



Content

Message from the President	2
FASE Activities	2
☆ Forensic Anthropology Certification Process	2
FASE new Webpage	4
FASE presence at Forensic Meetings	4
6 th FASE Workshop on FA (Istanbul 2012)	4
FASE Session at the 22 nd IALM Congress	6
Summary of BAHID Conference	7
Forensic Anthropology News	8
☆ FORANTEN	8
FA Laboratories across Europe	9
SKIL at Teesside University (UK)	9
Calendar of upcoming event	10

Impressum

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD //

Dear FASE members,

The last Newsletter of 2012 looks back at the activities of this year and also carries big hopes for the success of new projects and ideas in the next.

In this issue, you will find reports about the latest FASE workshop and Congress session at the IALM Conference in July in Istanbul and about the BAHID meeting in December in Manchester. We are happy to announce the FASE webpage, which should be up and running in early 2013. We also hope that by April 2013 FORANTEN (Forensic Anthropology Training Network) will receive a positive feedback and a green light from the EU. The Network would help immensely in the implementation of several FASE goals in the European forensic anthropology practice. With this issue, we have started a series about forensic anthropology institutions in Europe. The Skeletal Investigation

Laboratory at Teesside University (UK) will be the first to introduce its facilities.

The topic of certification is once again alluded, including summaries from other existing certification processes. We hope that addressing this topic repeatedly will stimulate fruitful discussion on the implementation of certification in Europe.

As in the previous issue, we included a calendar of upcoming meetings and workshops that might be of interest to forensic anthropologists and related scientists.

We wish you a **happy and successful 2013!**

Editorial team





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this new triennium as FASE President, I am happy to announce that besides the presence of key members from the former direction, the board received new blood. This was a conscious bet since we believe that there is an important new generation of forensic anthropologists full of energy. We want to openly thank for the work of those members, who left the board, namely **Laurent Martrille**, **Jose Luis Prieto** and **Frank Ramsthaler**, who gave important contributions to the solidification of FASE.

The new board has been extended and includes now: **Yalçin Büyüük** (Turkey), **Cristina Cattaneo** (Italy), **Pierre Guyomarc'h** (France), **Niels Lynnerup** (Denmark), **Zuzana Obertová** (Slovakia), **Anja Petaros** (Croatia), **Melanie Ratnayake** (Germany), and myself. **Eric Baccino** (France), as the first FASE president remains a honorary member of the FASE Board.

The dynamic of the new Board can be witnessed in the **FORANTEN** project application, which was successfully submitted at the end of November. This was an important aim of FASE and I am particularly happy for the great job

accomplished during the project application. No doubt that the relations between several European institutions involved with forensic anthropology are now much stronger, independently of the results, which will be known by April 2013.

We continue to strive with regard to FASE presence at the main **forensic meetings** and to maintaining the organisation of both the **workshops** and advanced courses. Yet, another main goal is to start the **certification process**, a task started by the former FASE direction. After the vote at the FASE assembly, where the attendees agreed with majority, FASE feels now more legitimated and stronger to proceed with the certification in 2013.

Finally, I would like to announce the **new website of FASE**, which will be interactive and the main communication instrument to all the members. All of you are very well welcome to contribute with ideas and comments in order to make FASE grow in the proper direction.

Eugénia Cunha



FASE ACTIVITIES

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CERTIFICATION PROCESS //

As you already know, in 2010 FASE proposed to start a formal forensic anthropology certification process. The initiative has been discussed several times, and this Newsletter issue will be in part dedicated to it. We are going to summarize all that was said to date about the certification process, and to present other international models of certification. The proposed certification programme aims to enable standardization among forensic experts and allow their acceptance by international courts. Although the Certification will be open to all countries, it particularly aims to be adapted to the European reality.

// SHORT SUMMARY OF EXISTING CERTIFICATION SCHEMES AND PROPOSALS IN EUROPE AND WORLDWIDE

1 In **2012** there has been only one **active certification agency** for forensic anthropology – **the American Board of Forensic Anthropology (ABFA)**. ABFA has been established in 1977 with the aim to *encourage the study and practice of, establish and enhance standards for, and generally advance the science of forensic anthropology*.

The certification process has been revised several times during ABFA's existence, with the **most recent revision** having been approved in **July 2012**.

Three ABFA committees assess the professional record of education, training, experience and achievement of the applicants for certification:

- 1) the **Application Committee** consisting of of at least two individuals from the Board of Directors, which oversees the application process of candidates for certification up to the certification exam
- 2) the **Examination Committee** consisting of the Vice President and at least three members of the Board of Directors and/or Diplomates at Large, which is responsible for the

execution of the Certification Examination; and
3) the **Certification Committee** consisting of the Treasurer and at least two individuals from the Board of Directors, which oversees the recertification of Diplomates.

Potential candidates for certification need to have a **doctoral degree in anthropology** with an **emphasis in physical anthropology**, **three years of professional experience** in forensic anthropology after being awarded the degree, and submit **an application and associated documentation** (in English). The applicant also needs to **suggest the three individuals**, who will each send a **letter of recommendation** to the Application Committee Chair of the ABFA.

