

NEWS

31st SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY – »Emerging Era of High Throughput in Population Genetics«

September 30th – October 7th, 2005, Zagreb and Hvar, Croatia

31st School of Biological Anthropology has successfully continued the endeavor of Croatian anthropologists to stimulate international exchange of ideas and expand the views of students. The school has been continuously organized for 31 years and this year the participants were students and scientists from natural, biomedical, social and humanistic sciences, especially from the fields of anthropology and genetics. The presenters, who are specialists in the field of population genetics have proved themselves extremely valuable partners to their Croatian colleagues and confirmed the significance of topics studied currently in this country.

The 31st School of Biological Anthropology was held under the high auspices of Dragan Primorac, Minister of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia and under direction of Pavao Rudan (Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb, Croatia). The organizers of the School were: Croatian Anthropological Society, Institute for Anthropological Research, Croatian Society for Medical Anthropology – Croatian Medical Association, Academy of Medical Sciences of Croatia and Commission of Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences.

The first day began with opening lecture by Pavao Rudan, in which he stressed the need for permanent education in transfer of scientific information. He also pointed out several dilemmas regarding interpretations of contemporary research of present day human populations by methods of analysis of molecular markers. The

programme continued with the following lectures and was concluded by discussion:

Richard Villems (Tartu, Estonia): Inferring pre-historic demographic events from complete mtDNA trees – new battleground among molecular anthropologists

Peter A. Underhill (Stanford, USA): Peopling of West Eurasia – archeology and genetics

Lev Zhivotovskiy (Moscow, Russia): Dating population events based on microsatellite variation within Y-chromosomal lineages

Ranjan Deka (Cincinnati, USA): Mapping complex disease genes – HapMap project and its portability

The following day the participants of the 31st School of Biological Anthropology traveled to Hvar (Island of Hvar, Croatia) where they continued with their educational activity as a part of scientific and educational symposium »Anthropology and Health«. Preliminary data reports and discussions were held by: Svjetlana Cvjetan (Hvar, Croatia), Nina Jeran (Zagreb, Croatia), Branka Jančićević (Zagreb, Croatia), Dubravka Havaš (Zagreb, Croatia), Toomas Kivisild (Tartu, Estonia), Ilduus Kutuev (Ufa, Russia), Mait Metspalu (Tartu, Estonia), Jasna Miličić (Zagreb, Croatia), Saša Missoni (Zagreb, Croatia), Ana Perinić (Zagreb, Croatia), Siiri Rootsi (Tartu, Estonia), Pavao Rudan (Zagreb, Croatia), Kristiina Tambets (Tartu, Estonia), Peter A. Underhill (Stanford, USA), Lev Zhivotovskiy (Moscow, Russia), directed by Richard Villems (Tartu, Estonia).

Hrvoje Čargonja