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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD //

Dear FASE members,

the second issue of the FASE Newsletter is finally here! It's been a year since the first Newsletter, so we have a lot to report about past, present and future FASE activities.

This issue starts with a section dedicated to **FASE activities**. First, we introduce new developments in the **Forensic Anthropology Certification Programme**. Since the certification process is still a "hot" topic, FASE wishes to invite you to actively participate in the ongoing discussion about this initiative. You can email us or join us personally at the FASE assembly at the IALM Congress in Istanbul on 6 July 2012. At the assembly, you will also have the opportunity to elect the new FASE board.

Next, you learn more about FASE involvement in the **FP7 MEPROCS project** and also about the planned **FORANTEN** project with the exciting opportunities they will bring for our field. Being independent from FASE, but in accordance with its goals, the FORANTEN project is

presented in the "**Forensic Anthropology News**" section. From now on we will include this section to provide you with the latest news regarding forensic anthropology projects, regardless of FASE involvement.

In the "**FASE activities**" section you can find information about upcoming FASE workshops, such as the FASE workshop on forensic anthropology held in Istanbul from 30 June to 4 July 2012, and the advanced PMI workshop in Germany (planned for September 2013). We look forward to seeing you there!

We also look back to the wonderful time at the **IALM meeting in Funchal** (Madeira) last year with facts and pictures from the forensic anthropology session and FASE workshops.

Last pages are dedicated to the "**Calendar of upcoming events**", in which we present a list of future events related to forensic anthropology planned for the 2012 and 2013.

It is our hope that the FASE Newsletter will become an **interactive platform** not only for FASE members and the Board but also for scientists and students involved in the field of forensic anthropology.

We would like to encourage you to **contribute to the next issue** by sending us short reviews on past workshops and

meetings, information on forthcoming events, projects and job opportunities for forensic anthropologists.

We look forward to your comments, suggestions and particularly your contributions to the next FASE Newsletter.

Thank you!

The Editorial Board of the FASE Newsletter

FASE ACTIVITIES

On 6 July 2012 during the FASE assembly in Istanbul, two important events will take place: **A)** the discussion about the Forensic Anthropology **Certification Programme**, and **B)** the **election of the new FASE Board** for the next three years. We invite all FASE members to take part at the FASE assembly.

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CERTIFICATION PROCESS //

The **Forensic Anthropology Certification initiative** had been discussed in **Copenhagen** (October 2010), **Chicago** (February 2011) and **Funchal (Madeira)** (September 2011), but because there seem to be ongoing concerns the FASE Board decided that it would be worthwhile to discuss the topic at the FASE assembly of the IALM Congress in **Istanbul on 6 July 2012**. Since the certification process will be meant to start in January 2012, this FASE assembly will be the **last opportunity** to raise any concerns and suggestions about the current proposal.

We therefore invite all FASE members present at the IALM Congress to join the discussion at the assembly.

The current proposal is largely based on the American model. The most re-known agency of certification is the American Board of Forensic Anthropology (ABFA). ABFA is a private organisation and it only recently opened the process to non-American citizens.

Because of its long history and international standing, the **International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM)** has been selected as the most appropriate 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.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASKED TO PRESENT THE COMMITTEE WITH:

- **Curriculum Vitae** (including years of experience)
- **Case reports (3)** with supporting documentation (notes, photos, raw data, etc.) and authentic expertise requests from courts
- **Reference Letters** (referees **not** to be selected by the applicant)

The case reports will undergo a peer review. The certification will not imply an exam.

Updating will be required every 5 years.

The three Certification levels have been adapted from those proposed by the U.S. **SWGANTH (Scientific Working Group for Forensic Anthropology)** as follows:

- **LEVEL 1** - Undergraduate, BSc, MA, MS, in physical anthropology or related fields plus a participation at a forensic anthropology workshop.
- **LEVEL 2** - recent graduate PhD or MD 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 statistics.
- **LEVEL 3** - PhD in forensic anthropology or closely related area 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).

IALM 2012 - July 5- 8 - Istanbul, Turkey



JOIN US IN ISTANBUL ON JULY 6 TO DISCUSS THE FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY CERTIFICATION PROCESS AND TO ELECT THE NEW FASE BOARD!

FASE IN THE EUROPEAN PROJECT MEPROCS //

FASE is very proud to be a supporting organization of the European project:

"New methodologies and protocols of forensic identification by craniofacial superimposition (MEPROCS)",

which was approved and financed by the **7th Framework Programme** within the topic "**Advanced Forensic Framework FP7-SEC 2011**".