THE FULL APPLICATION WOULD INCLUDE:

- a) A copy of the **applicant's doctoral diploma**;
- b) A copy of the **applicant's curriculum vitae**;
- c) **Three forensic case files** with supporting documents that have been submitted to a medical examiner, coroner, or a law enforcement agency by the applicant.

Successful applicants must sit **comprehensive written and practical examination** within three years. After successfully completing the examination, the applicant will qualify as a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology and will be issued with a Certificate of Qualification in forensic anthropology.

The Certificate is valid for a period of three consecutive years and may be renewed in accordance with the recertification program. Fixed fees are associated with the application, examination and recertification.

The candidates for **recertification** must undertake a minimum of **30 hours of continuing education in forensic anthropology** during the three years as ABFA Diplomates. The education activities may include attendance of regional, national and international meetings related to forensic anthropology and journal study. In addition, the Diplomates must document **current involvement in one or more of forensic anthropology activities**, such as forensic anthropology casework, court testimony, consultative appointments, research and publications in forensic anthropology or related fields, and teaching and lectures on topics related to forensic anthropology or similar disciplines.

There are currently about **75 Diplomates certified by ABFA**, coming mostly from the USA and Canada. However, ABFA has recently **opened the certification process to candidates who are not permanent residents** of the United States or Canada. Potential applicants may petition the Board of Directors for a waiver to be considered for the certification examination.

More information on ABFA : <http://www.theabfa.org/>

2 In the USA, **SWGANTH** (Scientific Working Group for Forensic Anthropology) has published several documents on their webpage regarding **best practice in forensic anthropology**, including *qualifications, proficiency testing, quality assurance, documentation, methodology, and codes of ethics and conduct*. It has also recently initiated a **debate about accreditation for forensic anthropology laboratories** in the USA.

More information on SWGANTH: <http://www.swganth.org/>

3 **4** Certification initiatives are underway in the **UK** and in **South America**.

Some details about the **UK certification process** can be glimpsed from the "Summary from BAHID meeting" on **pages 7-8** of this Newsletter. However, since the process has not been officially ratified yet, we need to wait until next year for more information.

5 In addition, the **GfA** (Gesellschaft für Anthropologie) in **Germany** has recently started a certification process of **freelance osteoarchaeologists**. The certification is based on a **scoring system** and the applications are assessed by a **three-member expert panel** of experienced osteoarchaeologists. The score is calculated from points assigned for **education background, experience with evaluation and excavation of historic skeletal series, research experience and publication list**. The candidates need to **submit two examples of their work** in the form of reports and also summarise the methods they use for analysis.

More information on GfA : <http://www.gfanet.de/>

6 In December 2011 **Council of the European Union** published "**Council conclusions on the vision for European Forensic Science 2020 including the creation of a European Forensic Science Area and the development of forensic science infrastructure in Europe**", which highlights the importance of **accreditation of forensic science institutes and laboratories** and the establishment of **Europe-wide best practice manuals** and **conducting proficiency tests** at international level. The document addresses the need for information exchange between forensic sciences and law enforcement, particularly the need for establishing and sharing databases with high-quality data, and the need *to broaden confidence in the recognition of the equivalence of each others' standards for the collection, processing, use and delivery of forensic data, by making these transparent so as to identify the common minimum quality conditions under which such data can be acceptable for use by police and judicial authorities*.

The paper states that **European Forensic Science Area should be created by 2020**, in *which routine forensic processes for the collection, processing, use and delivery of forensic data will be based on equivalent minimum forensic science standards, and in which forensic service providers will work on the basis of a common approach to implementation of these standards that fosters closer cooperation between them and the criminal justice systems*.

More information : http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/126875.pdf



// PROPOSED FASE/IALM CERTIFICATION SCHEME

The current **FASE vision** includes: establishing a certification scheme for forensic anthropologists, supporting cooperation between European research institutions, and improving the quality of methods and data used in forensic anthropology,

which is in agreement with the recent developments in the European Union (as mentioned above).

The FASE/IALM certification scheme has been already introduced in the previous Newsletter but for the purpose of refreshing our memory and for the benefit of new members it is **again summarised below**.

FASE proposes the **International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM)** to be the certifying agency, with FASE being the executive party. The proposed certification is intended to enable standardization among forensic experts and allow their acceptance by international courts. Although the certification will be open to all countries, it particularly aims to be adapted to the European reality, in which forensic anthropology is being practised by specialists with various backgrounds, such as physical anthropologists, medical doctors, and biologists.

The accreditation will be performed by a **committee of 6**

FASE/IALM members from the USA and Europe, with the President or deputy member of the FASE Board always being part of the Committee. **Updating** will be required every 5 years.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASKED TO PRESENT THE COMMITTEE WITH:

- **Curriculum Vitae** (including years of experience and education background)
- **Three case reports** (including supporting documentation, such as notes, photos, raw data, and authentic expertise requests from courts). The case reports will undergo a peer review.
- **Two reference letters** (referees **not** to be selected by the applicant)
- **Copy of the diploma**

All documentation should be provided in English.

Three Certification levels have been proposed based on qualifications achieved at the time of application. The levels have been adapted from the document on Qualifications by the U.S. SWGANTH (Scientific Working Group for Forensic Anthropology).

