



Physical Anthropology Section – 2005

H89 The Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe: An Introduction

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand how forensic anthropology is organizing itself in Europe.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by improving transatlantic collaboration in forensic anthropology and the certification process in Europe in this field. This is the introduction of a European scientific association dedicated to forensic anthropology and to the development of international collaboration in this field.

The first board of FASE (Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe) was elected at the IALM (International Academy of Legal Medicine) Congress in Milan, September 2003 during a plenary session which was officially announced at a preliminary FASE meeting held during the International Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting in Montpellier in September 2002; it is made of people from five European countries.

The Board is composed of one President, two vice-Presidents, a Secretary a Treasurer, and one auditor. Offices are of the duration of three years. All Board members may be reelected for a second term of office. The newly elected Board takes over official duties on 1 January following elections.

The FASE was created to bring together anthropologists, forensic pathologists, odontologists, geneticists, and other experts in the fields of forensic medicine and forensic science, in the scientific and academic promotion and development of the discipline of forensic anthropology across Europe.

The goals of FASE are:

- To encourage the study of, improve the practice of, establish and enhance standards for, and advance the science of forensic anthropology and related disciplines; promote knowledge and research in the field
- To harmonize techniques and diagnostic procedures in forensic anthropology across Europe
- To encourage and promote adherence to high standards of ethics, conduct, and professional practice in forensic anthropology
- To promote training and certification in forensic anthropology and eventually create Boards of certificates and inform the existence of trained forensic anthropologists in order to guarantee high quality performance in the medicolegal study of human remains;
- The formation of working groups in different areas of forensic anthropology and the accreditation of protocols and laboratories.

Membership: In order to become a member of FASE one must be a member of the International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM). Applications for membership must therefore be made to IALM, according to the statutes of the Academy, specifying that he/she also wants to become a FASE member.

Board and General Assemblies: The General Assembly will elect members of the FASE Board, decide on congresses and meetings, on rules/statutes, and other matters dealing with the aims of the Society. The General Assembly will meet once every year, at FASE or IALM meetings. The Secretary of the Board will forward invitations to the meeting together with the Agenda of meetings six weeks before the date of the meeting.

Yearly assessment: One year after its creation, FASE has officially 30 registered members (16 MD, anthropologists, dentists, etc.,) coming from eight different countries (2 non-Europeans). A one week workshop in forensic anthropology (the 7th) was given in Milan from June 28 to July 2 to 10 students. The first yearly meeting of FASE was held in Frankfurt on the 22nd and 23rd of October (more than 20 oral presentations); next year it will be held in Monastir during the 2nd Mediterranean Academy of Forensic Sciences Biennial meeting (June 22-25, 2005) and in Budapest in 2006 (IALM meeting). Two newsletters were written (one published in the International Journal of Legal Medicine). More up to date information will be provided on February 2005.

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