



NEWSLETTER OF THE
ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

2023

IN THIS ISSUE...

Message from the President of ASSA	2
IFAA matters	3
28 th International Symposium of Morphological Sciences, Cape Town	9
News from institutions:	
University of Pretoria: Department of Anatomy	13
University of Johannesburg: Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology (HAP)	17
University of the Witwatersrand: School of Anatomical Sciences	21
Art and Poetry in Anatomy	32
Upcoming Events	35
Greetings from the Editor	36

Message from the President of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa



**Professor Albert Van Schoor
ASSA President**

Dear Members of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA),

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the collective achievements and dedication of our Society. The past months have been marked by resilience, innovation, and a commitment to advancing the field of anatomical sciences. As always, this is evident in the number of workshops, symposia, online presentations, research projects, etc., that are sent to the ASSA membership. Every year, the achievements of our members are beautifully highlighted in the ASSA Newsletter.

We should take pride in the fact that ASSA was able to host the XXVIII International Symposium on Morphological Sciences (ISMS) conference from August 5th to 8th. This event brought together anatomists from around the country, as well as the globe, to explore the latest developments in morphological sciences. The exchange of ideas, the presentations of cutting-edge research, and the collaborations formed during the conference have

undoubtedly enriched our understanding of anatomy and its diverse applications, as well as placed ASSA in good standing with the international anatomical community. The success of ISMS is a testament to the hard work and collaborative spirit of our members. It underscores the pivotal role that the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa plays in fostering connections, facilitating knowledge exchange, and pushing the boundaries of anatomical research. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Graham Louw and the entire local organizing committee for their hard work and dedication that directly resulted in the success of XXVIII ISMS.

In celebration of World Anatomy Day (15 October 2023), we were able to once more have an ASSA World Anatomy Day celebration symposium on the 13th of October. Under the guidance of Dr. Pam Pillay and her team, the World Anatomy Day online symposium was a platform that allowed our postgraduate students to present their research, as well as provided an opportunity to showcase some of the wonderful art created by our talented students and ASSA members.

Under the stewardship of Prof. Jolandie Myburgh and Mr. Tony Leon, our website has undergone a remarkable "facelift," and we expect it to continue to improve and act as a gateway into our Society. From Council, we bid farewell to our Council members, Dr. Lane Prigge, as well as Prof. Lelika Lazarus. We are happy to have Dr. Kentse Mpolokeng and Ms. Bridget Langa join us on Council as of this year. As the Chairperson of the ISMS local organizing committee, we are also happy to welcome Prof. Graham Louw back onto Council as the current Vice-President of the Society. I would like to use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the members of the ASSA Council for their hard work and dedication. Thank you

for your support and continued hard work and the leadership you provide in the Society.

Looking back at the year, we can take pride in the strides we've made as a Society. Our commitment to educational initiatives, research endeavors, and community engagement is truly commendable. I extend my deepest appreciation to our members, volunteers, and partners for their unwavering support. As we turn the page to a new year, let us carry forward the momentum of 2023 and continue to build on

the foundation of excellence that defines our Society. Together, we can explore new frontiers, inspire future anatomists, and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of anatomical sciences.

Wishing you all a joyful festive season and a prosperous New Year.

Warm regards,
Prof. Albert van Schoor

IFAA Matters

Dear Presidents and Representatives of IFAA member associations,

I am writing to bring to your attention an important new set of recommendations from the IFAA's Federative International Committee on Ethics and Medical Humanities (FICEM) on "**Good practice around human tissue image acquisition and use in anatomy education and research**".

Due to the burgeoning use of human tissue images in manuscripts, books, software applications, 3D prints, on the internet and in other formats, it is hoped that these recommendations will provide anatomists with an ethical and respectful approach to the use of images from human tissue.

The recommendations were recently approved by the IFAA Executive Board and are being distributed to all IFAA member associations with a request to widely disseminate the document to their membership. We will also post this document on the IFAA Website at:

<https://ifaa.net/committees/ethics-and-medical-humanities-ficem/recommendations-for-good-practice-around-human-tissue-image-acquisition-and-use-in-anatomy-education-and-research/>.

Thank you for assisting us with the distribution.

Yours sincerely,

Bev Kramer
President: IFAA

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOOD PRACTICE AROUND HUMAN TISSUE IMAGE ACQUISITION AND USE IN ANATOMY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

In 2012 the IFAA published guidelines to support good practice around the use of human bodies and tissues for anatomical purposes. Continued development of technologies since the original guidelines, with the now ubiquitous use of the internet and digital technologies, means there are now additional considerations which require 'best practice' guidance for the anatomy community. One of these considerations is image acquisition and use, a topic that was originally referred to in a limited capacity as 'Item 6' in the 2012 guidelines. This topic is here expanded to provide guidelines that are more congruent with the contemporary education and research environment. The term 'images' refers specifically to photographs, videos, and images of actual human tissues as well as those generated by modalities such as ultrasound, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging.

Images that arise from human tissues are not physical specimens, but their representations. Nevertheless, they are derived from actual persons and therefore deserve special consideration in regard to their acquisition, storage and use. The use and distribution of images in ways that are not considered ethical can undermine the relationship with local communities, and this necessitates reflection around how these resources are managed.

It is acknowledged that access to donated bodies is not globally universal, and where these are not available yet there may still be a reliance on unclaimed bodies. If unclaimed, unconsented bodies are used, the spirit of the document should still apply and institutions should aspire to meet the guidelines, even though this may mean that fulfilling the requirements of some sections of the guidelines is not possible (such as sections 2, 3, and 4).

1. The use of images derived from human tissues should be considered as part of the respectful treatment of those whose bodies are used in anatomy education and research. This treatment acknowledges that their use should be restricted to defined purposes in education or research and that anatomical dissection of deceased individuals should remain confined to a protected non-public space.

2. The use of images should be covered by informed consent of the donating individual that is appropriate for the intended outcome, use or purpose of the image (see figure). For example, where applications or use of images are more likely to be applied in instances such as commercial use, then specific consent for that purpose is required. In instances such as images of histological specimens, less specific consent is suggested as being adequate.