● **LEVEL 1** - Undergraduate, BSc, MA, MS, in physical anthropology or related fields plus participation at a forensic anthropology workshop.

● **LEVEL 2** - recent PhD or MD graduate with significant education in Forensic Anthropology. The PhD has to be in physical/biological anthropology or closely related fields with significant emphasis on forensic anthropology, human osteology, skeletal biology, human variation, human anatomy, and/or statistics.

● **LEVEL 3** - PhD in forensic anthropology or closely related discipline or MD with specialization in forensic pathology/legal medicine, with a minimum of 5 years post PhD/MD case experience nominated by judges or by other experts nominated by them (when applicable).

Currently, no **examination** has been proposed. Whether **fees** will be attached to the certification process will be specified at a later stage.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

SOON: An **online survey** focusing on the certification process will be sent out to FASE members early next year.



FASE NEW WEBPAGE //

FASE will get its own website

<http://forensicanthropology.eu>

The number of FASE members is growing each year and the interest in forensic anthropology has exploded in the past few years. Therefore FASE would like to expand its outreach to the scientific community and the public by launching our own website. The website will contain **news & announcement** section, a **forum** and also **information** regarding workshops, conferences and continuing education opportunities for forensic anthropologists and related scientists. The **forum** is intended to be a platform for exchanging information and opinions about "hot" topics as well as everyday interests of our forensic community.

The new website <http://forensicanthropology.eu> will go live early next year.



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

The screenshot shows the IALM website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'YTD' and search options. The main header features the IALM logo and the text 'The International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM) founded in 1938 (in Bonn, Germany)'. Below the header, there are two columns of content. The left column is a vertical menu with items like 'Message from the President', 'History & Statutes', 'Presidium', 'Presidents', 'Members & Membership', 'Meetings', 'Forensic Atlas', 'Photo Gallery', 'Scientific Journals', 'Scientific Articles & Protocols', 'Scientific Research', 'World Forensic Systems', and 'Societies'. The right column contains news articles, including 'FASE NEWS (20/10/2011): The events organized by FASE at the 19th IAFS meeting, last September, in Madeira were a success...' and 'FASE announcement regarding Haiti: FASE wants to express its solidarity with the people of Haiti and manifest availability to work in the field with governmental and international humanitarian associations...'. At the bottom of the screenshot, a purple banner reads 'The former FASE web section in the IALM webpage'.

FASE PRESENCE AT FORENSIC MEETINGS //

// LOOKING BACK 6th FASE WORKSHOP ON FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY in ISTANBUL

From **30 June to 4 July 2012** FASE organised the **40-hour workshop in forensic anthropology** in Istanbul (Turkey). The workshop took place immediately before the 22nd Congress of the International Association of Legal Medicine (IALM), giving the participants the opportunity to combine these two events. As in the previous years, the workshop was well attended,

with **26 participants** from **8 countries**. The majority of participants came from France and Turkey, but there were several participants from non-European countries, such as UAE, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. Slovenia, Romania and Russia were also represented. The participants came from diverse backgrounds, including physical anthropology, archaeology and forensic pathology.

The workshop has been designed to provide not only theoretical lectures about topics, such as **biological profile, time since death, personal identification and cause and manner of death**, but also practical sessions related to these topics.

The lecturers this year were Prof. *Douglas Ubelaker* (USA), Prof. *Eugénia Cunha* (Portugal), Prof. *Cristina Cattaneo* (Italy), Prof. *Eric Baccino* (France), Assoc. Prof. *Yalçın Büyük* (Turkey), Dr. *Laurent Matrille* (France), and Dr. *Zuzana Obertová* (Slovakia).

The **forensic anthropology laboratory of Adli Tip Kurumu** (The Council of Forensic Medicine) has been very well equipped and provided an authentic environment for analysis of skeletal remains. The participants benefited from the possibility to work with **skeletons from known forensic cases** so they could directly test their theoretical knowledge acquired from the lectures. The lecturers were present during the practical sessions in order to explain specific details related to the cases and also to answer any questions from the participants.



One of the practical sessions included a **demonstration of a facial reconstruction technique** by Dr. *A. Sadi Çağdır*. Some students had the possibility to attempt facial reconstructions of their own based on Dr. Çağdır's instructions.

On the last day, the participants took a knowledge **quiz** so they could evaluate what they had learned. The workshop was closed by Prof. Cunha, who handed out Certificates of Attendance to the participants.

Thanks to the **wonderful organisation by Dr. Büyük and his staff**, as well as the enthusiastic participants and lecturers, the FASE workshop was once again a success and we look forward to the next basic workshop in 2014.

Below you can read two reviews on the workshops written by the participants.



The theoretical and practical sessions of the 6th FASE Workshop on Forensic Anthropology

Demonstration of facial reconstruction technique by Dr. A. Sadi Çağdır

From the pen of the attendees....

I really had a wonderful and very informative experience during the Anthropology Workshop in Istanbul. First of all having this workshop in Istanbul gave it a nice flare which matched the subject of the workshop. It was somehow like travelling back in time, smelling spices in the bazaar, enjoying exotic Turkish delicacies, smoking nargile then have a walk through the historical alleys of the Ottoman Empire.

