which the new executive may take seriously is that we have agreed to send the Newsletter to persons who have subscribed for 10 Euro per year. In our view too few dentists have been interested. A free distribution might be possible, but do we want that?

Another issue is the posting of the Newsletter on the web page where everyone may read it. We have delayed that by about ½ a year. Also an open Web page like ours does not give any advantage to the members. A part could perhaps be restricted for the members and subscribers. We would like to wish the new executive good luck with their three year period.

Tore Solheim, solheim@odont.uio.no

17th meeting of the Interpol Standing Committee on DVI

Lyon, France, 27-29th June 2005

The 17th meeting of the Interpol DVI Standing Committee was of course focused mainly on the Tsunami disaster and lessons that can be learned from the disaster. The first day was dedicated to an overview of the situation and operations in the Tsunami affected countries by the representatives of the different agencies involved. Some representatives gave updates on the identification status. In Thailand as of 24/06/2005 1850 victims had been identified. Dental id was positive in 1348 of these cases. In the afternoon of the first day the role of Interpol Steering Group was pointed out, explaining the position of the Incident Response Teams, and more in particular, that of the Crisis Management Support Group, which also had sent out a questionnaire to a number of people, trying to come up with recommendations and guidelines for the future. This initiative was not well received by a lot of the Steering and Standing Committee members as they felt they should have been involved and consulted on a number of the issues raised.

The second morning was entirely dedicated to thematic sessions. All meeting participants took part in two of the four topic groups, discussing problems and situations that could be improved during future mass disasters. At morning’s end the group(s) outcomes and recommendations (Odontology/Pathology, DNA, Fingerprints and IT issues/DVI management) were presented in a plenary debriefing. Working Groups will work on the specific issues for future reference and present the results at the next meeting in 2006. A lot of odontology and pathology discussion was in relation to Quality Assurance; i.e. in teams, specialists and records. The point was made that IOFOS is now writing these Quality Guidelines which could serve as a base for future reference.

On the final day there were some individual presentations with case reports by IOFOS society members Eddy De Valck, Sven Benthaus and Claus Grundman. At the end of this 17th meeting of the DVI Interpol Standing Committee it was very obvious that DVI issues will never be the same after Tsunami and that there is an urgent need for reviewing some of the matters and ways mass disasters have been handled. The Interpol DVI Standing Committee, though, is ready to face this challenge.

Eddy De Valck, D.D.S eddy.de.valck@pandora.be
Chief Forensic Odontologist DVI Belgium, Vice president Scientific Interpol DVI SG
The chronicle of forensic odontology in Israel somehow reflects the history of the country. The State of Israel was declared in 1948 following 27 years of British occupation. Large-scale Jewish immigration to Palestine began in the late nineteenth century and swelled in the 1930s with refugees from Europe and Asian Muslim Countries. The opposition of the British government and the local Arab population to Jewish immigrations and the struggle to create the State resulted in various massacres and riots which marked the beginning of forensic sciences in Israel.

The main drive for the development of forensic odontology in Israel came from the military milieu (Israel Defence Force- IDF), where the necessity of dental identification of victims of various armed conflicts resulted in a large scale repository of dental data of military personnel recorded during enlistment. The Identification Unit of the IDF was created in 1973, following the Yom Kippur War with the creation of the first dental data-bank of the IDF, where “panoramic” radiograph of all recruits as well as Polaroid clinical photographs and written records were collected. This identification repository was complemented by fingerprints and currently, dry blood stains for DNA profiling are also being included.

During the decade of the 70s, various terrorist attacks against the civilian population, prompted the Israel National Police to create an odontology unit as part of the Division of Identification and Forensic Science. Two odontologists from the Hebrew University volunteered their services and in collaboration with the National Centre of Forensic Medicine aided in the identification of civilians.

In 1990, an identification laboratory including all necessary equipment for anthropological and dental identification was established in the National Centre of Forensic Medicine, this laboratory is managed in conjunction with the Division of Identification and Forensic Science of the Israel Police. Since then, all unidentified bodies and skeletal remains, as well as victims and perpetrators of terrorist attacks and military casualties, have undergone dental identification either by the forensic anthropologist, one of the military dentists or a police volunteer odontologist. Israeli citizens who perish overseas and their remains require identification prior to repatriation, have been identified by a joint military, medical and police team, immediately mobilized to the disaster scene. Furthermore, Jewish communities abroad have been assisted in the past by this team in mass fatality situations like terrorist bombings, earthquakes, and air crashes.

