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Editorial

Introduction

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to welcome you to this special edition of *Forensic Science International*. It commemorates the conference of the European Academy of Forensic Science held in The Hague from August 20th to 24th 2012 and reflects the diversity and the scientific level reached during the 5 days of this conference.

It is important to mention that, for this special edition, the review process differed from the normal review process of the journal. All presenters at the conference were invited to submit their contribution to the journal for consideration. Members of the Editorial Board were given access to all submissions, except when they had a particular link with the institution it originated from. Additional external reviewers were invited when an insufficient number of members of the board shared the relevant expertise. The board met during the conference and made a first series of decisions on the contributions submitted before the conference. The contributions submitted later were reviewed online and final decisions were made on the basis of a minimum of 3 reviews. Every selected submission was accepted by a minimum of 2 reviewers. In the end, 18 contributions were accepted and 24 rejected. Many of the rejected papers contained good quality material and the corresponding authors were encouraged to rewrite or carry out some additional work and resubmit their manuscript for consideration as a regular paper of *Forensic Science International*.

Although the final selection of articles in this special edition may not fully represent the range of material presented at the conference, it definitely reflects the spirit of the EAFS 2012 motto "Towards Forensic Science 2.0". The conference was built around themes that covered a wide range of forensic activities, from the crime scene to the court: innovative forensic science and technology, innovation of processes in forensic investigations, strength of forensic findings, education, training and assessment of professionals in the Criminal Justice System, forensic science cooperation and communication, application of special and

unconventional tools and expertise, scene of crime, databases, and soil evidence.

Reviewing the contributions to select those most suitable for publication was a lot of work, with the main goal to reach a high quality special issue. In this respect, the members of the board are gratefully acknowledged for their efforts in reviewing the submitted contributions over the last 8 months: Dr. JoAnn Buscaglia (Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, Quantico, United States), Dr. Jan de Kinder (National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology, Brussels, Belgium), Prof. Pierre Margot (University of Lausanne, Switzerland), Prof. Cédric Neumann (Pennsylvania State University, University Park, United States), Dr. Tapani Reinikainen (National Bureau of Investigation, Vantaa, Finland), Prof. Claude Roux (University of Technology Sydney, Australia), Dr. Justice Tettey (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna, Austria), Prof. Duarte Nuno Vieira (University of Coimbra, Portugal), Dr. Sheila Willis (Forensic Science Laboratory Dublin, Ireland) and Dr. Didier Meuwly (Netherlands Forensic Institute, The Hague, Netherlands). As special guest editor I am also very grateful to Prof. Pierre Margot for his invaluable assistance in the editorial process; it was a great honor and a rare privilege to work with him again.

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