3. Informed consent for anatomical body donation should include information pertaining to images of a donor's body (or part thereof) being used for education and / or research purposes. Contained within the information provided to potential donors should be details around image acquisition, storage, duration and manner of use. If images may potentially be distributed to other institutions for educational and / or research purposes, this should be described on the information and consent forms.

4. Informed consent documentation should include a statement that any images that could lead to the identification of the person must be specifically consented by the donors and / or their loved ones or legal representative. In general, identifying marks, accession numbers, or other features that may potentially lead to identification should be redacted from images.

5. Images of human tissues acquired from deceased individuals should never be used on social media or other non-password protected internet sites. Use on restricted-access anatomy-related websites such as institutional platforms is acceptable. These limitations are necessary to uphold the dignity of the individuals, avoid bringing the dissection of donors into a non-protected public space, and to prevent donated bodies being misused or abused for non-academic purposes (including morbid curiosity).

6. The development of educational resources that contain images of human tissues should seek to embed these images within documents so that files of individual images are not able to be acquired by those using the documents. Where online education is delivered, students and others must not copy or 'screen-shot' images of human tissues. This is to prevent *ad hoc* distribution of individual images that are not associated with an educational context.

7. Images of human tissues should not be commodified or commercialized, meaning they should not be bought, sold, or traded for profit. As per Item 2 of the 2012 guidelines, some exchange that allows support for real costs incurred is considered appropriate. If images are to be used in the development of commercial anatomical resources, such as textbooks or other educational products, the donor must specifically consent to image use for this purpose, and, where possible, the donor's loved ones should also be made aware of this use at the time of consent. Specific consent for this purpose should be made with documents that are independent of the standard consent processes, so any educational purpose that may have commercial sequelae is not viewed as being part of the standard consent practice.

8. Those who develop applications or resources from images of human tissues, including commercial educational systems such as

image projection tables or virtual anatomy systems, must disclose the sources of their material (i.e. data sets) and their consent status.

9. Where acquiring or using images of human tissues is possible, or where technologies are used that include images of human tissues, faculty, staff and students at these institutions should receive instruction on contemporary ethical practices around image acquisition, storage and use.

10. Areas where human tissues are used should have clear and appropriate signage that indicates no unauthorized photography or image capture is to take place. This is to prevent the *ad hoc* acquisition of images by faculty, students, staff, or other parties.

11. Images of human tissues should only be acquired from sources where the status of donor consent is able to be verified. This includes images acquired randomly from the internet, and from commercial educational systems that do not disclose the sources of their images. A 'best practice' is for images to be generated locally from fully consented donors or to be acquired from other institutions where donors were fully informed and consented for such use. Use of historical image data sets acquired prior to the development of contemporary ethical standards should be undertaken with care, and with reference to these guidelines to facilitate appropriate decision-making about their use. In these cases transparency is a priority and it may be useful to provide indication on whether the consent status of the person was unknown, unconsented, or consented. Where possible, images from historical collections from unknown or unconsented persons should be replaced with images from consented persons, except for educational settings that specifically address the history and ethics of their acquisition.

12. All digital images of human tissues acquired by an institution for education and / or research

purposes must be stored on secure, password protected devices that are only accessible to designated faculty, staff and students at that institution. To maintain security and control of image databases, and to facilitate access for the purposes of an audit, it is a 'best practice' that all images of human tissues be stored locally and not on non-institutional, commercial servers.

assist in the development of, and provide approval for, the processes and / or policies around human image acquisition, storage use and destruction. AOC should also consider how donors could be acknowledged in resources or final products. It is a 'best practice' for these processes and policies to be transparent and discoverable.

13. If images of human tissues are not being specifically and consistently used for an educational and / or research purpose anymore, it should be considered to destroy them after a reasonable period to avoid the accumulation of images of human specimens detached from a specific purpose.

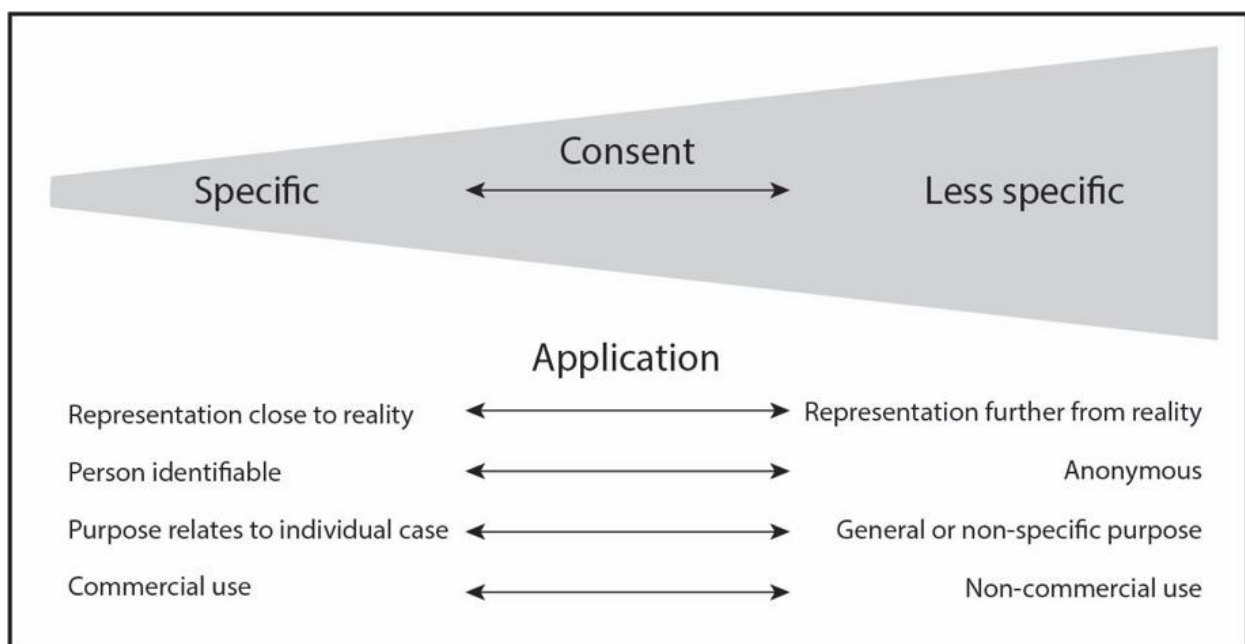
This set of guidelines supplements the IFAA 'Recommendations of Good Practice for the Donation and Study of Human Bodies and Tissues for Anatomical Examination' (2012).

