Selected Abstracts from the 25th Congress of the International Academy of Legal Medicine

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Welcome Note from the Organizing Committee

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Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to introduce the abstract issue related to the 25th Congress of the International Academy of Legal Medicine.

At the end of 2020, together with the IALM Presidium, we decided to convert the Congress in Geneva in an online event only. This was a very hard decision to take: we would have much preferred to welcome you in our town. Unfortunately, the sanitary situation worldwide obliged us to change our program. Our goal was then to turn this negative event into a good opportunity and to make this first virtual congress of the Academy a success.

To do this, we could count on the active support of the Forensic team of the International Committee of the Red Cross, of the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe, of numerous colleagues and friends that accepted our invitation to organise the workshops and symposia of this congress.

We received more than 300 abstracts that were reviewed by the experts of the IALM Scientific committee.

All abstracts underwent peer reviewing.

All this work is summarized in the pages of this abstract book. The abstracts are presented in chronological order, as during the congress.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one who participated to the realisation of this event.

Kind regards

The local organizing committee
Tony Fracasso
Silke Grabherr
Marc Augsburger
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Foreword

It is a pleasure to write the preface of this issue containing the abstracts of the oral communications and posters presented at the 25th triannual meeting of the International Academy of Legal Medicine held in Geneva in June 2021.

These are difficult times and sad times for everyone. The coronavirus pandemic has changed so many things in our lives and unfortunately, we cannot meet in person this time. However, the scientific activity in our field has not decreased and the quality of the presentations at this event is outstanding. The acceptance of more than 300 abstracts after peer-review is a clear demonstration of the continuing activity in the field.

The abstracts include the program and content of the workshops. The workshop topics include practical current aspects in the field from the use of Bayesian networks to infer the probability of semen being present on a vaginal swab, to forensic post-mortem imaging, basic 3D imaging and processing technology, the use of high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) in the daily routine of a forensic toxicology laboratory and wound ballistics.

The symposium on Protecting humanity after death, Innovative humanitarian forensics, Community engagement in humanitarian Forensic field operations reflect the interest of the IALM and the meeting in the humanitarian aspects of legal medicine and are complemented by symposia in new and emerging fields such as sudden cardiac death, scientific methods of age estimation of unaccompanied minors, and the past and future of OMICs in forensics. Other symposia include the Shaken Baby Syndrome and the classical FASE Symposium, this time on identification and unidentified decedents.

The oral presentation program has included a special session on COVID-19 with relevant research on autopsy findings as well as protocols for autopsy or sample handling or analyzing humanitarian aspects of the pandemic.

Although most of the abstract are on forensic pathology and anthropology as well as in humanitarian aspects, there are also presentations on forensic genetics and toxicology, ethical and legal aspects of forensic science.

I'm extremely proud of the quality of the presentations and the continuing internationalization of the Academy - with an increasing number of abstracts from non-European countries. The number of excellent papers from emerging countries represents excellent news.

Congratulations to all, the organizers and the many scientific contributors to this outstanding meeting, which in my view is the best ever.

Prof. Angel Carracedo

International Academy of Legal Medicine
President

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