The workshop was held in Istanbul's ATK (Council of Forensic Medicine). This location was optimal for such workshop, as there was enough space and good audio-visuals. In addition they had an interesting collection of anthropological specimens. The workshop was a combination of lectures and practical sessions. I learned about up-to-date concepts and methods of various aspects of forensic anthropology. As a forensic pathologist at the Institute of Legal Medicine in Cologne (Germany) I deal with many cases of human remains. In this workshop I was introduced to different methods such as age and sex estimation, which helped me a lot when I went back. I even discovered the potential of facial reconstruction using wax which became my new "hobby". The instructors were professionals, well prepared and answered all my questions.

The only difficulty I faced was the relatively long distance from my accommodation and workshop's location. In this workshop I had the pleasure of spending some time with several members and participants of the workshop and enjoyed the wonderful city. I also will never forget the Turkish generosity and hospitality; the Turkish colleagues/organisers were more than helpful during the workshop and afterwards. They invited us to the best restaurants and traditional cafes and made us see Istanbul from another perspective.

by Khaled Al-Beraiki (UAE; Germany)

During the forensic anthropology session at the 19th International Association of Forensic Science (IAFS) triennial meeting in Madeira (Portugal) in 2011, I heard about the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE) and the 6th FASE workshop on forensic anthropology. Currently I am a PhD student in physical anthropology in Bordeaux, so I thought that attending the FASE workshop would be a great opportunity to deepen my poor knowledge in this domain. Seeing the completeness of the programme (40-hour course) associated with the professional reputation of the teaching staff I decided to register for the workshop in Istanbul.

The courses were held on five consecutive days mixing sessions of lectures and of practical work, and took place at the ATK (Council of Forensic Medicine) premises in Istanbul. Practical work and forensic cases were studied in small groups of three or four participants with a constant participation of the teaching staff.

Having a background in physical anthropology, and according to the others workshop participants who are specialists in other disciplines (pathology, dentistry, etc.), the courses were comprehensive and accessible for students with different backgrounds. From my point of view, this workshop was very interesting because it allowed me to practice on forensic cases several methodologies that I have studied during my academic studies, to discuss cases with other participants, and to confirm our reasoning under the supervision of renowned experts. It was a rich experience both from a professional and personal point of view.

During this 40-hour course, I have learned a lot about forensic anthropology, but I also realized that I still have much to learn. That is why I have decided to attend the next FASE workshop in Germany, which focuses on postmortem interval estimation.

by Vanessa Urzel (France)



Participants and lecturers of the FASE Basic Workshop on Forensic Anthropology

// FASE SESSION AND ASSEMBLY AT THE 22ND CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL MEDICINE (IALM) IN ISTANBUL

FASE organised a morning session in Forensic Anthropology on the second day of the Congress.

There were more than **20 presentations** given in the session. The most common topics were **personal identification**, including **age and sex estimation** from human remains, **trauma analysis** and **decomposition** or time since death determination. **Current developments towards using new technologies**, particularly imaging and microscopic techniques were discussed in several presentations. Interestingly, most of the presenters came from Mediterranean and Balkan countries, but some came from as far as China and the USA.

Following the session, FASE members and interested scientists



Opening of the Forensic Anthropology Session

came together for the **FASE assembly** chaired by the former and current President **Prof. Eugénia Cunha**. Prof. Cunha summarised the activities of FASE in the last two years. She **highlighted the certification initiative** and asked for votes regarding the implementation of the certification by FASE/IALM. The majority agreed with initiating certification for forensic anthropologists in Europe but some issues were raised regarding the process. Therefore FASE decided to undertake a **survey among FASE members** in order to clarify their concerns. Additionally, the process is again outlined in this Newsletter along with a short summary of other certification initiatives around the world. The members also put in their votes for the next FASE President and Board members.

THE NEW BOARD INCLUDES:

Eugénia Cunha as President, Cristina Cattaneo as Vice-President, Yalçın Büyüük (Turkey), Pierre Guyomarc'h (France), Niels Lynnerup (Denmark), Zuzana Obertová (Slovakia), Anja Petaros (Croatia), and Melanie Ratnayake (Germany).

Even though the Assembly was a bit rushed due to the tight schedule of the meeting, it was well attended and the most important issues were satisfactorily addressed.



The Forensic Anthropology oral session at the 22nd IALM Congress



Any ideas, comments and suggestions that would have come to mind after the Assembly can be addressed to the Board via email (cunhae@ci.uc.pt; fase.fase@gmail.com) or soon through the forum on the new FASE website (<http://forensicanthropology.eu>).

OVERVIEW ON THE 22ND CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL MEDICINE IN ISTANBUL

The **22nd IALM Congress** held at the Halic Congress Centre in Istanbul gathered a large number of forensic scientists and practitioners. The Congress was divided in two parts: one dedicated to **workshops** (from 30th June to 4th July) and the second to the **poster and oral presentations** (from 5th July to 7th July). The sessions were dedicated to a variety of forensic topics: forensic toxicology, forensic pathology and histopathology, clinical forensic medicine including child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse and domestic violence, forensic odontology, forensic anthropology, human rights, forensic imaging, individual identification, molecular pathology, and medical malpractice. The program was very rich and demanding with more than **250 oral presentations** and **800 submitted poster presentations**. Some sessions, like the forensic anthropology one, have attracted more attention and public than the others, and thanks to interested audience brought to lively and constructive discussions.