In 1999, the DIFS formally established a volunteer unit of 25 odontologists, which has been actively involved in the identification of victims of suicide bombings. Since the beginning of the “El Aqsa” uprising in October 2000 hundreds of victims and perpetrators have been examined at the National Centre of Forensic Medicine, about 15% of the cases are identified by dental data provided either by private odontologists or by the IDF repository.
Recently, the members of the volunteer odontology unit of the DIFS, as an organic part of the DVI unit of the Israel Police, participated in the identification of five of the seven victims of the Tsunami disaster in Thailand in 2004.

The Israeli DVI arrived in Thailand two days after the disaster and for a period of two weeks worked under extremely strenuous conditions. Together with teams from Canada, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan and volunteers from the UK and Chile, identified over 30 victims from all over the world. The Tsunami experience has taught the Israeli DVI team in general and the odontology unit in particular many valuable lessons. Presently the odontologists from the unit have switched to the INTERPOL DVI forms and codes which have been lately implemented during the identification of victims from a train collision and of a suicidal bombing.

Although no formal academic certification in forensic odontology is available at the present time in Israel, the hands-on experience of enrolled military and police volunteer odontologists has been instrumental in the identification of mass casualty victims in Israel.

Dr. T. Kahana, Ph.D
1. Division of Identification and Forensic Science, Israel National Police, Jerusalem, Israel.

Israel participating in Identification work in Phuket, Thailand
For more than 5300 years he was buried in his frozen tomb until one day the melting ice revealed him to an astonished world. Since then, Oetsi the Iceman, the world’s oldest and best preserved mummy, has fascinated us from his display case in an Italian museum.

In 1991, the German hiker Helmut Simon - coming down from a walk on a glacier in the Tyrolean Alps, noticed the head and shoulder of a body protruding from the ice. Since then, six of the people involved in examinations of Oetsi’s body have died unexpectedly. Only in April this year, Konrad Spindler (66), the head of the Iceman investigation team, died after having joked about being the next victim…

The first victim was Dr Rainer Henn (64), the head of the forensic team, who helped getting Oetsi out of the melting glacier ice. One year later, Dr Henn is killed in a car accident on his way to give a talk about the Iceman. The second to die was Kurt Fritz, the mountaineer who led Dr Henn and the rest of the team to the Iceman. Fritz died in an avalanche in a mountain he knew well, in unexpected bad weather. He was the only member of the party to die that day in 1993. The third victim was a leading Austrian journalist, Rainer Hoelzl, who filmed the removal of Oetsi’s corpse from the ice. He died in 2003 from a tumour. Helmut Simon, who discovered the Iceman, had not been back to Austria since then. He was receiving a reward for finding Oetsi. The same month he left his hotel in Salzburg for a mountain hike. An unexpected blizzard came over him and he never returned. His frozen body was found a week later in the same Alpine range as the Iceman was found. He had fallen 300 meters.

A spokesman for the Austrian rescue service said: “We only get one or two deaths a year from people caught in bad weather. For this to happen to the man who discovered the Iceman - and for his life to be claimed in the same way as that of his discovery - has caused a lot of people to take seriously the question of whether there might be a curse on those who moved the body.”

Dieter Warnecke, the young head of the mountain rescue team that lead the search for Simon, collapsed with a heart attack less that an hour after Simon was lowered into his grave.

