

# EAA – European Anthropological Association

## NEWSLETTER

No. 1 August 2016

### Editorial

#### Words from the President

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Greetings from Cambridge. It is a great pleasure to see the EAA newsletter reinstated and we thank Professor Noël Cameron and Dr Rachel Deevey for taking on this task. For it to be successful we need the input of the membership – so please send Rachel information about local events, activities, PhD awards etc.

In case you need reminding this year the EAA will hold its 20<sup>th</sup> Congress in August 2016 (August 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>) in Zagreb, Croatia on the theme of 'European Anthropology in a Changing World: From Culture to Global Biology'. Our Croatian colleagues have organised a most attractive scientific (and social) programme with international speakers. It is very fitting that we return to Zagreb since our first Congress was held there in 1977 under the auspices of Professor Pavao Rudan, who is the Honorary President of the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress.

So far the 20 congresses have been held in 14 countries and the 2018 EAA Congress will be held in Odense, Denmark. As yet there are no proposals for the location of the 2020 Congress and we would very much like to hold a Congress in a new country.

Since the last Congress Dr Pilar Montero from Madrid has become the EAA Treasurer and the EAA funds have been transferred from Bilbao to Madrid. We are very appreciative that Pilar has agreed to take on this duty. We thank Professor Esther Rebato most sincerely for her many years of excellent service looking after the EAA funds on our behalf.

The EAA Board and Council met in Madrid in July 2015 at the Spanish Association of Physical

Anthropology Meeting. A number of items were addressed (a) the reinstatement of the EAA newsletter (b) the need to review the EAA regulations (c) a proposal for another Summer school/course in Poznan in 2017 and (d) student pre-congress awards. These and other issues will be on the agenda when we hold our General Assembly meeting in Zagreb.

Finally I would like to thank all those people who keep the EAA running on our behalf especially Annamária Zsákai and Pilar Montero.

With best wishes and I look forward to meeting with you in Zagreb.

**Nick Mascie-Taylor EAA President**

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## Editorship



Welcome to the first EAA newsletter under the new editorship of Noël Cameron and Rachel Deevey. It is our aim to keep EAA members updated with news from the Association along with news of anthropology from the countries of members. To achieve this we need your help - please send us information about grant funding opportunities, collaborations and upcoming conferences and any other items of interest to your fellow anthropologists. We welcome your feedback on the content of this first issue and are keen to receive your suggestions for extra items to include in future editions. The newsletter will be most effective if it is a collaborative effort between all members so we look forward to hearing from you.

Noël Cameron (n.cameron@lboro.ac.uk)

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## EAA News

### Elections

#### List of EAA Council members (2016-2018)

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## [Minutes of EAA Council meeting](#)

### **Madrid 23rd June 2015**

Present: Professor Nick Mascie-Taylor (President), Dr Annamaria Zsakai (Secretary-General), Professor Noel Cameron (Vice-President), Professor Michael Hermanussen (Vice President),

Professor Esther Rebato (Former President), Professor Pilar Montero (Treasurer), Professor Pia Bennike (Member), Dr Maruscka Vidovic (Member), Dr Barbara Cvitkusic (attended meeting to provide an update on the EAA meeting in Zagreb, 2016). Skype contact with

Professor Maria Kaczmarek and Professor Jesper Boldsen.

The President warmly welcomed the Council members for attending and thanked Professor Montero for hosting the meeting.

1. Apologies were received from : Prof. Pavel Blaha, Prof. Jesper L. Boldsen, Prof. Brunetto Chiarelli, Prof. Elena Godina, Prof. Erksin Gülec, Prof. Roland Hauspie, Prof. Rimantas Jankauskas, Prof. Helje Kaarma, Prof. Maria Kaczmarek, Prof. Robert Malina, Prof. Natalya Polina, Prof. Marie Françoise Rolland-Cachera, Prof. Inessa Salivon, Prof. Daniela Sivakova, Prof. Anne-Marie Tillier, Prof. Janina Tutkuvienė

2. Minutes of the Council meeting of 2014: They were noted and approved.

3. Report of the President:

Since the Congress in Moscow in 2014 the President had visited Bilbao in late January 2015 and had very useful discussions about the financial arrangements of the EAA with Professors Rebato and Pilar. He also visited Budapest in April 2015 and held meetings with the General-Secretary.