Although the great international participation turned the event into a **massive and successful forensic and scientific gathering**, there were also a couple of drawbacks to it. **Firstly**, there was quite a high number of presentations did not take place due to the absence of the speakers. For example in the *Human Rights* session, the absence of several speakers had a negative effect on the quality of the whole session. Also, participants interested in particular presentations missed these due to the shifts in the schedule caused by the absent speakers. This inconvenience could have been overcome by timely communication of the absence of the speakers. There

were certainly poster presentations that could have been turned into oral ones and presented in the open time slots in order to increase the quality of the sessions.

Secondly, the poster session was overwhelming, with a huge number of posters and very little time to view these. Posters were presented on digital boards, which was very innovative, but at the same time the manner in which they were presented precluded any possibility to discuss their contents with the authors.

These critical comments are not meant to diminish the great efforts put into the organization of the event and its ultimate success, but will hopefully serve as a suggestion in order to **improve the communication between scientists and the quality of future meetings**.



From the opening ceremony of the 22nd IALM Congress- Istanbul 2012

// SUMMARY OF BAHID CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER AND FASE PRESENCE AT THE CONFERENCE

BAHID (British Association for Human Identification) hosts two annual conferences: a larger conference in the spring and a smaller conference in the autumn, the latter targeted at student presentations.

This **December conference** was held in the city of **Manchester 7th – 9th December 2012** and had many exciting student

presentations on the Saturday, both oral and poster. The subject material focused on **biometrics and forensic anthropology** and ranged from **facial recognition**, **identification from dorsal vein analysis**, **blunt and sharp force trauma**, **stable isotopes**, **gait analysis**, **decomposition rates**, **forensic jewelry and age**, **sex and stature estimations**. Participants were predominantly

**Advances in
Human ID**

BAHID 2012 Winter Conference
Incorporating BAFA Meeting

7th – 9th December 2012

Chancellors Hotel & Conference Centre



In association with our kind sponsors:



BAHID 2012 Winter Conference Programme

of Boneparte Software” (Dr. Carla van Dongen, NFI, The Hague) and a second workshop **“Post-Mortem Interval Estimation”**(Dr. Tal Simmons and Peter Cross, University of Central Lancashire). The latter workshop was unfortunately cancelled last minute.

Lastly, it can be mentioned that it was discussed within BAHID that the two annual conferences will be combined to a **single annual conference**, commencing 2013.

The BAFA meeting Sunday morning agenda was the accreditation process for forensic anthropology in the UK.

The agenda was divided into a discussion of three central documents:

- 1) **Forensic Anthropology Practitioner Levels** presented by *Gaille MacKinnon*
- 2) **Code of Practice, Ethics and Professional Standards** in Forensic Anthropology presented by *Caroline Wilkinson*, and
- 3) **Continuing Professional Development for Forensic Anthropology and Aligned Professionals** presented by *Lucina Hackman*.

This accreditation process is supported by the **Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI)** which will be the overall governing body.

Progress to date within BAHID is **an agreement for an accreditation system** within the UK, the support thereof from its members and with **RAI agreeing to act as overall governing body**. The process has reached the end of the consultation process from its members for paper drafts. By

from the UK with additional representations from Holland, Denmark, Greece, Norway and Canada. Generous student prizes were given to the best oral and poster presentation. The presentations led to lively debates and discussions in the evening.

The **BAFA** (British Association for Forensic Anthropology) meeting was conducted on the morning of **Sunday 9th December** and followed by two workshops: **“DNA Identification of DVI Incident – the use**

the end of 2012 this will be sent for approval and ratification by RAI.

The next step will be to establish the examination process.

It is proposed that there will be **three levels of Forensic Anthropology Practitioner: FA I, FA II and FA III**.

- Entry into **FA I** will be via **portfolio review**, supported by **two letters of reference**.

- Entry into **FA II** will be by **written and practical examination**.

- Entry to **FA III** will be by **case review and interview based viva voce examination**.

In addition all levels will be assessed for work and other professionally relevant experience. Case reviews are not limited to UK cases; international case work is equally welcomed.

There was some **discussion** of the transition from one level to another, particularly from level II to III. In addition the peer-review process was asked to be clarified. It was not intended that this should be an anonymous process, but rather as open networking within the community for case review with an appropriate understanding of the sensitivity of case work and the need for non-disclosure of case identification details for confidentiality purposes.

Discussion was also raised concerning the consequences of failing exam upon the potential member. Current practice with the ABFA (American Board of Forensic Anthropology) was to be investigated.

It was reiterated that this **accreditation is for guidance to the courts and police systems to assess validity of practitioners** for expert witness duties, and as such should not have consequences to the academic work and qualifications. Lastly a discussion arose concerning the difficulties to agree within a country with different jurisdictions such as between England, Wales and Scotland as well as internationally. This is equally applicable for review of case reports, report writing and duties as expert witness.