The project aims to define new methodologies and protocols of forensic identification by craniofacial superimposition.

MEPROCS is coordinated by the **European Centre for Soft Computing (Spain)** and the consortium consists of seven partners: **CORISA** (a spin-off from the University of Salerno, Italy), the **European Council of Legal Medicine** (Germany), the **Physical Anthropology Laboratory at the University of Granada** (Spain), **Israel National Police**, the **Forensic Science Centre at the University of Coimbra** (Portugal), and **Guardia Civil** (Spain).

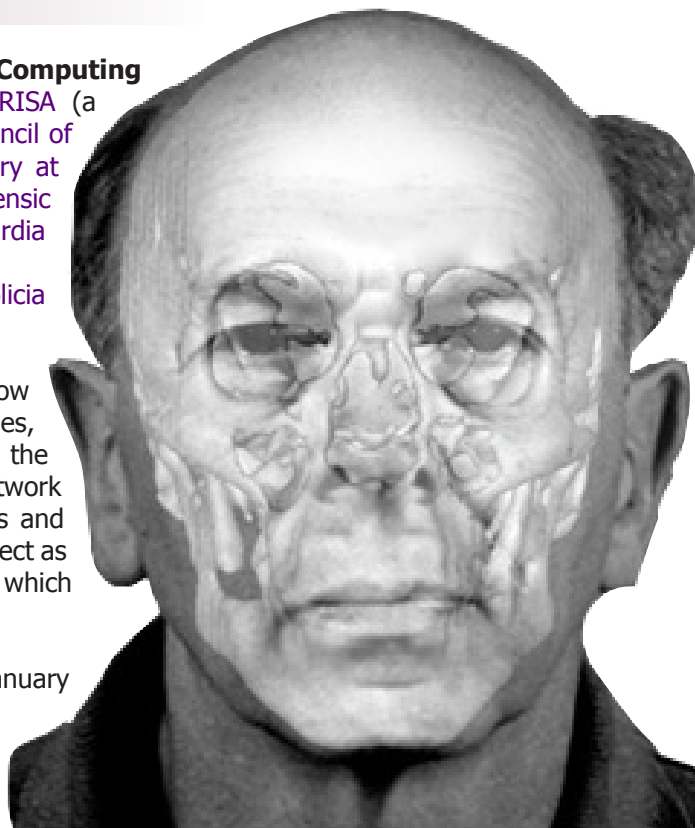
Two associated partners will collaborate with the project: **Policia Judiciaria** (Portugal) and **Council of Forensic Medicine** (Turkey).

FASE will collaborate with the project in exchange of know-how and experience, and also in validating protocols and methodologies, consolidating the scope of the project objectives and enhancing the implementation of the results. FASE will also be a member of the Network Advisory Board of the project in order to follow up its progress and contribute to dissemination of the results. FASE considers this project as an opportunity to establish long term international collaborations, which can result in new research proposals and projects.

MEPROCS commenced on 1 February 2012 and will finish 31 January 2014.

Basic information about the project can be sighted on <http://cordis.europa.eu>

The project's webpage will be announced as soon as possible.



Source: <http://www.lifesci.dundee.ac.uk/cahid/craniofacial-superimposition>

FASE AT THE 19TH IAFS MEETING- MADEIRA 2011 //

The beautiful Portuguese island of Madeira hosted the 19th Triennial IAFS Meeting in September 2011. Simultaneously, the venue hosted also the 9th Triennial Meeting of World Police Medical Officers and the 5th Meeting of the Mediterranean Academy of Forensic Sciences. More than 1 700 participants from 109 different countries attended these three meetings.

FASE acted as one of the **scientific sponsors of the meeting**. FASE activities during the meeting included the organization of the **workshop in Facial reconstruction** and the **Scientific Session of the Society** dedicated to new developments in forensic anthropology.

The Scientific Session included **three invited lectures**. **Douglas Ubelaker** presented new methods in estimating time since death and species determination; **Gerald Quatrehomme** focused on forensic bone trauma analysis; and **Ann Ross** discussed the advantages of 3D geometric morphometrics and ID classification of crania for forensic scientists.