4. Report of the General-Secretary:

The General-Secretary reported on her activities since Moscow and also produced a document (see below in Reports) which provided the full details. According to the General Assembly's request in the Moscow meeting, the Secretary collected several quotations for the 2016 electronic elections from different IT companies. The Council decided to organise the elections by using the same voting system that was used in 2014 (again free of charge), but emphasised some small requested changes (e.g. the number of votes need not be exactly 30). A 'tallying' committee will be selected from the Council members. The Secretary-General was warmly thanked for her continuing hard work on behalf of the EAA.

5. Report of the Treasurer:

Professor Montero reported that she had opened a bank account at Santander UAM which did not involve payment of bank charges. All the EAA money had been transferred from Bilbao to Madrid and the Association had a credit balance of about 40000 Euros. The Council congratulated the Treasurer on opening such a non-fee paying account. The Council discussed the potential difficulty of having the EAA account in the name of the Treasurer and it was proposed that two other Council members should be added to the account for auditing purposes. It was also suggested to extend the term of the General Treasurer from 2 years to 4 years to make the Association more stable financially.

6. Report on the website:

The Secretary-General reported (see below in Reports) that she got very little information to be published on the EAA website, she asked the Council members to help announce news on the website.

7. Reinstatement of the Newsletter in electronic format:

Professor Cameron was warmly thanked for agreeing to be Editor of the Newsletter. The Council agreed to provide an honorarium to Professor Cameron's editorial assistant in order for her to liaise with country treasurers.

Reinstatement of the Summer school: Professor Gülec was warmly thanked for offering to organise a summer school in June 2017 in Turkey. It was agreed that the President will liaise with Professor Gülec. It was proposed that the EAA should approach the Wenner-Gren Foundation for financial support for lecturers on this course. The Council also agreed to provide some funding to support some students to enable them to travel to Turkey.

8. Proposal for pre-congress awards for up to 3 students:

The Council agreed to implement this proposal at the Zagreb meeting. Each student would receive up to 500 Euros to defray travel, registration and accommodation costs. The poster awards at the congress will continue with up to 3 awards being made. No student could receive a pre-congress as well as a congress award. The Secretary-General agreed to draw further details of the timetable as well as a vetting committee.

9. Proposal for EAA book series with Berghahn books:

The Council agreed that the President should seek further clarification from Marion Berghahn about the format of a series.

10. EAA fees: After a wide ranging discussion the majority of the Council voted to simplify EAA fees. The proposal is that all senior members from 2017 will pay 22 Euros and all students will pay 11 Euros (if they transfer directly to the General Treasurer, but 20 or 10 Euros if they pay to the national treasurers). There will be no differentiation by country.

11. EAA regulations: Professors Cameron and Hermanussen agreed to review the EAA regulations by the end of 2015 with the aim of giving greater powers to the Council and Board to act on behalf of the EAA members between congresses. The President and the General Secretary undertook to prepare proposals for the student awards and summer schools related changes in the regulations.

12. Update on 2016 Congress in Zagreb: Dr Barbara Cvitkusic summarised the main details of the Congress (the final date of the congress were announced: 24-28th August, 2016). The Council expressed their concern about the high registration fee (350 Euros for members) and felt that they should be reduced either by choosing a less expensive venue and/or making the congress dinner optional. The Council

agreed to adding 2 supplementary names (Professors Godina and Tutkuvieni) to the International Scientific Committee. Dr Cvitkusic was warmly thanked for sparing the time to attend the Council meeting.

13. Update on 2018 Congress in Odense, Denmark:

Professor Boldsen updated the Council about the meeting – the proposed costs of 180 Euros for members was very welcome but the Council felt that the differential between member and non-member fees should be increased.

14. Any other business:

The President reminded the Council that the location of the 2020 venue should be decided at the Zagreb meeting and requested interested parties to notify the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

Professor Gülec has offered to organise an archaeological tour of either Cappadocia or Anatolia. The Council felt that as many of the EAA members had visited Cappadocia as part of the EAA post-congress tour after the Ankara meeting in 2012 Anatolia was preferable. The President agreed to conduct further discussions with Professor Gülec in relation to numbers who could participate, potential dates and costs.

### **EAA Board Meeting**

There was a short Board meeting which ratified the suggestions made by the Council

## Reports

### **Report of the General Secretary (2014-2015)**

As the General Secretary of the European Anthropological Association my duty was to manage the administration of the Association by cooperating with the President, the General Treasurer and the Local Treasurers by following the Board decisions and the EAA regulations.