Extract from an article in Daily Mail.
Call for the General Assembly in Hong Kong

Thursday, 25th August at 15.50. Room to be announced later

According to the Regulations of 1987 we have so far the following agenda:

1. Societies present. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the agenda
3. President’s report
4. Treasurer’s report
5. Decision of the fee for the national societies for 2005 - 2008
6. Report from the Editor of Newsletter
7. Report from the Editor of Journal of Forensic Odonto-Stomatology
8. Decision of a permanent position for the Editor.
9. Election of executive committee and auditor for the next three year period
10. Appointment of election committee
11. Supplementary instructions for member societies (Norway)
12. Supplementary instructions for the Ferdinand Strøm award (Norway)
13. The Ferdinand Strøm award
14. Guidelines for payment of forensic odontologists during international operations (South Africa)
15. Guidelines for international cooperation of odontologic experts after mass disasters (South Africa)
16. Future policy and tasks for the new executive committee.
17. Any other suggestion

* Each member society is called to IOFOS General Assembly and will have one vote each. A few societies have indicated their official representative.

* All interested forensic odontologists, member of a society or not are urged to meet and have the right to speak.

* Information on the room of the venue will be announced in the program in Hong Kong.

After the meeting we urge all those who have something to discuss to bring this to attention.

Supplementary instructions for IOFOS member societies.

Suggested supplementary instructions to be discussed and decided upon at the General Assembly in Hong Kong.

IOFOS is an organization of member societies. Therefore IOFOS will act through the member societies and each member society must accept a number of responsibilities to be a member of IOFOS.
1. A contract between IOFOS and the member society must be signed before the society is formally accepted as member of IOFOS.

2. All contact between IOFOS and each member society should be to the member society’s president/chairman.

3. The president/chairman of a member society has the duty to respond to any questions taken up by the IOFOS executive, preferably by e-mail.
   a. The responsibility can be delegated to another authorized person provided that IOFOS is informed.
   b. Failure to respond may result in exclusion.

4. A member society has the obligation to distribute information from Newsletter to its members.

5. A member society must once a year send a report on the activities to the editor of Newsletter. (This should be deleted form the Regulation § 3-c)

6. If nominated, a member society must accept to find candidates for the IOFOS executive.
   a. The individual candidates should announced to IOFOS at least 2 months before the next General Assembly

7. If nominated, a member society must accept to find candidates for the IOFOS election committee.

8. If nominated, a member society must accept to find candidates for the auditor function.

9. A member society must inform IOFOS at least one month before the General Assembly who will officially represent the society at the General Assembly.
   a. If the president will not be present, another member of the society can be authorized by the society’s president to talk and vote on behalf of the society.
   b. If no member of the society will be present, a forensic odontologist who is not member for the society can be authorized by the society’s president to talk and vote on behalf of the society

Tore Solheim solheim@odont.uio.no

Hong Kong
International Congress on Dental Law and Ethics in Florence

October, 20 – 22, 2005

Dear Colleagues,
we are pleased to inform you that the 6th Edition of the International Congress on Dental Law and Ethics, organized by IDEALS, ANDI and University of Florence, will take place in Florence, in October, 20-22, 2005.

The principal theme is the "Conflicts of Interest" that will be assessed in the relationship between the care givers and patients, among dental professionals and institutions, as well as those that arise in dental education and research. The congress will foster discussion on specific issues of dental ethics and law, including professionalism, informed consent and legal liability.

The Scientific Secretary strongly encourages the submission of abstracts for oral presentation or posters. Updated information regarding the scientific program, the abstract submission, the location and accommodation in Florence, etc. are available at the IDEALS website: www.ideals.ac. If you need details or help, - do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards
Federica Formichetti
Vilma Pinchi

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Dr. Vilma Pinchi, pinchi@unifi.it

From Florence
## Coming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| 21 – 26 August 2005   | IAFS (International Association of Forensic Sciences) 17th meeting in Hong Kong   | Website: [www.iafs2005.com](http://www.iafs2005.com)  
E-mail: iafs2005@govtlab.gov.hk  
Carl Leung  
carlleung@graduate.hku.hk |
| 20 – 22 October 2005  | IDEALS meeting in Florence, Italy                                                 | Contact: [pinchi@unifi.it](mailto:pinchi@unifi.it)  
| 15 – 16 May 2006      | in Leuven, Belgium "The international symposium on Craniofacial Reconstruction"  | Contact: [WWW.MFO.BE](http://WWW.MFO.BE) |
| 17 – 20 May 2006      | in Leuven, Belgium "The international symposium on Forensic Odontology"          | [WWW.MFO.BE](http://WWW.MFO.BE) |

Let’s build bridges between Forensic continents!