As **FASE** is pursuing a similar accreditation system for forensic anthropology in Europe it was a positive experience to see BAHID so advanced in their accreditation process. Additionally, to date there are no unresolved issues between members or executors alike. It is noteworthy to the FASE process, that when FASE is pursuing this across Europe with the difficulties arising from a multitude of differences in laws, duties of expert witness, case presentation, burden of evidence and jurisdictions, the UK likewise has a difference of jurisdictions between England and Wales and Scotland.

by Charlie Primeau & Niels Lynnerup
Unit of Forensic Anthropology
University of Copenhagen

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

FORANTEN //

22 November 2012 was the day with capital D for a dedicated group of people who had been working for several months on the application for the Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN) call **FP7-PEOPLE-2013-ITN**. The proposed Training Network has been entitled **FORANTEN** (FORensic ANthropology Training Network).

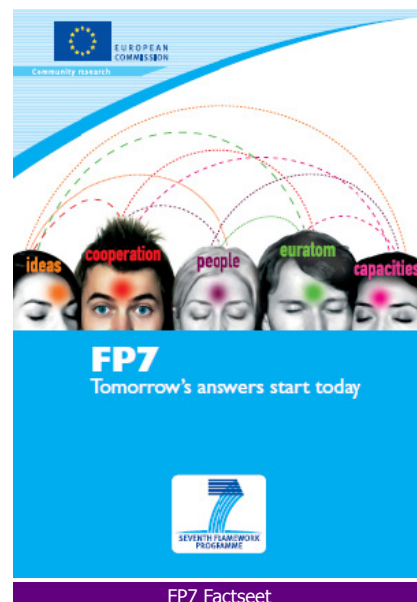
What started as an idea of Eugénia Cunha and Pierre Guyomarc’h

a couple of years ago, had first been shaped into an application by **Pierre, Anja Petaros and Zuzana Obertová**. The application has then been **finalised by the main coordinator—the Department of Physical Anthropology Aix-Marseille Université** (France) with **Dr. Pascal Adalian** and doctoral students **Emeline Verna and Louise Corron**, who have worked tirelessly to submit the application on time.

However, the application process would not have been successful without the commitment from all the partner institutions and their leading scientists:

- **Department of Physical Anthropology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona** (Spain) with **Dr. Assumpció Malgosa**;
- **Centro de Ciências Forense Coimbra** (Portugal) with **Prof. Eugénia Cunha**;
- **Centre of Anatomy and Human Identification, University of Dundee** (UK) with **Prof. Sue Black**;
- **Laboratorio di Anthropologia e Odontologia Forense, Università degli Studi di Milano** (Italy) with **Prof. Cristina Cattaneo**;
- **Institut de Recherche Criminelle de la Gendarmerie Nationale, Rosny-sous-Bois** (France) with **Dr. Yves Schuliar**;
- **TPLD Ltd.**, Dundee (UK) with **Jim Piggott**;
- **Department of Forensic Odontology, University Bordeaux 2** (France) with **Dr. Christophe Bou**;
- **Department of Anthropology, Comenius University Bratislava** (Slovakia) with **Dr. Radoslav Beňuš**;
- **Unit of Forensic Anthropology, University of Copenhagen** (Denmark) with **Dr. Niels Lynnerup**;
- **Edinburgh Unit for Forensic Anthropology, University of Edinburgh** (UK) with **Dr. Elena Kranjoti**;
- **Department of Anthropology and Human Genetics, Charles University Praha** (Czech Republic) with **Dr. Jana Velemínska**;
- **Skeletal Investigation Laboratory, Teesside University**, Middlesbrough (UK) with **Dr. Tim Thompson**;
- **Croatian Academy of Sciences and Art-Anthropological Centre Zagreb** (Croatia) with **Prof. Mario Šlaus**;
- **Studio Legale D'Auria**, Milan (Italy) with **Dr. Luca D'Auria**;
- **Società Lombardia' di Archeologia**, Milan (Italy) with **Carla Pagani** and **Dominic Salsarola**;
- and **dHal**, Kifissia (Greece) with **Dr. Demetrios Halazonetis**.

FORANTEN managed to bring together experts in forensic anthropology, pathology, archaeology, biology, legal personnel and information technology providers from public research organisations, private companies and the French Military Police, which is extremely valuable not only with respect to diversified training opportunities but it also enables implementation of international multi-disciplinary research projects.



FORANTEN'S GOALS ARE:

1) to offer a multi-faceted training for the next generation of forensic anthropologists, **2)** to undertake cutting-edge research into topics highly relevant for current forensic anthropology practice, **3)** to establish guidelines for forensic anthropology practice, **4)** to initiate the European Forensic Anthropology Database, and **5)** to facilitate a sustainable network of experts and institutions in order to strengthen European forensic anthropology.

FASE believes that this project would immensely boost training capacities and research collaborations in forensic anthropology. We hope that the joint effort of leading forensic anthropology institutions in Europe to improve training and employment opportunities for forensic anthropologists will be recognised and supported by the EU.