Herewith I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Nicholas Mascie-Taylor and Professor Eva Bodzsar who always helped me with their suggestions and recommendations. I thank the General Treasurer, Professor Pilar Montero, for her help and thank the Local Treasurers/National Representatives for their help with informing me about the actual data of payments from their countries.

#### *1) EAA database update*

The update of the EAA members' database is a continuous work. In July 2015 I will send an email to all EAA members to ask them to check their personal data at the website and send me the requested changes in the data. It is important to check the data again, since we have to organise the Council and Board elections at the beginning of 2016.

#### *2) Contacts with the EAA Council members*

I have been in contact with the President, Professor Mascie-Taylor for the whole year. We could meet in April in Budapest to discuss and prepare the Council meeting in June.

I have also been in contact with the General Treasurer, Professor Pilar Montero, since September 2014. The new EAA account was announced according to her information at the EAA website. We asked the local treasurers to inform her about the membership payments from their countries.

#### *3) Contacts with the organisers of the 2016 EAA Congress (Zagreb, Croatia)*

It was my duty to contact the Organising Committee of the next EAA Congress. One

member of the organising team was invited to participate at the Council meeting in Madrid.

#### *4) Managing the electronic elections*

I contacted several Hungarian IT companies to ask for quotations for the management of the EAA electronic elections in 2016. I informed them about the rules of our elections, and asked them to give us an estimate of the IT charge as well as the description of the security level that they could provide us during such elections. I got three kinds of quotations from them (the quotations were presented during the meeting).

#### *5) EAA Council meeting (2015)*

Our small team, Professor Mascie-Taylor, Professor Montero and I, organised this Council meeting. We would like to express our thanks to Professor Montero, who invited the EAA Council to have its meeting during the congress of the Spanish Anthropological Association, and who provided us with the requested conditions for this meeting.

#### *6) Other duties in the administration*

- to register new EAA members,
- to post the EAA Biennial Books to the customers.

**June 2015, Budapest, Hungary**

**Annamária Zsákai**

### **Report of the Website manager (2014-2015)**

I always update the EAA website with all the news and information I get from the field of biological anthropology. But this source of information is very weak, I get less than 10 news items from countries in a year. Therefore I try to collect information from the internet on forthcoming meetings, new releases of anthropological books, defended PhD theses, etc. to give as wide-ranging information as possible in our research fields.

Therefore, let me ask the help of the EAA members and the help of the Council and Board members to fill out the EAA website with news from their countries, universities, institutes, etc.



There is a page at the EAA website where we can announce the summary of new PhD theses. Please send me a short summary of your students' PhD theses, since this site could be a very useful source of information for our students and our research teams' work and progress.

A new query for searching the database of members was created in the last year. It is possible to search the date in a table or in a list form from the database now.

The EAA members' data update should be done continuously, so I ask all members of the Association to inform me if their personal addresses change to help the update data and to avoid presenting incorrect information on the website and contacting errors.

**June 2015, Budapest, Hungary**

**Annamária Zsákai**

## Congress

Dear colleagues and friends,

The 20th European Anthropological Association (EAA) Congress: **European Anthropology in a Changing World: From Culture to Global Biology** will be held in Zagreb, Croatia, at the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology (University of Zagreb) from 24th to 28th August 2016.

The European Anthropological Association was established in 1976 in Zagreb as an international scientific association, in 1977 the 1st congress of EAA was held in Zagreb and started a tradition of organising congresses and uniting anthropologists in their research and mission until the present time. In August 2016 we are going to celebrate the 20th Congress of EAA with the notion that the first one was held in the same place. Local organisers of the 20th EAA Congress are the Institute for Anthropological Research (Zagreb) and the Croatian Anthropological Society.

The Institute for Anthropological Research, as the bearer of continuous scientific research activity, has kept the interdisciplinary approach in its scientific research work and it gathers experts from various scientific fields around mutual anthropological topics which makes it unique in the country and recognisable in international scientific society. So far, in co-organisation with the Croatian Anthropological Society, a cover organisation that brings together scientists and professionals working in the field of anthropology and complementary scientific fields in Croatia, the Institute for Anthropological research has organized many scientific meetings (41 Schools of Biological Anthropology, 35 Anthropology and Health meetings, 1st and 13th EAA Congress, 12th IUAES World Congress, IUAES Inter Congress, etc).

