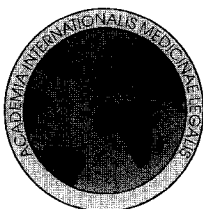


The Newsletter of the International Academy of Legal Medicine



Dear Members,

Starting with this Issue of the Newsletter we have added a Diary of Forthcoming Meetings. It contains information on international as well as national meetings of interest within Legal Medicine and other disciplines close to it. This Diary is based on information gathered from various sources, but it cannot be considered to represent a complete list of events during a given period of time. The Diary will be updated regularly. It may not be appearing in every newsletter depending on other contributions and hence the space available. In this issue we also introduce an Editorial by the President of the IALM Professor Dr. Bernd Brinkmann dealing with actual topics of our discipline. Finally an application form for membership is enclosed at the end of the newsletter.

Prof. P. Saukko, Secretary of the IALM,
Editor of the IALM Newsletter

Contributions to this Newsletter should be sent to Prof. P. Saukko, Department of Forensic Medicine,
University of Turku, Kiinamylynkatu 10, FIN-20520 TURKU, Finland, Tel. (+358)-21-3337543; Fax (+358)-21-3337600;
e-mail psaukko@utu.fi

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The present and the near future seems to pose new questions to our discipline. There exists on the one hand increasing demands on a regional level because of the ever increasing work load. On the other hand, at least in Europe, the implementation and scientific improvement of new technologies - e.g. DNA technologies, detection of illegal drugs - shall be furthered in international initiatives. Since this has a lot to do with standards, measurement and testing, specific projects have been elaborated and published.

Quality assurance and/or quality control became the word of the year at least in many medical professions. This is of course of outstanding importance for our discipline because the evidential proof is closely associated to the proof of quality, standards, accuracy and precision. The question arises increasingly, how quality assurance can be guaranteed and/or checked in fields like forensic pathology. Contributions to this would be very much welcome. We need similar schemes and proposals for histology, and also a quality assurance in case work dealing with stains is not yet fully explored.

Also, we have learned that certain legal principals such as the "in dubio pro reo", "probability "conditio sine qua non", "probability limiting to certainty" or "evidence beyond reasonable doubt" constitute the essential framework underlying each of our expertises. These and the principles of the causal connection, such as theory of equivalence and theory of adequacy, play an important role in the jurisdictions of many countries. There existed and still exist comprehensive literature e.g. to the DNA allowed for each rule. Although these exceptions were close to zero, the DNA evidence has enormously increased the evidential

weight of this part of medical legal expertise But this can become increasingly dangerous for other parts of the evidential proof. This is so because statistical evidence can be expressed in figures but this seems to be impossible or nearly impossible in pathology evidence. Rumor exists in many countries that this risk has already occurred. The statistical evidence in other fields other than DNA is increasingly questioned. This can in turn lead to a loss of evidential weight which lies in other parts of our evidential frame work. On the other hand, "monoclonal" approaches with proofs exclusively based on DNA have an inherent risk rate as well which increases if this is the exclusive proof. - In certain countries and/or legislations the evidence introduced had already been sectioned into many parts, each of them with defined responsibilities and/or expert knowledge. The persons responsible for the substructuring are mainly lawyers. This leads on the their side to an enormous loss of information relative to the complexity as a whole. The false decision arises: how can the expert counteract? Does he have to counteract false decisions and sectioning? Is this relative to legislation or an inborn error of our discipline? We would welcome articles relative to this field.

Prof. Dr. med. B. Brinkmann
President of the IALM

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

KYOTO, JAPAN, April 1-3, 1996

The 80th Congress of the Medico-Legal Society of Japan
Further Information: Professor S. Komura, Department of Forensic Medicine, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, Kawaramachi, Kamikyo-ku, Kyoto 602, Japan.
Tel: +81-75-251-5343; Fax +81-75-241-0749.

IMATRA, FINLAND, May 24-26, 1996

BAR 1996, XXIV Annual Nordic Meeting on Biological Alcohol Research
Further Information: Ms. Sari Salo Biomedical Research Center Alko Group Ltd, POB 350, 00101 Helsinki, Finland,
Tel. +358-0-1332646; Fax +358-0-1332781

LONDON, UK, June 1996

Section of Clinical Forensic Medicine Meeting, Royal Society of Medicine
Further Information: Louisa Raine, Royal Society of Medicine, Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE, UK.
Tel: +44-171-290-2900.

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, UK, July 1-3, 1996

Third International Conference on Forensic Statistics, The University of Edinburgh
Further Information: Dr. C.G.G. Aitken, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, The King's Buildings, The University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ,
E-mail: icfs96@maths.ed.ac.uk

TURKU, FINLAND, July 3-4 and July 4-7, 1996

4th Turku International Workshop In Forensic Medicine 96: Part I: Investigation of the Cardiac Conduction System 3-4.7.1996 Turku, Finland. Part II: "The Obscure Autopsy" 4.-7.7.1996 Nauvo, Finland
Further Information: Prof. P. Saukko, Dept. of Forensic Medicine, University of Turku, FIN-20520 Turku, Finland,
Tel. +358-21-3337543; Fax + 358-21-3337600;
E-mail: psaukko@utu.fi

BREST (BRITTANY), FRANCE, July 8-12, 1996

Third European Workshop in Forensic Anthropology, l'Université de Bretagne Occidentale and the Smithsonian Institution Department of Anthropology, Washington DC USA.
Further Information: Pr. E. Baccino - Unité de Médecine Légale - C.H.R.U. MORVAN - 29609 Brest Cedex - France,
Tel. 98.22.35.61 - Fax 98.22.39.59

SOUTH AFRICA, July 28-August 1, 1996

The 11th World Congress on Medical Law, The World Association For Medical Law
Co-Sponsored by the World Health Organisation and the Council for International Organisations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)
Further Information: The Congress Secretariat, International Centre of Medicine & Law, P.O. Box 51, Buhrmannsdrif 2867, Northwest South Africa, Tel: +27-140-842470/1; Fax +27-140-24894.