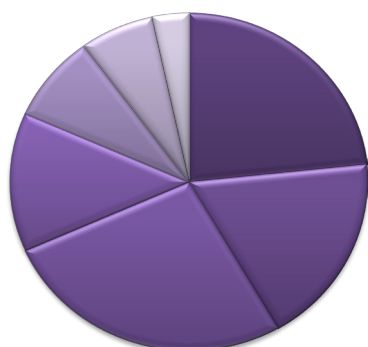
Funchal, Madeira- Portugal was the host of the 19th IAFS Meeting

The topics covered in oral and poster presentations in the forensic anthropology session can be summarized as follows:



60 presentations of which:

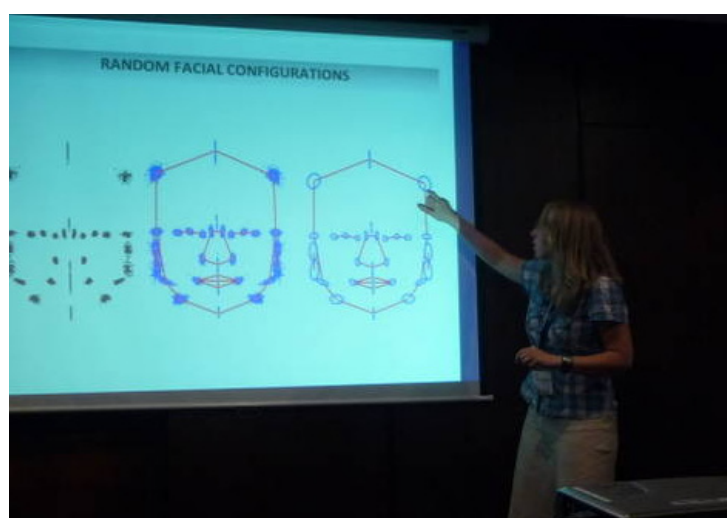
- **14 case reports** (identification, analysis of mass graves and archaeological sites, experience of different Departments and Institutions in applying forensic anthropology procedures and protocols in forensic cases)
- **11 presentations on human identification** (Interpol procedures, specific morphologic features, identification of perpetrators)
- **10 presentations on age estimation** (procedures, new methods, population studies, aging of living)
- **8 presentations on forensic taphonomy** (decomposition stages, tissue removal, skeletal preservation, new methods)
- **5 presentations on facial reconstruction and facial approximation**
- **4 presentations on bone trauma** and thermal alteration of bone
- **2 presentations on estimation of stature**
- **2 presentations on sex estimation**
- **2 presentations on ancestry estimation**
- **2 presentations on new methods in bone analysis**



- case reports
- identification
- biological profile
- taphonomy
- facial approximation
- trauma
- bone analysis



Eugénia Cunha and Ali Chadly presiding over the FASE Scientific Session dedicated to new developments in forensic anthropology.



Petra Urbanova explains computer-assisted photo-to-photo comparison and photographic age progression in subadults

The presentation **International Certification in Forensic Anthropology: The next step**, by *Ross A., Cattaneo C., Martrille L., Baccino E., Kimmerle E., Baraybar J. P., Ubelaker D. and Cunha E.* provoked a heated discussion, in which several conflicting opinions were raised. As a consequence, FASE decided to postpone the launch of the certification and give one more opportunity to discuss the initiative at the next FASE assembly in Istanbul in July 2012.

Overall, three workshops related to forensic anthropology were offered in the meeting program:

- Forensic investigation of human remains from armed conflicts and catastrophes

Organized by: *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*
 Chairs: *Morris Tidball-Binz and Duarte Nuno Vieira*

The workshop was dedicated to human identification, and forensic and logistical techniques and procedures used in mass disasters such as catastrophes and armed conflicts. It provided an up-dated review of current knowledge and practice in investigations into missing persons from armed conflicts and catastrophes. In addition, one session focused on the role of forensic service providers and related agencies under challenging circumstances.

- Facial reconstruction

Organized by: **Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe**
 Chairman: *Eugénia Cunha*

The workshop was dedicated to facial reconstruction in forensic context. The lectures were given by two re-known specialists: **Douglas Ubelaker** and **Caroline Wilkinson**.

The participants of the workshop learned about the main concepts and techniques of facial reconstruction and about its application in forensic investigations. Practical exercises and case-solving were offered to the participants

enabling better understanding of the possibilities and limitations of the method.

- Setting Mediterranean standards for Human Identification by Physical Anthropology

Type of workshop: *Strategic Educational Workshop*

Chairman: *Ali Chadly*

The workshop was dedicated to discussing standards in methodological approaches for anthropological analysis in forensic contexts. The mixed audience of forensic anthropologists, forensic odontologists and forensic pathologists brought to light different view points on the matter and led to interesting discussions. Among others, the issue of the importance of population specific standards in forensic casework was raised. This workshop also provided an overview of current methodological recommendations stated in Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) and Mass Graves Investigation (MGI) forms.



