

REPORTS

44th School of Biological Anthropology “Dr. Huber Maver” and 22nd European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association

In 2018 the city of Zagreb hosted two major anthropological events. The *44th School of Biological Anthropology “Dr. Huber Maver”: Diseases and Health in Past Populations – Global Trends and Perspectives* was dedicated to the latest development in the study of various diseases in ancient populations and hosted three distinguished speakers. The meeting was held under the high auspices of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts on 27th August 2018 at the palace of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. This one-day event was jointly organized by the following institutions: i) Institute for Anthropological Research, ii) Croatian Anthropological Society, iii) Department for Natural Sciences, Anthropological Center and Scientific Council for Anthropological Research of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, iv) Croatian Medical Association (Croatian Association of Medical Anthropology), v) Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences, and vi) Commission on Medical Anthropology and Epidemiology of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences. The conference was officially opened by academician Zvonko Kusić, president of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The first speaker, Francesco Maria Galassi from the University of Zürich, Switzerland, gave a presentation titled *Unraveling the Antiquity of Diseases: A Tale of Multidisciplinary Paleopathology*. After him, a fascinating talk about parasite infections in the past (*Parasite Infection in the Past Populations of the Mediterranean*) was given by Piers Mitchell from University of Cambridge, UK. The last presentation was given by one of the pioneers of paleopathology, Jane Buikstra from Arizona State University, USA (*The Genomics Revolution in Paleopathology*). During this event, Dr. Buikstra was presented with the Dragutin Gorjanović-Kramberger Medal in Anthropology that awarded by academician Pavao Rudan on behalf of the Croatian Anthropological Society. The *44th School of Biological Anthropology* was concluded with a lively and fruitful discussion.

The second major event, the *22nd European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association*, took place between 28th August and 1st September at Hotel Sheraton. The organizers of this conference were the Institute for Anthropological Research, Paleopathology Association, Scientific Council for Anthropological Research of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Gea Croatica society.



Fig. 1

This event was also held under the high auspices of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and therefore the opening ceremony took place at the palace of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts on the evening of 27th August. During the ceremony the participants were greeted by several speakers: Niels Lynnerup, president of the Paleopathology Association; Mario Novak, president of the Organizing Committee; Saša Missoni, director of the Institute for Anthropological Research; and finally, by academician Živko Kusić, the president of the Croatian Academy of Science. The conference was officially opened by Milan Kujunžićić, Minister of Health of the Republic of Croatia. The first day of the meeting started with the keynote lecture given by Mario Šlaus from the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts titled *A history of paleopathological research in Croatia with emphasis on recent investigations dealing with the ways in which low intensity, endemic warfare affects health*. This was followed by four general podium sessions with over 20 presentations discussing the latest insights into different aspects of health in past populations that lasted throughout the whole day. The second day started with another key-note lecture *Neandertal paleopathology: A tentative synthesis* that was given by Maria and Fred Smith from Illinois State University. Their talk was followed by one poster session with 37 poster presentations, two general podium sessions consisting of 12 presentations and two dedicated symposia with 20 contributions: *The ecology of climate change and infectious diseases: A gateway between past*

and present moderated by Raffaella Bianucci and Dong Hoon Shin, and *Anthropology of violence - Soldiers, warriors and everyday life* moderated by Fabio Cavalli. The second day of the conference ended at the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb where the opening of the exhibition *Back to the past - Copper Age in northern Croatia* took place. The third day of the conference started with the last key-note talk given by Kirsten Bos from Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Germany who talked about *Molecular detection of ancient pathogens in the era of big data*. As in the previous day, this presentation was also followed by one poster session consisting of 37 poster presentations, two general podium sessions consisting of 12 presentations and one dedicated symposium with five contributions: *Source combination in paleopathology. Paleopathography at the frontier between history and medicine* moderated by Francesco Maria Gallassi. After the lunch break Mislav Čavka and Frank Rühli organized the workshop *Paleoradiology meets clinical radiology* at the University Hospital Centre Zagreb where the participants received theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience in X-ray, CT and MRI scanning of (bio)archaeological remains. The official program of the *22nd European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association* concluded on Friday afternoon with the closing remarks by Mario Novak and Niels Lynnerup. The ceremony also included short presentations by Albert Zink who announced that the *23rd European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association* will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2020, and by Ana Luisa Santos who announced that the upcoming PAMinSA will be held in São Paulo, Brazil in 2019. Finally, Sharon DeWitte announced the winners of the Eve Cockburn Student Prize awards: the podium presentation award was given to Alvaro Manuel Monge Calleja and colleagues for their paper *Diaphysometaphyseal pathological deformations and extracortical porosity in infants from the Discalced Trinitarian Convent, Madrid (Spain)*, while the poster presentation award was given to Lindsey Jo Helms Thorson and colleagues for their contribution *Differential subadult health status informed by odonto-*



Fig. 2

metric, genetic, and cultural estimates for sex. The gala dinner was held at the Johan Franck restaurant where the participants could socialize in a more informal atmosphere. The dinner was followed by dance that lasted long into the night. The last day of the meeting was reserved for the whole-day excursion during which the conference participants visited the world famous Neandertal site and museum at Hušnjakovo brdo in Krapina, but also one of the most beautiful Croatian castles, the Trakošćan castle. The *22nd European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association* in Zagreb gathered 200 participants from 29 countries all over the world who presented over 150 poster and podium contributions. In addition, it has to be mentioned that the conference got an overwhelmingly positive feedback in major Croatian media (radio, TV, newspapers, web portals). And finally, based on everything that was said here, we can conclude that the meeting was a huge success in organizational, social and scientific aspects.

Mario Novak