Congratulations to all involved for their vision and hard work put into FORANTEN!
Let's keep our fingers crossed for a favourable result!

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORIES ACROSS EUROPE //

From this issue onwards a section will be dedicated to the **presentation of Forensic Anthropology Laboratories across Europe**. We believe that networking, communication and collaboration between forensic practitioners and specialists is fundamental for the development of the discipline and its incorporation in the everyday forensic practice, and this section aims at helping to achieve this by providing information about institutes that focus on research and education in forensic anthropology and related forensic disciplines. The **first facility to be introduced** is the **Skeletal Investigation Laboratory (SKIL)** of the School of Science and Engineering at Teesside University (UK), which is also one of the partners in FORANTEN. We are grateful to Dr. Tim Thomson for providing a description of SKIL at a short notice.

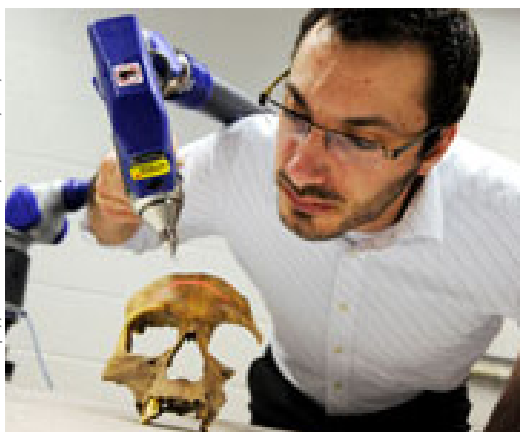
// SKELETAL INVESTIGATION LABORATORY (SKIL) OF THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING AT TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY

Our combined work on the FORANTEN bid has shown that there is an impressive range of expertise across the continent, combined with a genuine desire to pool our resources to do some real lasting good. With that in mind, we'd like to thank those working on the FASE newsletter for the opportunity to present our lab and research group to the rest of the membership.

The **Skeletal Investigation Laboratory (SKIL)** is a research group whose focus lies in understanding the nature

of bone. Our focus is largely (but not exclusively) on the use of **advanced analytical methods to study bone** and **how bone changes in a variety of modern contexts**.

We have a number of **on-going research projects** with collaborators in the UK and Europe and have PhD students and external researchers undertaking their work here, and we have pulled in funding from a range of bodies. Staff within the SKIL undertake a **range of forensic and medico-legal casework**



source: <http://www.tees.ac.uk/schools/sse/>

Intense work going on at the Skeletal Investigation Laboratory (SKIL) at the School of Science and Engineering- Teesside University
- copyright of Judy Hume, Teesside University -

and consultancies, and we are a **key member of the North East Bio Anthropology Research Network** (www.theposthole.org/read/article/141) which draws together anthropologists from the seven universities in the NE England.

The **SKIL** is base in the **School of Science & Engineering at Teesside University. TU** (www.tees.ac.uk) is the second largest university in the north-east of England, with a student population of around 29,000 students and over 2,300 members of staff.

TU has won several awards over the last three years including the prestigious Times Higher Education University of the Year 2009-10. The School itself (www.tees.ac.uk/schools/sse/) runs a **number of forensic and crime scene undergraduate and postgraduate degrees**, and we are regarded as one of the best universities in the UK for these subjects because of our specialist staff, superb facilities and successful industrial partnerships.

Forensic anthropology is taught within these degrees, and all of our degrees are accredited by the Forensic Science Society, the professional body for the forensic sciences in the UK. Our group also has links with the **Centre for Forensic Investigation** which plays a key role in developing research and education at both national and international levels in crime scene science, forensic science, forensic investigation and disaster management.

Over the last five years, we at Teesside have developed a range of **analytical methodologies which focus on the study of bone**. Our particular interest is on the **examination and measurement of taphonomic and diagenetic change**. In particular we look at the effect of **decomposition**, of **burning**, and of **aquatic submersion**. To do this we use a range of techniques, including **GC, GC-MS, ICP-MS, FTIR, DGGE and PCR, and SEM**, which allow us to look at fatty acid composition, microbial communities, bone microstructure and crystallinity, and the elemental composition of bone.

We also argue that forensic anthropology is not merely a collection of sterile analytical techniques and it does not function in a legal, ethical or social vacuum. Thus we also research the **ethical and legal issues concerning forensic anthropology**, of the issues of **accreditation and standardisation**, of the issues surrounding the commercial exploitation of forensic knowledge, of the nature of expertise, of the role of the media, and of the ramifications of working in/with the subject.

We would be delighted to welcome any of our FASE colleagues to our lab and University, whether it be for teaching or research exchanges, or simply because you're in our neck of the woods. I think we are about to enter a very excited period of cross-European collaboration and we are looking forward to contributing to this.

If you would like any further details, such as of our publications, then do get in touch (t.thompson@tees.ac.uk). All the best to you all from the north-east of England!

by Tim Thompson
School of Science & Engineering, Teesside University



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2013

February

18.-23.02.

AAFS 65th Anniversary Meeting
Forensic Sciences: Founded on Observation and Experience, Improved by Education and Research
Washington DC, USA
<http://www.aafs.org/aafs-2013-annual-meeting>

March

11.03.