Developed by:

The Federative International Committee for Ethics in the Medical Humanities (FICEM) for the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA)

April/July 2023

14. Anatomical Oversight Committees (AOC) for the institution or donor program, or the committee or persons directly responsible should an AOC not be established, should



IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme



The IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme (PEAP) hosted its first ever speed mentoring evening. Attendees young and old were invited to engage in 20-minute one-on-one discussions with both local as well as international mentors covering a host of topics ranging from career development to seeking funding opportunities.

The IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme has also hosted three Introduction to Scientific Writing workshops throughout 2022, which have been an invaluable opportunity for those who attended to reinvigorate their scientific writing. If you would like to be added to the mailing list and informed of the 2023 events, please email ifaa.peap@gmail.com.



IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme: Speed Mentoring event



Announcement of the IFAA Emergent Anatomists Awards (Registration) for the IFAA2024 Congress in Korea

The International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) Executive Board will again support 'Emergent Anatomists' (academic staff and postgraduate students) to attend designated IFAA Congresses.

In order to support emergent anatomists attending such Congresses, an "early bird" registration cost is being offered to emergent anatomists. Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs unfortunately cannot be supported by this award. While in the past, only 10 academic staff and 10 PhD level postgraduate students have been supported by the IFAA for each Congress, we are pleased to announce that the Korean Association of Anatomists (KAA) who are hosting the Congress have offered to support the IFAA's Emergent Anatomist Award in 2024 by

providing registration costs **to an additional 10 academic staff and 10 PhD level postgraduate students.**

Thus the IFAA together with the KAA are delighted to announce that the IFAA's Emergent Anatomist Award for 2024 will support a total of **40 emergent anatomists** (ie 20 academic staff and 20 PhD students).

Applications for these awards are now open (November 2023) and close at the end of **February, 2024**. Only those applications on the official IFAA application template, fulfilling all requirements, will be considered. Please note applicants must be from countries designated as low or low-middle income by the World Bank. The template for application is available on the IFAA website (www.ifaa.net)



The Anatomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA) was recently privileged to host the 28th symposium of the International Symposia of Morphological Sciences (ISMS) between the 5th and 8th August in the idyllic setting of the city of Cape Town in the Western Cape, South Africa. The four-day meeting focussing on “Excellence in research and education” was opened by Professor Graham Louw, Chair of the Local Organising Committee and Professor Guido Macchiarelli, President of the ISMS.

In line with the meeting theme, four workshops were offered to attendees covering “Innovative and authentic assessments: enhancing assessment practice” presented by Professor Francois Cilliers (University of Cape Town), “3D printing of human remains and teaching material” presented by Mr Marius Loots (University of Pretoria), “The taphonomy of subaerial bone weathering” presented by Dr James Pokines (Boston University School of Medicine, USA; Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, USA) and “Ultrasound-guided biopsy” presented by Dr Asif Bagadia (Stellenbosch University, RSA).



ISMS medallion reflecting all previous host venues and chairs of organising committees.

Parallel sessions covering Neurosciences and Anatomy Education, Clinical Anatomy, Forensic Anthropology, Art in Anatomy, Excellence in Education, Ethics, Developmental Biology, Developmental Anatomy and Embryology as well as Evolutionary Biology & Comparative Anatomy offered attendees the opportunity to engage with a wealth of international anatomy knowledge. Dr Iben Lundgaard (Lund University, Sweden) presented a key-note address entitled “Brain clearance: The lymphatic system and beyond” to the neurosciences and anatomy education session. In keeping with anatomy of the head and neck, Dr Rohen Harrichandparsad (UKZN, RSA) presented insights into the Ophthalmic artery embryology with a review of the current literature, anatomical variations and clinical relevance. The forensic anthropology theme broadly included discussions focussing on “Dry bone taphonomy in forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology” and “The use and future of 3D data in forensic anthropology” and included a presentation by Dr James Pokines entitled “Forensic anthropology through a taphonomic lens”. Professor Sabine Hildebrandt (Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, USA) offered food for thought about anatomy education in the post COVID context with her presentation entitled “Ethics in Anatomy: With the body, beyond the body – the meaning of Anatomy Education in 2023” to the excellence in education session. Professors Kapil Satyapal (UKZN, RSA) and Beverley Kramer (WITS, RSA) further enriched discussions around ethics in anatomy with their presentations entitled: “Anatomists’ approach to Ethical Dilemmas” and “A debt to the dead: Anatomists as custodians of the ethical use of the dead” respectively. The Developmental Biology, Developmental Anatomy and Embryology session and Evolutionary Biology & Comparative Anatomy session each offered fascinating insights into evolution and developmental biology with presentations by Assistant Professor Sayaka Tojima (Kyoto University, Japan) entitled “Tale of the tail: a study of the evolutionary and developmental paths to humans, “Shippology” and Dr Joy Richman (University of British Columbia, Canada) entitled “Experimental studies on tooth replacement using the leopard gecko as a novel

animal model”. Dr Natasha Muna (UCT, RSA) embraced the lighter side of anatomy with her presentation on a theoretical framework and pedagogical analysis of visual language within the health sciences in the art of anatomy session. The 29th Symposium of the ISMS will be held in Lisbon, Portugal in 2025.

The following attendees were recipients of awards offered at the event:

ICSMS Award (joint winners)

- Ms Vensuya Bisetty - Analysis of cranial fossae indices in scaphocephaly and its correlation with severity.
- Ms Claudia Landsman - Assessing the long-term effects of burial on domestic pig remains in the South African Highveld.

ASSA Oral Award

- Ms Vensuya Bisetty - Analysis of cranial fossae indices in scaphocephaly and its correlation with severity.

Willie Vorster Poster Award

- Ms Amberly Oosthuizen - Craniofacial sex and age-at-death: Influenced by trauma?

SV Naidoo Poster Award

- Ms Meg-Kyla Erasmus - Assessing variation in ear size of South African populations for 3D cranio-facial approximation.