The opening of the 20th EAA Congress will be on 25th August after which follows the scientific program of the Congress composed of plenary lectures, special lectures, and various thematic



oral and poster sessions. A welcome reception for all participants will be organised on 24th August, Congress dinner on 26th August, and excursion to Plitvice Lakes (optional) on 28th August.

Plenary and special lectures on the 20th EAA Congress will be given by the following speakers: Professor Noël Cameron (University of Loughborough, School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences), Professor Struan Grant (University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine/ Divisions of Human Genetics and Endocrinology Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute), Professor Svante Pääbo (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany), Professor Igor Rudan (University of Edinburgh, Centre for Population Health Sciences, UK), Professor Michael Hermanussen (Christian-Albrechts University, Germany), Professor Damir Marjanović (Institute for Anthropological

Research, Croatia), and Professor Gordan Lauc (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, GENOS Ltd., Croatia).

After the 20th EAA Congress, on Monday, 29th August, the 42nd School of Biological Anthropology under the title "New Findings from Vindija Cave" will take place at the premises of Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts. All EAA Congress participants are welcome. After the 42nd School of Biological Anthropology all participants are welcome at the post-meeting reception in the premises of Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

For all further information and preliminary program please visit Congress website at [www.eaa2016.com](http://www.eaa2016.com).

## EAA Logo

With this being the first edition of the newsletter in its new format, we thought it an ideal opportunity for a re-design of the EAA logo. We invite members to send us their proposed designs for the new logo which should represent this forward moving society eagerly seeking challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Please send your designs to Noël or Rachel and members will be asked to vote for their favourite.

## Congresses

### 2017 Congress of the Société d'Anthropologie de Paris

This congress will take place from 25-27<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in Paris. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and these should be submitted online. Please see the website [www.sapweb.fr](http://www.sapweb.fr) for further information about this congress or about the society. There are two themes to the congress which are briefly summarised below:

#### **Thème 1**

- Anthropologie biologique du continent africain: des premiers hominines aux populations actuelles  
- Biological anthropology of the African continent: from the first hominins to extant populations

Cette thématique offrira un panorama aussi complet que possible sur l'ensemble des recherches en cours sur le continent africain. Elles peuvent concerner la paléanthropologie depuis les plus anciens hominines jusqu'à la transition Pléistocène/Holocène, l'étude des comportements funéraires ou des modes de vie toutes périodes confondues, ou encore tous les



aspects de l'anthropologie des populations actuelles (génétique, variabilité, croissance, alimentation, vieillissement, etc...).

This theme aims to present an overview as complete as possible of ongoing research in Africa. It deals with paleoanthropology, dating from the oldest hominins up to the Pleistocene/Holocene transition, the study of funerary practices or lifestyles of any given period, or every aspect of the anthropology of living populations (genetics, variability, growth, diet, aging, etc...)

### **Thème 2**

- Fossiles, d'une morphologie aux potentielles fonctions
- Fossils, from a shape to potential functions

La technicité croissante des travaux paléanthropologiques font parfois oublier qu'au-delà de la quantification à l'extrême des formes fossiles et des questionnements phylogénétiques, il est souvent possible d'explorer une fonction (motrice, cognitive, de nutrition, ...), ses désordres ou une activité particulière. Cette session s'adresse à ces études paléanthropologiques qui (pour cette occasion) placent une fonction au cœur de leurs questionnements, aux travaux comparatifs basés d'inférences fonctionnelles, et à ceux qui questionnent les limites de telles approches.

Behind the increasing technicality of palaeoanthropological works, we often forget that beyond the extreme quantification of fossil forms and phylogenetic questions, exploring a function (motor, cognitive, nutrition, ...), its disorders or a particular activity are often possible. This session is dedicated to these palaeoanthropological studies that (for this occasion) place a function at the heart of their questionings, to comparative works that provide with bases for functional inferences, and to studies that question the limits of such approaches.

## **2017 Conference organised by the Institute of History of National Academy of Science of Belarus**

THE INSTITUTE OF HISTORY

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF  
BELARUS

**Invites members of the European Anthropological  
Association to take part in the International  
Research-to-Practice Conference**

**“Anthropology of family: historical, socio-  
economic and biological aspects of researches”**

**Timing of the conference:** 28–30 June 2017

**Place of the Conference:** The Institute of History of  
the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

**Working languages:** English, Belarusian, Russian

**The Organizing Committee address:**

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## Awards

Professor Robert Malina, from the USA, has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition Science Board's Science Honor Award. "This award is given each year to an academic or research professional that has significantly contributed to the advancement and promotion of the science of physical activity and/or nutrition, in addition to being an advocate of the mission of the Council."