Crime Scene Analysis and Victim Identification Forum (This inaugural crime scene identification forum will comprise of expert speakers on different aspects of crime scene forensic examination.
London, UK
<http://www.lifescienceevents.com> ; enquiries@euroscicon.com

WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2013

January

07.-08.01.

2-Day Intensive Forensic Anthropology Methods
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY , DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY- FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER
San Marcos, USA
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/2daymethods.html>

11.01.

Identifying Human vs. Non-human Bone
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY , DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY- FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER
San Marcos, USA
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/nonhuman.html>

MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2013

March

12.03.

2nd Annual Forum for Disaster Victim Identification (This annual networking forum gathers together experts in DVI to discuss current legislation and techniques involved in DVI).

London, UK

<http://www.lifescienceevents.com> ; enquiries@euroscicon.com

13.03.

International Forum for Mass Grave Victim Identification (The 2013 Inaugural International Forum will comprise of expert talks and plenty of networking opportunities).

London, UK

<http://www.lifescienceevents.com> ; enquiries@euroscicon.com

18.-19.03.

AGFAD (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Forensische Altersdiagnostik)

Berlin, Germany

<http://agfad.uni-muenster.de/english/start.htm>

April

09.-13.04.

The 82nd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists

Knoxville, Tennessee

<http://www.physanth.org/annual-meeting/82nd-annual-meeting-2013>

10.-13.04.

10th Meeting of the European Association for Forensic Entomology (EAFE)

Coimbra, Portugal

<http://www.eafe2013.inml.mj.pt/index.htm>

May

13.-14.05.

2013 2nd Congress of the International Society of Forensic Radiology and Imaging (ISFRI)

Zurich, Switzerland

<http://www.isfri.org>

June

24.-28.06.

Eighth International Society for Applied Biological Sciences Conference on Forensic, Anthropologic and Medical Genetics

Split, Croatia

<http://www.isabs.hr/>

27.-28.06.

5th Scientific Meeting of Spanish Association of Forensic Anthropology and Odontology

Verin, Spain

http://www.sepaf.net78.net/documentos/5_reunion_antropologia.pdf

August

29.-31.08.

International Congress of I.O.F.O.S., Forensic Odontology

Florence, Italy

<http://congress.iofos.eu/>

WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2013

January

08.01.-15.02.

Otago Summer School

New Zealand

www.otago.ac.nz/summerschool

February

04.-08.02.

Forensic Facial Reconstruction Sculpture

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY- FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER

San Marcos, USA

<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/forensic-art.html>

March

18.-19.03.

9th Virtopsy Basic Course

Zurich, Switzerland

20.-22.03.

9th Virtopsy Basic Course

Zurich and Lausanne, Switzerland

<http://www.virtopsy.com/index.php/courses/upcoming-courses>

23.-24.03.

Two-Day Human Remains Recovery

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY- FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER

San Marcos, USA

<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/2daybodyrecovery.html>

April

27.04.-03.05.

Contemporary Forensic Anthropology and Death Investigation Techniques: Field Recovery, Evidence collection and Identification

BORWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA

info@fociforensics.com

May

20.-24.05.

TEEX Skeletal Death Investigation Course

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY- FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER

San Marcos, USA

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

28.-31.05.

Field Methods

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER

Knoxville, USA

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

June

03.-07.06.

10.-14.06.

Outdoor Recovery Course

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER

Knoxville, USA

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

03.-07.06.

Human Remains Recovery Course

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF

MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2013

October

07.-10.10.

The 11th Indo Pacific Association of Law, Medicine and Science Congress 2013 (INPALMS 2013)
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
<http://inpalms.org/>

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

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



(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 2013

June

ANTHROPOLOGY- FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER
San Marcos, USA
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/fieldrecovery.html>

03.-07.06.

26th Annual NMHM Forensic Anthropology Course - Formerly AFIP Course
Baltimore, Maryland, USA
<http://www.cvent.com/events/26th-annual-nmhm-forensic-anthropology-course-formerly-afip-course/custom-21-ff541839a93740aa86a504d0114ab790.aspx>

10.-12.06.

Forensic Taphonomy
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY- FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER
San Marcos, USA
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/taphonomy.html>

17.-21.06.

Human Identification
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER
Knoxville, USA
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

17.-21.06.

Forensic Anthropology Methods
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY- FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER
San Marcos, USA
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/fieldrecovery.html>

24.-28.06.

Forensic Taphonomy
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER
Knoxville, USA
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

July

08.-12.07.

Human Osteology
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY- FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER
San Marcos, USA
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/Osteology.html>

September

DATE TO BE SPECIFIED

Advanced FASE Workshop on PMI
Heidelberg and Mannheim, Germany
detailed information will be available in the next FASE Newsletter

ADDITIONAL COURSES (INFORMATION FOR 2013 NOT YET AVAILABLE):

- <http://www.lifesci.dundee.ac.uk/cahid/courses>
- <http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/contracted-services/forensic-sciences/short-courses-in-forensic-anthropology/>
- <http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/cds/shortcourses/forensicarchaeologyanthropology.html>