Antoinette Kotze Award

- Mr Peterson Atiba - Hemifacial Microsomia: A scoping review on progressive facial asymmetry due to mandibular deformity.

Hanno Boon Oral Award

- Dr Kentse Mpolokeng - Using Mentimeter as an interactive tool to facilitate student participation in in-person lectures on anatomy.



Conference attendees: Dr Erin Hutchinson (Wits), Professor Desire Brits (Wits), Dr Rethabile Masiu (UFS), Ms Xolisiwe Mthlathi (MSc student, Wits) and Mr Arthur Manjatika (PhD student, Wits). Photo courtesy of Mr. Arthur Manjatika.



Professor Graham Louw, Chair of the local organising committee of the 28th Symposium of Morphological Sciences, Cape Town. Photo courtesy of Mr. Marius Loots.



Professor Graham Louw (UCT), Jocelin Kagan, Leonard Shapiro (UCT) highlighting the African Wild Dog exhibit which formed part of the conference prizes. Photo courtesy of Mr. Marius Loots.



Attendees from the School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, at the 28th Symposium of Morphological Sciences meeting, Cape Town. Photo courtesy of Mr. Marius Loots.



Attendees of the 28th Symposium of Morphological Sciences meeting, Cape Town 2023. Photo courtesy of Mr. Marius Loots.

University of Pretoria: Department of Anatomy

As we gear up for the final stretch of another bustling year in teaching, learning, and research, we are happy to reflect on the year that has passed. From exam stress to the anticipation of the upcoming December holidays, here's a snapshot of the highlights and happenings in the UP Department of Anatomy.

News in the Department

After a lifetime of exceptional service to our department and the Body Donor Program, Mr. Gert Lewis has decided to embark on a new chapter—retirement. His dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on all of us. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement. May it be filled with joy, relaxation, and new adventures.

We also said goodbye to Mrs. Reinette Ebersohn as she embarks on a new journey with her family in a new country.

A warm welcome to Mr. Livashin Naidu, who has recently joined our department. We're thrilled to have him on board and look forward to the positive energy and contributions he'll bring to our community.

2nd World Anatomy Day Celebration the UP way

The International Federation of Associations of Anatomists declared the 15th of October World Anatomy Day in celebration of the life of Andreas Vesalius. On the 11th of October, members of the Department of Anatomy, University of Pretoria organised a special "*Bring your A(natomy) Game*" day in celebration of

World Anatomy Day, the UP Way. The Prinshof Campus was the scene of much joy and laughter as almost 80 staff and students rotated between table top games specifically designed with anatomy and anatomy teaching and learning in mind. These games were designed by staff and students alike and covered areas of embryology, histology, osteology / anthropology, as well as gross anatomy. Special thanks to Dr Gerda Venter and Dr Lané Prigge for taking up the bulk of the organization

responsibilities, to Mr Gregg Keyter from Elsevier and the Faculty of Health Sciences for the amazing prizes and even refreshments, and finally to all the contributors, staff members running the anatomy games, and most importantly, the participants for making the day such a special experience

#UPWAD2023

#LifeChangers

#uphealthsciences #HSUP



Conferences presentations: Student spotlight

Several staff members and their students attended the International Symposium on Morphological Sciences (ISMS) held in Cape Town in August. In particular we would like to commend our student presenters: Mr Heinrich Smuts presented his research on the anti-diabetic attributes of small peptides in cellular models, and Ms Miksha Harripershad presented her study on skeletal asymmetry and indicators of developmental stress. Well done to our postgraduate students that represented the department at the ISMS conference.

Two of our students were selected to present their MSc research at the Postgraduate Research Day hosted by the University of Pretoria. Ms Sarah-Kelly Houston presented her research on the assessment age and its influence on skeletal sex estimation. Ms Carolyn Nadasen was awarded the first-place prize for her work on potential anticancer compounds in melanoma.



Mr Heinrich Smuts (Above) and Ms Miksha Harripershad (Top Left) both delivered presentations at the recent ISMS conference in Cape Town. Carolyn Nadasen (Bottom Left) winning first prize for her presentation at the Postgraduate Research Day.

Workshops

Short Course in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound for Healthcare Professionals

The Section Sports Medicine, in collaboration with the Department of Anatomy at the University of Pretoria, presented the first short course in musculoskeletal ultrasound for health professionals, in August 2023. This course focused on musculoskeletal ultrasound for soft tissue injuries, particularly those related to

sport. The objective of this course was to enhance the skills of sports physicians in performing ultrasound imaging, confirming diagnoses, and improving subsequent management of injuries.

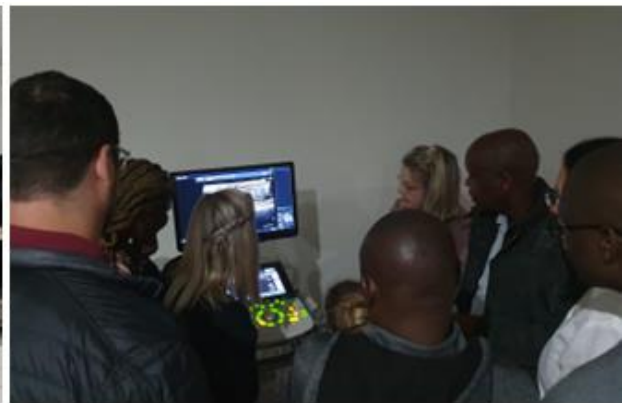
The course included detailed anatomical lectures presented by Dr. Lané Prigge. Anatomical parts and charts displayed models and posters of the anatomical structures, and also donated a mini articulated skeleton that was won by Dr. Carollette Cloete (nee Snyders).

Osteological specimens, models, and charts were utilised to re-emphasise the importance of sound anatomical knowledge. This was complemented by demonstrations and practical ultrasound examinations of the limb joints, conducted by experts in the field.

The delegates who attended greatly benefited from the medical equipment and proficiency of the Techmed team, as well as the expertise and practical knowledge of Prof. Christa Janse van Rensburg, the head of Section Sports Medicine.



Left: Dr Lané Prigge, presenting anatomical lectures during the ultrasound course. Right: Dr Carolette Cloete (nee Snyders), winner of the donated skeleton, with Dr Dimakatso Ramagole, Course leader, Section Sports Medicine.