INTERLAKEN, SWITZERLAND, August 12-16, 1996

The 34th (Triennial) Meeting of TIAFT will be held in Hotel Victoria-Jungfrau, Interlaken
Further information: Dr. Werner Bernhard, Institute for Legal Medicine, Dept. of Forensic Toxicology, Bühlstrasse 20, 3012 Bern, Switzerland.
Tel. +41-31-631-84-11; Fax: +41-31-631-38-33.

KUMAMOTO, JAPAN, August 19-23, 1996

4th International Conference of the World Police Medical Officers in Clinical Forensic Medicine (WPMO-1996-Kumamoto)
Further information: Professor S. Tsunenari, Department of Forensic Medicine, Kumamoto University School of Medicine, 2-2-1 Honjo, Kumamoto 860, Japan.

Tel: +81-96-344-2111. Ext. 6362; Fax: +81-96-372-6140.

HAKONE, JAPAN, August 22-24, 1996

ISFH (International Society for Forensic Haemogenetics), Hakone Symposium on DNA Polymorphisms,

Further information: Secretariat for the ISFH Hakone Symposium, c/o Conference and Event Department, Simul International Inc., Kowa Bldg, No. 9, 1-8-10, Akasaka Minato-ku, Tokyo 107, Japan.

Tel: +81-3-3586-8691. Fax: +81-3-3586-4531.

TOKYO, JAPAN, August 26-30, 1996

14th Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS)

Further information: Secretariat for the 14th Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Sciences (IAFS), c/o Conference and Event Department, Simul International, Inc., Kowa Bldg, No. 9 1-8-10, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107 Japan. Tel: +81-3-3586-8691; Fax: +81-3-3586-4531.

SIENA, ITALY, August 28-31, 1996

6th European Conference on Psychology and Law

Further Information: Scientific Secretariat, University of Siena, Department of Forensic Sciences, Policlinico "Le Scotte", 53100 SIENA (ITALY),

Tel. +39-577-263209/263215; Fax +39-577-40519.

OSAKA, JAPAN, September 2-4 1996

The 3rd International Symposium. Advances in Legal Medicine (ISALM). Organized by The Medico-Legal Society of Japan. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Rechtsmedizin

Further information: Secretariat for the 3rd International Symposium, Advances in Legal Medicine (ISALM) c/o Conference and Event Department, Simul International, Inc. Kowa Bldg. No. 9, 1-8-10, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107, Japan. Tel: +81-3-3586-8691. Fax: +81-3-3586-4531.

ALICANTE, SPAIN, September 22-25 1996

EUROTOX'96 in collaboration with the Spanish Association of Toxicology

Further Information: Congress Secretariat: VIAJES HISPANIA, S.A. EUROTOX'96 Congress, Maisonnave, 11 - 7º, E-03003 Alicante (Spain). Tel: +34-(9) 6-522-83-93; Fax +34 (9) 6-522-98-88

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY, October 20-25, 1996

XXI International Congress of the International Academy of Pathology and 12th World Congress of Academic and Environmental Pathology

Further information: XII International Congress of The International Academy of Pathology and 12th World Congress of Academic and Environmental Pathology, 2nd Dept. of Pathology Semmelweis Univ. of Medicine, Üllői út 93., H-1091 Budapest, Hungary.

Phone/Fax: +36-1-215-7591, +36-1-215-6921

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, June 28 - July 1, 1997

6th Congress of ESBRA, European Society of Biomedical Research on Alcoholism

Further Information: Chairman of the 6th Congress: Associate Professor Stefan Borg, KAROLINSKA INSTITUTE, Dept. of Neuroscience St Görans Hospital, Address: Psykiatriska Beroendekliniken S:t Görans sjukhus, Box 12557, S-102 29 Stockholm, Sweden.

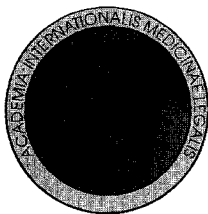
Tel: +46-8-672-14-51; Fax +46-8-672-19-04

DUBLIN, IRELAND, August 20-23, 1997

The XVII Congress of the International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM)

Further Information: Prof. J.F.A. Harbison, Office of the State Pathologist and T.C.D./R.C.S.I. Dept. of Forensic Medicine, 188 Pearse Street, Trinity College, Dublin 2. Ireland.

Tel. +353-1-671 9835; Fax +353-1-677 2694 or Ms. Louise Loughran, Conference Secretary, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, 123 Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland, where the Congress will be held.



ACADÉMIE INTERNATIONALE DE MÉDECINE LÉGALE
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF LEGAL MEDICINE

CANDIDATURE

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name First Name(s) Title

Address for correspondence

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Tel Fax

E-mail:

Brief Curriculum Vitae:

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Date: Signature: