

# First five years of the International Association for Paleodontology

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The International Association for Paleodontology (IAPO) was founded in 2007 by a group of enthusiastic researchers from Europe, Russia and India interested in ancient teeth. Many of them have never met in person, meeting only virtually using advances of information technology. It has been a huge but rewarding challenge to establish such association.

We did not have experience of founding associations on a global level, but our members were globally distributed with international experience and all of them have embedded their own experience in the development of the IAPO. We did not have sustainable financial background, relying on voluntary donations from our supporters to start to realize our ideas. There were many other things which we did not have in the beginning, but we were working, we were trying and we were growing. Our vision to connect scientists and researchers interested in ancient teeth, to find new possibilities for cooperation, to promote paleodontology and bioarchaeological research and finally to make new friendships was our source of motivation. This is why after five years, we can truly say that we have succeeded.

The IAPO has today more than 250 members from 40 countries from 6 continents, from more than 100 institutions. Many of them are well known internationally recognized scientists who have

recognized the IAPO as a serious association with vision. We are happy that researchers of such caliber have joined us. We are also very proud of our younger members, who have also contributed to the success of the first five years of IAPO.

From the beginning the IAPO promoted the idea of free membership. Membership fees often discourage new and existing members to become or to stay members of different associations. We decided that a membership fee did not match our desire to connect scientists and researchers interested in ancient teeth and to provide venues for the presentation of current knowledge in paleodontology and bioarchaeological research. This idea of free membership has been well accepted by our members, some of whom have supported the work of the IAPO through their donations. Thank you!

We made the membership registration process as simple as possible. Potential members simply need to fill out the online form available at: <http://www.paleodontology.com/index.php?id=72>. There is no need for yearly membership renewal (except when membership details have changed). The number of IAPO membership benefits is increasing. We provide e-mail notifications about new issues of the Bulletin of the International Association for Paleontology and offer discounts on meetings organized by International Association for Paleontology. It is really simple to become an IAPO member. Join us!

Soon after the establishment in 2007 the official website of the IAPO ([www.paleodontology.com](http://www.paleodontology.com)) was registered. The website has been visited more than 50,000 times and the visits have come from the across the globe. Many of our visitors contacted us and asked questions about different aspects of paleodontology and bioarchaeology, which we were happy to answer.

Few months after establishment, the IAPO started to publish the Bulletin of the International Association for Paleontology - an interdisciplinary open access online journal inviting and welcoming contributions from anthropology, bioarchaeology, paleodontology and related fields. According to different journal databases, this is the only journal in the world focused primary on ancient teeth and the mouth. The journal is available at: <http://ojs.sfgz.hr/index.php/IAPO/index>. The beginning of the journal was modest, but five years after we can proudly say that we have a high-quality, indexed, peer-reviewed journal, with a wide audience and bright future. The reviewing process was significantly improved at the end of 2011 when the journal started to use Open journal system – a professional journal management and publishing system. This increased the quality of papers published in the journal. As an editor-in-chief of the journal I use this opportunity to invite you to submit your contributions and help us to make this journal even better and to try to become indexed in the best journal databases. We can do it together!

Following the trends in the modern communications, in 2011 IAPO joined Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Association-for-Paleodontology-wwwpaleodontologycom/107660375994787> ). This made the communication with our members and non-members more dynamic and interactive. All visitors of IAPO Facebook page can post on the wall

leaving their comments, questions and answers. This seems very popular, particularly between younger people.

IAPO members are very active on the scientific and professional level and the IAPO has supported numerous projects, books and papers. We are especially proud when we have an opportunity to support students and young scientists in publishing papers with their own results. Editorial staff of the Bulletin of the International Association for Paleodontology encourage young people to publish their results and endeavors to help them to improve the presentation of their data to the scientific community.

Some members of the IAPO met themselves on several meetings, but at the end of August 2014 we are going to organize the 1st Congress of the International Association for Paleodontology in Zagreb, Croatia, Europe. This will be a joint meeting with the 16th International Symposium on Dental Morphology. Some of the topics will be: paleodontology and bioarchaeology with the reconstruction of the past based on teeth, dental anthropology, dental morphology (including clinical aspects), forensic dentistry, dental evolution, dental tissues, dental growth and development. We are going to prepare an interesting meeting with an excellent scientific programme and plenty of interesting social events. We welcome participants from the whole world. All news about this meeting will be available at [www.paleodontology.com](http://www.paleodontology.com) and on the IAPO Facebook page. Although the first call for congress participation will be released in 2013, speakers interested in giving lectures on the meeting can already contact IAPO central office at: [iapo@paleodontology.com](mailto:iapo@paleodontology.com). Welcome to Zagreb!

Do not forget that all IAPO members will receive discount on the congress registration fee. Become an IAPO member for free registering at: <http://www.paleodontology.com/index.php?id=72>.

The first five years of the International Association for Paleodontology passed very fast in active and dynamic circumstances. We gave our best to establish a serious association with a clear vision of its future and we are happy that our attempts are recognized and awarded by our members. As a president of the International Association for Paleodontology and editor-in-chief of the Bulletin of the International Association for Paleodontology I would like to say thank you to all our members, to all our supporters, to all authors and reviewers in the Bulletin of the IAPO, to the members of the editorial board of the Bulletin of the IAPO and to the IAPO leadership.

I believe that we all can work together on the further development and growth of our association. You are all welcome to participate!