Delegates enjoying some physical movement and light humour before observing how an ultrasound on a colleague is performed.

Outreach

The Forensic Anthropology Research Centre (FARC) partnered with the Victim Identification Centre (VIC) to teach the Grade 10 Life Sciences students at Amberfield College about forensic anthropology and the important work that goes into the identification of unknown individuals from skeletal remains. The session included interactive activities introducing the students to the human skeleton and what anthropologists can interpret from bones.

Leandie Liebenberg



Members of FARC and the VIC introducing Grade 10 learners to the world of forensic anthropology

University of Johannesburg: Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology (HAP)

Conference Presentations:

Prof Shahed Nalla and Dr Sundika Ishwarkumar-Govender were part of the local organizing committee for the XXVIII International Symposia on Morphological Sciences (ISMS) conference held in Cape Town, South Africa, in August 2023. Prof Nalla presented a poster at the conference entitled, “*Co-existent vertebral malformations: Sacral Spina bifida occulta (SSBO) with Lumbosacral Transitional Vertebra (LSTV) in a South African Population Sample*” and co-authored “*Lumbosacral transitional vertebrae: prevalence, morphology and ancestry in a South African population, which was presented by Dr Glen Paton at the conference. He also presented an oral presentation on “Academic Exclusion of Health Sciences students in South African Higher Education Institutions - A rationale for Institutional Policy and Processes”*

at Institutions - A rationale for Institutional Policy and Processes South African Association of Health Education (SAAHE) Conference, 2023 Nelson Mandela University, Gqeberha, South Africa. Prof Shahed Nalla chaired the session on Evolutionary Biology and Comparative Anatomy and the poster session at this conference. He was an invited Senior Mentor for the IFAA President’s Emergent Anatomist Programme (PEAP) Mentoring Session at this conference. Dr Ishwarkumar-Govender also presented an online poster presentation entitled, “*Is the Nolla Classification Scheme applicable to the KwaZulu-Natal population of South Africa?*”



Prof Shahed Nalla at ISMS Conference (2023) in Cape Town

Community Engagement

HAP was involved in two departmental community engagement projects this year; a food-drive for underprivileged UJ students and our yearly book-drive for the Pediatric Ward of Charlotte Maxeke Hospital, which was organized by Mrs. de Lange-Jacobs and Dr. Ishwarkumar-Govender. Both projects tied into the strategic developmental goals of UJ, and was well-received by the recipients.

As part of the 3D Organon World Anatomy Day celebration, Prof Nalla also presented a Webinar titled, "Anatomy Teaching – Synergies encapsulated in world of 4IR". In addition, Emeritus Prof Beverley Kramer (Wits) and Dr Kerri Keet (University of Stellenbosch) visited HAP in October 2023. There were fruitful discussions related to Anatomy Teaching, Learning and Research, as well as aspects related to mentoring of young academics. There was also a walk through the HAP facilities and the Health Training Center and Simulation Laboratories of the Faculty.



HAP staff members with their contribution for the Food-Drive



Prof Shahed Nalla, Dr Thandi Fasemore, Prof Pilani Nkomozezi, Dr Kerri Keet, Prof Beverly Kramer, Mr Hamid Jalal (seated) at the HAP visit



HAP Staff at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital donating books, toys and educational games

Awards Day

HAP hosted their Annual Awards Day function at the Design Café at the Bunting Road Campus in March 2023, to acknowledge the top achievers in Human Anatomy and Physiology for the 2022 academic year. The function was well-received by the top achievers and their family members; the top achievers received a certificate and an Exclusive Books voucher.

Academic Recognition

Dr Pilani Nkomozezi was promoted to Associate Professor within the department in August 2023 – Congratulations, Prof Nkomozezi!!! Prof Shahed Nalla has been appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board of 3D Organon. Sundika Ishwarkumar and Thandi Fasemore also graduated with their PhDs from University of KwaZulu-Natal and University of Witwatersrand – Well done and all the best for your future endeavor!

Sundika Ishwarkumar-Govender



Top achievers in HAP with Prof Pilani Nkomozezi (HoD of HAP)

University of the Witwatersrand: School of Anatomical Sciences

School Matters:

Congratulations to Prof Desiré Brits who was accepted to write the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe's (FASE) certification exam. She passed the level 1 – independent practitioner exam, making her the third certified forensic anthropologist in South Africa and the 5th individual to be certified as a level 1 forensic anthropologist by the FASE. The following staff members received their NRF rating: C2: Associate Prof T Augustine, Prof A Ihunwo, Prof E Mbajjorgu, Dr B Maseko and Y2: Dr Billings.

Congratulations to Dr BC Maseko and Associate Professor T Augustine on being selected to participate in the Future Professors Programme (FPP) Phase 2 Cohort 2 of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). They were selected from (97) applications received from the twenty-six (26) universities with 32 shortlisted candidates.

The Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Dr Judy Dlamini, has established a Fellowship Fund, the Female Academic Leaders Fellowship NPC (FALF). FALF aims to contribute to gender and racial transformation of academic leadership and contributors to the body of knowledge at the university level, starting with the University of the Witwatersrand. FALF intends to create a cohort of Chancellor's Fellows who will mentor other women and form networks across institutions locally and internationally. Congratulations to the following staff members who have each been named as fellows under FALF: Dr K Xulu, Dr A Ngwenya and Dr T Ramphaleng.

At the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences Honours celebration on the 3rd of March 2023, Prof M Steyn was recognized for her ASSA Lifetime Distinguished Member Award and Prof P Manger was recognized for his FHS Best Postgraduate Supervisor Award.

Mr Boikano Morele and Miss Lebogang Moshupya joined us on 1st July till December 2023 as part of the Presidential Youth Employment Scheme (PYES) Internship. Dr T Tshabalala was the recipient of a Carnegie Diversifying the Academy Program Enabling Grant. Congratulations to Dr Sylvester Omoruyi for his recent MPhil in Cancer Science.

Wits anatomists together with other South African anatomists at the Universities of Stellenbosch and Kwa-Zulu Natal, shared their concerns on public dissection and its effects on donor communities. For more information on this topic, see: Keet K, Pamela Pillay P, Billings BK, Satyapal KS, Kramer B. 2023. Profiting from public dissection: A new era of unethical practices by non-anatomists. Viewpoint Commentary. *Anatomical Sciences Education* 16: 384-390; <https://doi.org/10.1002/ase.2256>

Continuing on the topic of ethics and research integrity, Wits anatomists also reviewed research integrity at a local Faculty of Health Sciences: Augustine T, Libhaber E, Hofman B, Nhlapo M, Kramer B. 2023. Research Integrity at a South African Health Sciences institution. *The Journal of Scientific Practice and Integrity*. July 28. Pp 1 -14. [doi:10.35122/001c.73931](https://doi.org/10.35122/001c.73931)

As anatomists it is important for us to encourage our health sciences students to participate in research. A recent combination of abnormalities in a donated body provided some

Wits medical students with an opportunity to study detailed anatomical abnormalities and embryology in order to discuss what they had found. It also provided the students with an opportunity to realise that while we teach “general morphology”, each individual is unique. See: Bosman P-J, Surandernath S, Quinton B, Khan M, Ziqubu D, Asmal F, Kramer B. 2023. A Cluster of Dysmorphologies in a Male Human Body. *Eur J Anat.* 27 (5): 561-570.

Professor Beverley Kramer was invited to share her thoughts with Professor Claudia Krebs and Professor Segun Oyedele (University of British Columbia) on “Creating a Global Anatomy Community” in September 2023. The webinar on the programme “Body Banter” can be found at:

http://www.bodybanter.ca/podcast18_BK.html.

She also delivered a Keynote address at the XXVIII Congress of the International Symposium of Morphological Sciences, Cape Town, South Africa, 2023 entitled “A debt to the dead: Anatomists as custodians of the ethical use of the dead”. Professor Kramer in her role as President of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) was also invited to deliver an address on World Anatomy Day to the Anatomical Society of Pakistan. This address was entitled “What should we be thinking about when considering the future of anatomical education?”. Professor Kramer as President of the IFAA was also invited by FIPAE to deliver an address as part of its Education Festival for World Anatomy Day. This address was entitled “Keeping up (ethically!!) with advances in technology when teaching human anatomy”.

Wits Face Database

Dr Nicholas Bacci, will soon be starting re-establishment and expansion of the Wits Face Database, the first high quality, matched, African facial database. Thanks to NRF Thuthuka funding, a fully mobile CCTV set-up for data collection has been developed and starting February 2024, field data collection across University of the Witwatersrand campuses will begin, in order to capture over 2000 faces in a variety of conditions. The Wits

Face Database will be able to fill an important niche in facial identification research and practice as large majority of databases include primarily male European and Asian individuals. It will be an open access database, accessible through an internal ethics application process, to ensure abiding by POPIA standards, and usable for research and training use by government and academic institutions. For more information, please see the following website: <https://sites.google.com/view/wits-face-database/home>, schedules and more details to come here in 2024.”

Dr Nichola Bacci has been accepted as a contingent/associate member of the Facial Identification Scientific Working Group (FISWG) (and Wits university by proxy). FISWG is a USA based international scientific working group that guides and sets standards for the application of facial identification, including facial comparison. Membership includes law enforcement, intelligence agencies, industry, and other institutions with an interest or focus on facial identification. Each institution/agency has specific representatives that bring their expertise to the working group.

Please see a brief description of FISWG from their website

(<https://www.fiswg.org/index.html>):

“The Facial Identification Scientific Working Group (FISWG) develops consensus standards, guidelines, and best practices for the discipline of image-based comparisons of human facial features, provides recommendations for research development activities, and advances the state of the science in an ethical manner.

Facial identification (FI) has been used in government and law enforcement (LE) applications for decades. The widespread use of facial images for scientific analysis and automated facial recognition (FR) systems both in law enforcement and the private sector is more recent. For over a decade, FISWG has been a leader in gathering and disseminating accurate information regarding the proper

application of FI and FR methodologies and technologies. With over 50 different LE agencies, intelligence agencies, and private

industry from across the world, subject matter experts (SME) in the FI-related disciplines meet twice annually.”



Dr Nic Bacci

Prof Maryna Steyn completed a three months STIAS (Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study) fellowship from July to August 2023. During this time, Prof Steyn worked on several projects pertaining to South African bioarchaeology and also presented a seminar on the results of their ongoing work on skeletal TB.

Brain Bee

In collaboration with the Brain Wellness Initiative and Kupane Funerals, the School of Anatomical Sciences organised the first BrainBee competition for three high schools in the Johannesburg area. The competition was divided into three rounds. The first was a

qualifying round, which was accessible to all matriculants at Lofentse Girls High, Orlando Secondary, and Selelekela Secondary Schools. The top seven students from each school were then invited to the School of Anatomical Sciences to compete in the following rounds of the Brain Bee competition, which included a written and practical assessment. The top ten students advanced to a rapid-fire quiz, where Siphesihle Menyo took first place, Hope Ndlovu took second, and Anathi Mandubu and Ntombikayise Ndhlovu tied for third place. The students also had the opportunity to meet IBRO president Prof Tracy Bale, who concluded the proceedings with a talk titled "*Experience is everything: Viewing research through a wider lens.*" The top four students were honoured guests at the SONA conference.





The winners of the 1st Brain Bee competition, with Head of School of Anatomical Sciences, Prof Amadi Ihunwo, representative from Kupane Funerals, President of IBRO, Prof Tracy Bale, Mrs Ihunwo from the Brain Wellness Initiative.

SONA

Prof Amadi Ihunwo, Chair of the Local Organising Committee and President of SONA 2023, welcomed neuroscientists from across the African continent and around the world to the 16th International Conference of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA 2023), which was held at the Indaba Hotel, Spa, and

Conference Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa. The conference theme, “The Brain in Health and Disease: From Basic to Translational and Clinical Neurosciences”. Numerous students and faculty from the School of Anatomical Sciences presented their work in the form of posters or oral presentations at the different symposia.



Miss Ntando Ndinisa (Top), Mr Marcel Rapetti and Mr Afoluwajuwonlo Obaoye (Nigeria)(Bottom left) and Miss Patience Mamali (Bottom right), presenting their work at the SONA 2023 conference.