Captivated audience at the forensic anthropology session of the IALM Congress in Madeira

From the pen of the attendees....

The Facial Reconstruction Workshop was presented by Douglas Ubelaker and Caroline Wilkinson. Douglas Ubelaker gave an introduction about facial reconstruction by explaining the origins of this technique, its earliest applications and the different methodologies used, including case studies. Caroline Wilkinson explained how facial features can be predicted from skeletal morphology. She mentioned in particular the position and protrusion of the eyeball, eyelid and eyebrow forms, nasal profile, nasal tip shape, mouth width, lip thickness and ears.

After the theoretical session, several cranial photos were distributed to attendees and a prediction and description of the facial features was attempted in pairs and then discussed with others. Finally, various cranial photos had to be matched with corresponding faces. Following the practical exercise questions were raised about the accuracy and reliability of the facial reconstruction.

Caroline Wilkinson concluded by talking about recent technological advances and how they can be used for craniofacial reconstructions. The workshop ended with more case studies on facial reconstruction from Douglas Ubelaker.

by Elena Ruiz Mediavilla, Escuela de Medicina Legal, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain



Facial reconstruction workshop, organized by FASE and led by Caroline Wilkinson, drew significant interest

FASE WORKSHOPS //

Following the tradition of the last decade, FASE continues organizing both basic and advanced courses in forensic anthropology. After the last successful workshops held in Copenhagen (October 2010) and Funchal (September 2011), FASE announces two upcoming workshops, which are open to both students and practitioners in the field of forensic anthropology.

The basic workshop will be held in **Istanbul, Turkey (30 June- 4 July 2012)**, while the advanced workshop will be held in **Germany (September 2013, date to be confirmed)**. This workshop will be dedicated to a highly important forensic topic- the determination of the postmortem interval (PMI).



Participants of the FASE WORKSHOP in Copenhagen, Denmark, October 2010



Basic FASE workshop, ISTANBUL, Turkey, June 30-July 4, 2012

This year in Istanbul, FASE holds the 6th **FASE WORKSHOP ON FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY**. The course provides **40 hours of lectures, including 15 hours of practical exercises**. After completing the workshop, participants will receive a certificate of attendance (equivalent to 2 ECTS).

The lectures include the following topics:

- Aims of forensic anthropology in the 21st century
- Time since death
- Determination of species (human vs non-human)
- Excavation of human remains
- Biological profile (sex, age at death, ancestry)
- Features used for individualization
- Facial approximation
- Trauma
- Cause and manner of death in forensic anthropology
- Crimes against humanity and mass disasters
- Forensic odontology
- Forensic anthropology and the living
- Case studies

The teaching staff is composed of experts in the field of forensic anthropology and related disciplines:

Douglas Ubelaker; Cristina Cattaneo, Eugénia Cunha, Eric Baccino, Laurent Martrille, Frank Ramsthaler, Zuzana Obertova

The FASE workshop is organized in conjunction with the IALM congress, therefore the participants are **obliged to register for the IALM Congress** as well.

The participation fee includes two daily coffee breaks, a lunch box and a CD with course material:

- FASE students (students and FASE members simultaneously)- 275 euros
- Students (not FASE members)- 300 euros
- FASE members (not students)- 325 euros
- Others- 375 euros

These prices are guaranteed until 1 May 2012. After this date the fee will increase by 10%.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DATES TO REMEMBER



PLACE: Istanbul, Turkey, Haliç Congress Center

DATES: 30th June- 4th July

DURATION: 40 hour course

PAYMENT: until 1 May 2012, after that the price increases by 10%

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the workshop contact Eugénia Cunha at cunhae@ci.uc.pt or see http://www.ialm2012.org/pdfs/FASE_WORKSHOP.PDF

IALM CONGRESS:

Early registration: May 4, 2012

Late registration: June 12, 2012

For more information on the congress visit the site <http://www.ialm2012.org/>



Advanced FASE workshop on PMI, Germany, September 2013

FASE wishes to inform you in advance that the next advanced course in forensic anthropology will be held in Germany in September **2013**.

