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## Greetings from the IALM President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to this Special Number of the IALM Bulletin, which will be entirely dedicated to the various Working Groups currently operating under the auspices of IALM. Indeed, following on from the 23rd IALM Congress in Dubai, a number of new initiatives have been launched and among these the IALM Working Groups play a prominent role, also in light of the next major Event to be organized by the Academy, namely the IALM Symposium to be held in Venice, from the 22nd to the 24th of June 2016.

I am very pleased to communicate to you all that the preparation of the **2016 IALM Intersocietal Symposium in Venice** is well underway and that in a few days we will be able to present an *Advanced Provisional Scientific Programme*, in addition to further information regarding the participation of other *Scientific Societies* and the various *organizational details*. Finally, I take this opportunity to wish to the Working Groups and to all of the IALM Members the best success in your personal and professional endeavors.

S.Davide Ferrara

*IALM President*

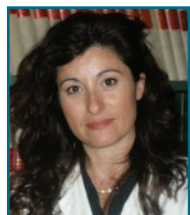
## Medicolegal Odontology Working Group

*Coordinator: Vilma Pinchi*

During the Presidium Meeting held in Dubai, February 2014, a proposal concerning the creation of a **Medicolegal Odontology Working Advisory Group** was proposed and approved. The ethos and scope of such a Working Group are to

## Prof. Vilma Pinchi

*Vilma Pinchi* is an Associate Professor of Legal Medicine at the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Legal Medicine, University of Firenze and was recently elected President of the International Organization for Forensic Odontology (IOFOS) for a second term.



be strictly situated within a *Medicolegal framework*, therefore mainly focusing on the issues of *dental medical malpractice* and *dental damage assessment/evaluation*.

Professor *Vilma Pinchi*, currently acting as *President* of the *International Organization for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology* (IOFOS), was indicated as the prospective IALM Representative for the aforementioned Group and, subsequently, drafted a related action plan (*see below*), which was unanimously approved during the recent Presidium Meeting in Dubai, January 2015.

### MEDICOLEGAL ODONTOLOGY WORKING GROUP ACTION PLAN

1. To foster Scientific activity during IALM conferences and Scientific events supported by IALM, contributing to developing topics related to Legal Medicine in dentistry, such as dental litigation and malpractice, tooth damage assessment, as well as ethics in dentistry.
2. To support the dissemination of Scientific knowledge through a regular submission of papers dealing with the aforementioned issues to the International Journal of Legal Medicine.
3. To participate in Scientific plans of IALM aimed at developing Guidelines, recommendations and best standards in relation to the practice of Legal Medicine in dentistry.
4. To participate in the planning for possible acknowledgment of a standard curriculum at International level, both for undergraduate and postgraduate students.
5. To establish and maintain regular collaboration programs at a National level with Academy representatives of Legal Medicine in relation to joint research initiatives, teaching programs and the development of practical procedures.

## Personal Damage in Civil Liability

### Working Group

*Coordinators: S. Davide Ferrara*

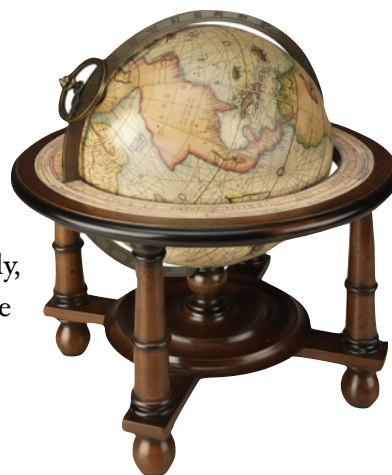
Following on from the International Closed Meeting, organized by the International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM) and entitled "Personal Damage and Civil Liability. Medico-legal Harmonization of Methods of Ascertainment and Criteria of Evaluation", held at the University of Padova on the 19th and 20th of June 2014, a IALM International Working Group was established, dedicated to the elaboration of "Consensus documents" and to the drafting of International Medico-legal Guidelines on methods of ascertainment and criteria of evaluation of Personal Damage in Civil Liability in order to pave the way for a future Intercontinental harmonization.



During the Meeting in Padova there was a collegial consensus on the presence of previous unsuccessful attempts to reach a harmonization of personal injury compensation in Europe, from which the present initiative differs due to its purely academic imprinting, the large number of

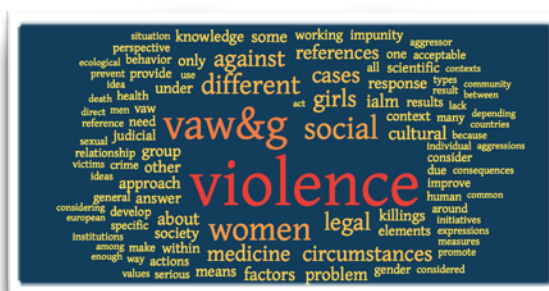
Countries involved and the specific focus on medicolegal ascertainment methodology. The IALM Working Group has planned a number of International publications edited by Springer-Verlag, which will present the “Padova Consensus Charter” on the medicolegal methods of ascertainment of personal injury/damage, propose a common juridical and medicolegal Glossary, and summarise the State of the Art of Personal Damage compensation. Currently, a monograph on the topic of Personal injury and damage ascertainment under tort/civil law, is in the advanced stages of preparation and the Working Group has been broadened to also include Academics of Legal Medicine coming from Extra-European Countries in order to have an international and intercontinental overview on the topic. Therefore, the monograph will present the state-of-the-art on Personal Injury Compensation in the following continents and countries.

