

6th National Conference of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology

The 6th National Conference of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology (IAFO) was organised in S.D.M. College of Dental Sciences & Hospital, Dharwad, Karnataka, on 4–5 October 2008. The conference drew a great response with more than 300 registered delegates from all over India.

Prof. C. Bhasker Rao, Principal, S.D.M. College of Dental Sciences & Hospital, Dharwad, welcomed the gathering and enlightened the delegates on the current trends in forensic dentistry and its application in day-to-day practice. He also drew attention to the inclusion of forensic odontology in the revised B.D.S. curriculum. Hon. Mr. Justice K. Sreedhar Rao (Judge, High Court of Karnataka) was Chief Guest of the function and stressed on the importance of formulating a definite protocol which, once legislated, will enable the subject to obtain legal status. Prof. J. G. Kannappan, President, IAFO, highlighted the growth of the association since its birth in 2000. He also stressed upon the importance of post-graduation in forensic dentistry. Prof. S. BalaGopal, Secretary, IAFO, read the Secretary's report and honoured the guests. Shri. Jinendra Prasad, Secretary of SDM

Education Society, Dharwad, assured a helping hand to all delegates and released the Scientific Compendium—the proceedings of the conference. Dr. Ashith B. Acharya, faculty member in the Department of Forensic Odontology, SDM Dental College, and the conference's Organising Secretary, delivered the vote of thanks.

Prof. Ajit Dinkar, Prof. P.K. Devadass and Dr. Omprakash Nandimath captivated the audience with their guest lectures. The conference was a platform for close to 69 scientific papers and 29 posters covering all areas of forensic odontology, ranging from traditional topics such as dental identification, lip print patterns, palatal rugae patterns, radiological and histological age estimation methods and bite mark analysis to new areas of interest that included the use of CT scans in post-mortem identification and fluorescent developers for lip prints. The overwhelming response to the conference and its success is owed to the patronage of Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade and the management of SDM Education Society, Prof. C. Bhasker Rao, and commitment of the team of organisers which included Dr. Satyabodh Guttal, Dr. Kiran Kumar K, Dr. Sudeendra Prabhu, Dr. Sudhindra Kulkarni, Dr. Anand Tavargeri, Dr. Sunil Mutalik, Dr. Mahantesh Yeli, Dr. Sampath Kumar, Shri. S. G. Koppad, other staff members and student volunteers.