

# Proceedings of the 15th International Symposium on Dental Morphology Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, 2011

## ~ Introduction ~

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**Bull Int Assoc Paleodont. 2013;7(1):27-28.**

The 15th International Symposium on Dental Morphology took place in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, from 24-27th August, 2011. It was, as is usual, an exciting and productive meeting, both scientifically and professionally, bringing together 112 participants from 19 countries. As Chair of the Organising Committee, I am pleased to introduce this Proceedings volume. It includes the original abstracts as well as three short papers and reflects the diversity of topics presented at the symposium. These were loosely grouped into nine categories; clinical aspects of dental morphology, dental anthropology, dental evolution, dental function or tooth food interactions, dental growth and development, dental morphology, dental tissues, the genetics of tooth morphology and paleodontology. It is clear from the diverse range of abstracts and papers that the offerings stretch the overlapping boundaries of these categories. Our special guest speaker, Professor Don

Brothwell, recounted the history of the Symposia and we heard a special message from Percy Butler, who regretfully told us that at 100 years old, he would not be able to attend in person. Looking back at previous Symposia and forward into the future to the 16th ISDM, to be held in Zagreb, Croatia, in 2014, the field of Dental Morphology continues to be at the cutting edge of science, encompassing the work of clinicians, dental and paleoanthropologists, vertebrate palaeontologists, archaeologists, geneticists, developmental biologists and zoologists. I believe this offering from the 15th ISDM reflects this diversity and scientific excellence.

I would like to offer my thanks to all of those on the Organising Committee for their help: Dr Sam Cobb, Professor Chris Dean, Dr Marc EH Jones, Dr Helen Liversidge, Dr Don Reid, and Dr Una Strand Viðarsdóttir. I would also like to thank Drs Barry Berkovitz, David Beynon, and Peter Shellis for their service as judges of the poster contest and Pam Walton, Fiona Usher and Claire Smith for their assistance throughout the conference. Finally, a warm thank you to Dr Marin Vodanović for agreeing to host the 16th ISDM and for generously aiding in the publication of these Proceedings.