The course will focus on the topic of the **estimation of the postmortem interval** (PMI). The assessment of PMI is essential to any forensic death investigation. To date, various methods have been developed in order to facilitate an accurate estimation of the time since death from fresh cadavers, decomposed bodies or skeletal remains. One of the prerequisites for a good PMI estimation is the anthropologist's/ pathologist's knowledge of the cadaver decomposition process and of the variety of factors that can affect it. The estimation of postmortem interval is first of all a **multidisciplinary process**, and the advanced FASE workshop is designed precisely to meet this essential condition.

The **three-days workshop** will be organized by **Frank Ramsthaler**.



- The participants will get hands-on experience with excavation of an animal cadaver and also skeletal remains from an archaeological site (most probably Roman).
- Lectures will be given on PMI and currently available absolute dating techniques.
- The participants will also have the opportunity to visit isotope laboratories in Heidelberg and Mannheim, where preparation techniques and apparatuses will be explained and demonstrated.

The workshop will bring together a multidisciplinary team of specialists, including

- **Dr. Kromer** - radiocarbon dating (C14)
- **Prof. Dr. Parnesca** - director of the Mannheim LA-ICPMS Laboratory
- **Dr. Amendt** - entomology (University of Frankfurt)
- **Prof. Alt** - anthropology, odontology, archaeology (University of Mainz)
- **Prof. Verhoff** - forensic pathology, micro-CT (University of Giessen)

More information about exact dates, locations, and deadlines for registration will be available at a later date. **We will inform you accordingly.**



source: <http://employmentoasis.com/how-long-does-it-take-to-become-a-forensic-anthropologist/skeleton/>

IALM 2012 STUDENT PRIZE FOR BEST ABSTRACT //

Last year at the IAFS/IALM Meeting in Madeira, **FASE introduced a prize** for the best abstract by a student, who would subsequently present the topic as an oral communication at the meeting. The award of 300 € should help the winner to cover some of the costs of attending the meeting.

This year FASE will again award the prize for the best student abstract at the **IALM Meeting** in **Istanbul**, Turkey, 5-8 July, 2012.

Potential candidates for the award must fulfill the following criteria:

- The abstract has to be **submitted to the IALM Congress** and subsequently accepted
- The **abstract** should be comprehensive, including objectives, methods and results
- The first author must be a student enrolled in a **Master or PhD degree in Europe**

Subsequently, the student must personally present the topic as an oral communication at the meeting.



In addition to the ordinary submission to IALM (through the **abstractagent™**), the abstract should be emailed to: cunhae@ci.uc.pt

The FASE Board members will evaluate the abstracts and timely inform all participants of the contest about their final decision.

PIERRE GUYOMARCH from the University of Bordeaux was awarded the first Best student abstract prize for his abstract entitled "**FACIAL SOFT TISSUE DEPTHS IN FRENCH ADULTS: VARIABILITY AND SPECIFICITY**" that he presented at the FASE Scientific Session in Madeira.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Pierre Guyomarch (right) awarded with the prize for best Student abstract at the IALM Congress 2011 in Funchal (Madeira)



FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

FORANTEN PROJECT (FORensic ANThropology European Network) //

Eighteen different laboratories already agreed to participate in a future **ITN (Initial Training Network)** for forensic anthropology.

The next call of the **7th Framework Programme** (Marie Curie Actions) is planned for the **13 July 2012**, with a **deadline** for project submission in **November 2012**. If the project is accepted, the ITN will provide **scholarships and funds** for PhD research, post-doctoral contracts, workshops and seminars during 4 years.

For more information about the organization of an ITN, please visit

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people?callIdentifier=FP7-PEOPLE-2012-ITN>

There is still time to integrate into the project ; so far, research propositions cover the whole field of forensic anthropology but the overall goal of the network will be to favour homogeneity of practice and exchanges between European countries.



Please contact us if you are interested in participating in such project:
foranten@gmail.com

by Eugénia Cunha & Pierre Guyomarc'h



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2012

May
21.-23.05.
3rd International Conference on Forensic Genetics, FORENSICA 2012
Lednice, Czech Republic
<http://www.cssfg.org/cz/1096forensica-2012/>

June
30.05.-02.06.
21st International Meeting on Forensic Medicine Alpe-Adria-Pannonia
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
<http://www.forensic-sarajevo.org/aap2012/>

July
05.-08.07.
22nd IALM Congress
Istanbul, Turkey
<http://www.ialm2012.org/>

06.07.
FASE Session at IALM
"Updates in Forensic Anthropology"

Key lecture: Cristina Cattaneo
FASE assembly - **FASE Board election**
ALL MEMBERS INVITED

WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2012

June
04.-29.06.
MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY (*Erie, USA*) (4 courses)
- Death - Scene Archaeology: filed methods
- Laboratory Methods in the Identification of Human Skeletal Remains
- Analysis of Bone Trauma and Pseudo-Trauma
- Recovery and Interpretation of the Disaster and Fire Scene
<http://mai.mercyhurst.edu/contracted-services/forensic-sciences/short-courses-in-forensic-anthropology/>

18.-22.06.
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY (*San Marcos, USA*)
- Human Remains Recovery Course
<http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops/fieldrecovery.html>

July
30.06.-04.07.
FASE, WORKSHOP ON FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY (*Istanbul, Turkey*)
http://www.ialm2012.org/pdfs/FASE_WORKSHOP.PDF

MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2012

August **20.-24. 08.**
6th European Academy of Forensic Science
Conference
The Hague, Netherlands
<http://www.eafs2012.eu/>

September **23.-27.09.**
21st International Symposium on the Forensic
Sciences
Hobart, Tasmania
<http://www.anzfss2012.com.au/>

MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES 2013

2013 **AAFS Annual Meeting 2013**
February 18-23, 2013
*Washington DC, USA (submission process
starts May, 2012)*
<http://www.aafs.org/aafs-2013-annual-meeting>

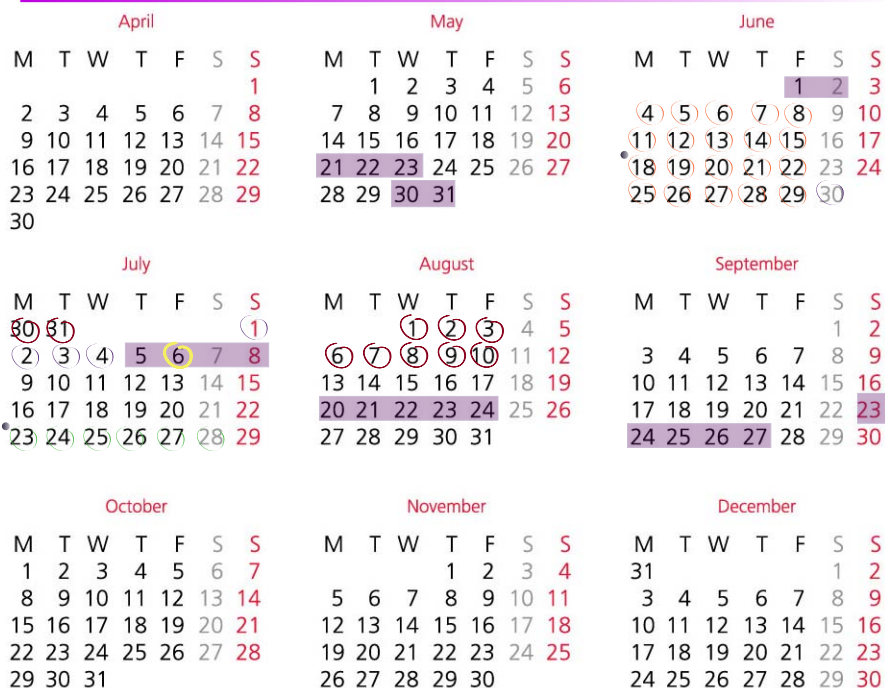
WORKSHOPS/ SHORT COURSES 2012

July **23.-28.07.**
LABANOF (*Italy* - in Italian)
Summer camp of anthropology and
osteology <http://www.labanof.unimi.it/>

23.-27.07.
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, FORENSIC
ANTHROPOLOGY CENTER (*Knoxville, USA*)
- Advanced Laboratory Methods (the other 3
courses are full)
<http://fac.utk.edu/courses.html>

August **30.07.-10.08.**
UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE, CENTRE FOR
ANATOMY & HUMAN IDENTIFICATION -2 modules-
(*Dundee, Scotland*)
- Cranial and Postcranial Juvenile Osteology
<http://www.lifesci.dundee.ac.uk/cahid/juvenile-osteology>

2012



The next issue of the Newsletter is planned for **autumn 2012**. We would appreciate if you could send us your comments, suggestions and contributions by **September 2012**.

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

(fase.newsletter@gmail.com)

congresses * two or more events occurring at the same time

workshops/courses courses that are full (information from websites) are not presented on the calendar



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/>