- **Africa:** Egypt and Tunisia.
- **America:** Argentina, United States of America.
- **Asia:** China, Hong Kong, India, Japan and Malaysia.
- **Europe:** Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- **Oceania:** Australia.



## Violence Against Women and Girls Working Group

*Coordinators: Miguel Lorente, Enrique Villanueva*



Given that the great majority of Gender Based Violence is directed against women and girls, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAW&G) is often used as a synonym and is itself defined by the Council of Europe as “all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.

It occurs in various interrelated and often recurring forms, and can be physical, sexual, psychological/emotional, or economic in nature, taking place across a range of public and private settings, sometimes transcending National boundaries. Since 1979, when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the United Nations called upon all Countries to adopt measures and develop policies to eradicate Violence Against Women and Girls (VAW&G) through the detection, assistance, attention, protection, recovery of the victims and punishment of the offenders. However, the measures adopted have so far been few and isolated. Indeed, the “United Nations Special Rapporteur on VAW Statement” in the UNDOC meeting (Bangkok, November 2014), highlighted that VAW&G is increasing and that there is a lack of accountability. Additionally, according to the Geneva Declaration



## Prof. Miguel Lorente

Miguel Lorente is an Associate Professor of Legal Medicine at the School of Medicine of the University of Granada. From 2005 to 2008 he was General Director of Assistance to Victims of Violence and, from 2008 to 2011, the

Delegate of the Government for Violence Against Women.

## Prof. Enrique Villanueva

Enrique Villanueva is Emeritus Professor of Legal Medicine at the Department of Legal Medicine, Toxicology and Physical Anthropology of the University of Granada. He was President of IALM from 1992 to 1995.



Secretariat, 2011, every year more than 66.000 women and girls are killed around the world (*conservative estimations*), mostly due to gender-motivated reasons. Therefore, Legal and Forensic Medicine needs to be closely, more intensively and more visibly involved in the eradication of VAW&G, which would mean playing an enhanced role in identifying situations of risk, preventing the occurrence of VAW&G and, in the event that it does occur, providing the most qualified assistance possible in treating and protecting the victims. Its role is crucial in light of the following.

► *It studies and analyzes the results of VAW&G in terms of injury and death as part of the investigation, but also as a manifestation of the social problem.*

► *Circumstances surrounding VAW&G constitute a breach of Human Rights.*

► *Knowledge and experience need to be shared among Medicine and other Sciences, and within the International Community to improve both the effectiveness of the response and the possibility of prevention.*

The IALM Working Group on VAW&G will thus promote and set in motion initiatives and actions aimed at overturning this scenario, which will involve the following strategies:

- *the creation of an online regional forum to acquire data and information in order to analyze the situation regarding VAW&G from a holistic perspective, taking into consideration all of the related elements (law and regulation, social factors that criticize or justify this violence, the response from various sectors, resources for specific operations, training, etc.);*
- *the sharing of protocols and instruments, already developed on the subject of VAW&G, in relation to Legal and Forensic Medicine;*
- *contact with the main International organizations working on this topic (UN, WHO, EU) to establish collaborative relationships;*
- *the initiation of a debate and discussion within IALM in order to get a picture of the various perspectives on this issue and decide the necessary steps to be taken.*

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS WORKING GROUP

#### ACTION PLAN

1. Improving knowledge and facilitating research about VAW&G.
2. Promoting scientific analysis and debate about VAW&G within the IALM.
3. Developing scientific and technical instruments to improve the response to VAW&G (protocols, guidelines, recommendations, etc.).
4. Promoting specialized training on VAW&G.
5. Collaborating on this topic with National and International Organizations, Governments and Institutions to improve the quality of response from the various sectors, thereby enhancing methods of prevention.
6. Analyzing the juridical and judicial implications so as to recommend the best approach based on knowledge and evidence.
7. Collaborating and coordinating initiatives with other professionals and fields involved in VAW&G response (health sector, clinical medicine, nursery, midwives, psychology, social work and criminology).
8. Collaborating with women's organizations and NGOs working on this topic.

## Present your Legal Medicine & Forensic Sciences Institute

We would be very pleased to receive information regarding your own Legal Medicine and Forensic Institution, including details about the expertise / services it provides and photos, or the Forensic System operating in your Country. If you are interested, please contact the Editorial Committee ([ialm@ialm.info](mailto:ialm@ialm.info)).

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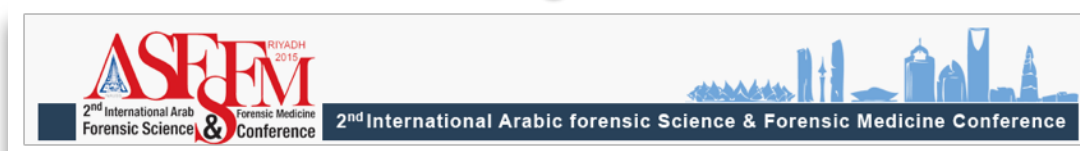
## Upcoming Scientific Events



### 21st Annual WAML World Congress

August 2-6, 2015

Coimbra, Portugal



### 2nd International Arab Forensic Science and Forensic Medicine Conference

November 8-10, 2015

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY  
OF  
LEGAL MEDICINE**

**INTERSOCIETAL  
SYMPOSIUM**

**21<sup>ST</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**VENICE 2016**