IBRO world congress:

The 11th edition of the IBRO world congress, one of the most prestigious international neuroscience meeting took place in the city of Granada, Spain from the 9-13 September 2023. The school of Anatomical Sciences was well

represented with many of the faculty presenting their work at the congress. Head of school, Professor Amadi Ihunwo presented his work on “*Neurogenesis and gliogenesis in adult brain using the Japanese quail animal model*” in the symposium of Postnatal Neurogenesis in the Vertebrate Brain.



Professor Amadi Ihunwo with colleagues at the 11th IBRO world congress in Spain



Drs Billings, Ngwenya, Malungo and Davimes at the 11th IBRO world congress in Spain.

Workshops and Excavations:

Palaeopathology Workshop

In April this year, the Human Variation and Identification Research Unit (HVIRU), University of the Witwatersrand in collaboration with the Forensic Anthropology Research Centre (FARC), University of Pretoria, funded by Dirisana+, presented a 3-day workshop on Palaeopathology. The workshop consisted of a series of lectures, research presentations, and hands-on practicals covering the main topics in skeletal and dental palaeopathology. This hybrid workshop was attended by approximately 160 individuals from across the globe, representing, students, researchers, academics, etc.

Koffiefontein Excavations

This year saw three field seasons of excavations of historic diamond miner graves at the Petra Diamond mine located in Koffiefontein, Free State. Postgraduate students and staff from the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria assisted with the excavation, documentation and analysis of unknown individuals who died in the mine during the late 18th to early 19th centuries. The mine has been in operation since the 1860s and played an important role in the industrial revolution of South Africa. These individuals were buried in paupers' graves and to date, very little is known about them. As these individuals represent a unique period in South African mine history and their identities remain unknown it is essential to fully document all aspects related to their demographics, living conditions, possible causes of death and health. The research outputs that will stem from this collaboration will in part assist in not only understanding the role these individuals played

in developing the early South African economy but will also enable some recognition of these individuals' contributions and sacrifices.

The taphonomy of subaerial bone weathering

Prof Desiré Brits and Dr Anja Meyer, with assistance from Prof Shahed Nalla (University of Johannesburg) organized the Forensic Anthropology Interest Group (FAIG) workshop for the XXVIII International Symposium of Morphological Sciences (ISMS) conference in Cape Town. This workshop included a lecture and a short hands-on practical lead by Prof James Pokines from Boston University School of Medicine, & the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, USA. Prof Ericka L'Abbé and colleagues from the University of Pretoria kindly contributed specimens used during the practical.



Prof James Pokines, Boston University School of Medicine & the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, USA



Attendees and presenters at the Paleopathology workshop



Members from the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria excavating at Koffiefontein Diamond Mine.

Conferences

20th Anniversary Symposium of the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe (FASE)

Prof Desiré Brits, Prof Maryna Steyn and Dr Craig Keyes (Department of Forensic Medicine) attended the 20th anniversary symposium of the FASE in Marseille, France (29 Aug/Sept 2023). Dr Keyes presented a paper from his PhD entitled “Scavenging taphonomy in South Africa and the implications for skeletal recovery and analysis”, Prof Steyn presented a paper entitled “Violence against children: a review of forensic anthropological cases in Johannesburg, South Africa” and Prof Brits presented entitled “Understanding the poorly preserved historic skeletons from the Crown Mines Cemetery,

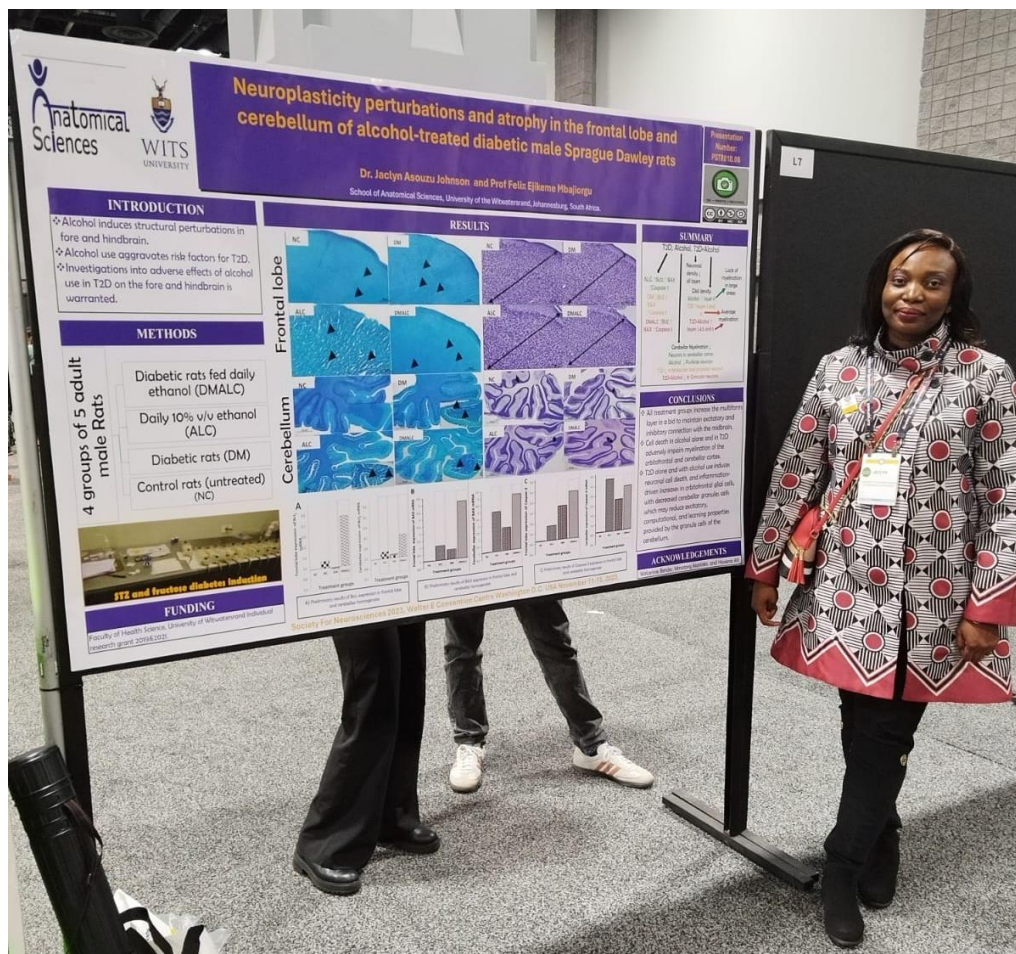
South Africa – the importance of the assessment of diagenesis”.

XXVIII International Symposium on Morphological Sciences (ISMS)

A number of staff and students from the School of Anatomical Sciences attended the ISMS conference in Cape Town during August contributing towards special events, keynote presenters, podium and presentations. Our students represented the School and the University and Ms Claudia Landsman was one of the winners of the prestigious ICSMS awards.

Dr Ilke Malungo

Wits



Neuroscience 2023, in Washington D.C, November 11-15. Each year, scientists from around the world congregate to discover new ideas, share their research, and experience the best the field has to offer. Dr Jaclyn Asouzu-Johnson presenting her work at the Society of Neuroscience (SfN) conference: Neuroscience 2023

Art & Poetry in Anatomy

In Your Image

Daniel Strous

I offer this ode to a royal soul

Your wisdom now mine to cherish

Your brilliance nourishes my yearning

Inflates my lungs

Usurps my being

*I kneel upon your shoulders, and bear witness
to wonder*

You are my educator, my classroom

Your teachings, I hold holy

From you I have learned tenderness

For your anatomy is interwoven with humanity

*A unique kindness I carry with me now and
always*

*A still heart has more to offer than I ever
envisaged*

Tissue is more than an organic jungle

Nerves carry not impulse, but emotion

You have taught me to carry life gently

The soul holds value that gold can only envy

So here's to you all

What you've stood for and what you've given

No lexicon adequately articulates my reverence

*No gift or gratitude reciprocates the sacrifice
bared in these halls*

For when the sun comes up tomorrow

On a world that lingers with your warmth

The day will be brighter

And a smiling face praises your name

Your tree of life buries roots in my mind

*Your radiant crown rests nobly on a velvet
cushion*

I owe my courage to you

Tears of joy spell your name

Your hands hold mine steady

Your lips offer comfort to patients unknown

I am fashioned in your image

*We mirror your flesh, your blood, your entire
being*



My name is Daniel Strous and I am a second year MBCh student at the University of the Witwatersrand. Medicine has been a passion of mine for many years. It, along with poetry, feed my will to explore the human condition and what defines it. To me, poetry is a way to think and feel deeply and honestly in a world that doesn't often permit for us to do so.



I'm Janke Botha, currently a second-year student pursuing my MBCh degree at the University of Witwatersrand. Growing up in a family that highly values creativity as a means of expression, I've been writing poems and plays since my early years. Writing this poem about my experiences during dissections throughout the year posed a significant challenge, especially because English isn't my native language. However, it also made me realize the extraordinary privilege we have in learning about the intricacies of our existence in such a unique way, which is what makes this poem particularly meaningful to me.

Anatomy

Janke Botha

*In somber halls where silence dwells,
A cadaver rests, its secrets tell.
A canvas pale, a story cold,
Once vibrant, now in death's firm hold.*

*The scent of formaldehyde lingers near
As knowledge sought replaces fear
Layers of stories, flesh and bone,
With scalpels poised, we discover the unknown*

*The cadaver speaks in whispers clear,
A silent mentor, with much to share
In stillness it teaches the beauty of life
With every incision, a lesson is rife.*

The cadaver's legacy, a selfless gift

*For the lives of many your sacrifice will uplift
Beneath the skin, a world unfold
A glimpse into mysteries, ages old.*

*Organs arranged with meticulous grace
Everything seamlessly in their rightful place
Though the task is somber, the knowledge is
key,
To heal, to learn, and to set minds free.*

*So let us honor those now gone,
Their legacy in knowledge with us lives on
A sacred bridge from life to death,
Because here the living gets taught by the dead.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

IFAA 2024
The 21st Congress of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists

SAVE the DATE

September 5 (Thu) - 8 (Sun), 2024
Kimdaejung Convention Center • Gwangju, Korea

www.ifaa2024.org | ifaa2024 | ifaa2024_official

Organized by INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF ANATOMISTS
Hosted by KOREAN ASSOCIATION OF ANATOMISTS
Supported by 광주광역시 Gwangju City 광주광역시관광공사 Gwangju Convention & Tourism Organization KOREA TOURISM ORGANIZATION

Important Dates

Early Registration Open	October 31, 2023
Abstract Submission Deadline	February 2, 2024
Acceptance Notification	March 15, 2024
Early and Presenting Author Registration Deadline	March 31, 2024

What's New

UNSPAM the IFAA 2024 emails!	2023-11-14
Online Registration Open!	2023-10-31
Abstract Submission is NOW AVAILABLE!	2023-10-02
Meet the Keynote & Plenary Speakers	2023-08-21

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

The resilience and dedication of our anatomists has once again been a shining light and this was particularly evident when ASSA hosted the 28th International Symposium of Morphological Sciences in Cape Town this year. The theme of the conference was “Vision and Beyond” and it is very much reflective of not only where we have come from as anatomists, but how we should be looking to nurture and grow our discipline for generations to come in both an ethical and enriching manner.

The Federative International Committee for Ethics in the Medical Humanities (FICEM) for the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) has once again reminded us of our ethical obligations as anatomists to always act in the best interests of our donors through their recommendations for good practice around human tissue image acquisition and use in anatomy education and research. I also encourage the readership to keep an eye out for the IFAA soundbites which are circulated regularly and offer a whole host of exiting opportunities. Don't miss out!

Once again hearty congratulations to the organisers and presenters at this year's ASSA World Anatomy Day Virtual Symposium. I also wanted to take the opportunity to once again highlight the artistic contributions of our budding anatomists! I hope you find inspiration in the contributions of these talented individuals. I also extend my thanks all news contributors, the news presented is the news provided and as such without your contributions we would not have this platform. I would once again like challenge everyone to embrace the spirit of World Anatomy Day and keep the news coming! Lastly I would like to wish all readers of this newsletter all the best for the festive season! May you take the time to enjoy the rest and recharge for 2024!

Best wishes



Erin Hutchinson