Congratulations to Professor Malina.

## Obituary



**Prof. Gian Franco De Stefano**

**(Turin, September 3rd 1939 – Rome, January 1st  
2016)**

Professor Gian Franco De Stefano was born on September 3rd, 1939, in Turin. After obtaining his degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Pavia in 1965, he received a specialised two-year fellowship at the Anthropology Institute of University of Pavia. From 1967 to 1971 he worked in the Department of Biology at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua (UNAN), where he taught several courses: "Citologia y Embriologia" (1967 to 1971), "Anatomia Comparada" (1969 to 1971), "Evolucion Organica" (1970 to 1971), and "Tecnicas en la Investigacion Biologica" (1971). He further taught "Biologia General" (1967 to 1970) and "Principios de Antropologia" (1971) as an Adjunct Professor. In 1971, he was appointed a member of the "Comité de Evaluación Universitaria" of UNAN, for the "Organizacion de Investigacion Cientifica y Laboratorios." In 1974, he graduated with honors from the specialised school of Biophysics at the University of Pavia. In the same year he won a scholarship from the International School of Human Biology and worked with the International Course of Human Biology at the International Center Ettore Majorana. The chair of Human

Anatomy at the University of Pavia Medicine School appointed him an Assistant and, from 1974 until 1976, he worked as a Human Anatomy Lecturer for the Faculty of Sciences within the same university. In 1975, he received the Scientific Industriousness prize from the University of Pavia. From 1974 to 1976, he ran the Department of Public Education for the Federal Republic of Switzerland, conducting courses on human anatomy for the University Degree of Higher Education.

He became Full Professor of Anthropometry in 1976, at the Faculty of Sciences of Sapienza University of Rome. Gian Franco's life at the university was rich: from 1976 until 1981 he served on several preparatory and advisory committees for the Faculty of Sciences at Sapienza University. In 1976, he began directing numerous surveys on Central American populations. In 1984, his nutritional health program coordinator was sponsored by the Italo-Latin American Institute (ILLA) in Nicaragua, in collaboration with the Ministerio de Salud of the same country. In 1977, he was invited to work as a visiting professor at the Universidad Nacional of Costa Rica, teaching students about human biology and the promotion and organisation of on-site research. From 1977 until 1979, he acted as a scientific consultant at the Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Exactas the Universidad Nacional of Costa Rica, located in Heredia (CR). In 1984, the School of Anthropology at the University Rodrigo Facio of Costa Rica, in San Jose, invited him to lead a series of seminars.

In 1981, he moved to the University of Rome Tor Vergata where he taught Anthropology. At the same institution, he helped establish the Department of Biology, and from 1982 to 1987, he served as the Board Director of the Biological Sciences Program of the Faculty of Sciences. From 1982 to 1986, Gian Franco was the National Coordinator of the MURST research project, "Anthropometric Characterization of Italian Population". From 1986 to 1996, he led the program "Biology, Ethology, Evolution of Non Human Primates and Man". In 1984 he planned the International Symposium "Auxology and Secular Trend: Methodological approaches and

Applications" under the patronage of University of Tor Vergata and Centro Auxologico Italiano, and for ten years he coordinated the PhD program in auxology for the institution. In 1985, he served as the Organising Leader of the International Symposium for "Genetic Diversity and its Maintenance in Tropical Populations" under the advocacy of University of Tor Vergata and the International Association of Human Biologists (IAHB). From 1983 to 1989 Professor De Stefano coordinated the bilateral CNR project (Italy-Germany) for "Genetic Structure of the Italian Populations". In 1987, he organised the VII National Congress of Italian Anthropologists (Biodemography of Mediterranean populations), and in 2003 he organised the last meeting of IAHB. In 1986, the University of Tor Vergata appointed him the General Secretary of Interdisciplinary Center for Latin America, a position he held until his retirement in 2011. In 1987, the university also appointed him the coordinator of its CEE ERASMUS & TEMPUS programs, a position he held until 1995. From 1985 to 1987, he was a member of the national ministerial committee for the reformation of the Degree in Biological Sciences. From 1995 to 1998, he was a visiting professor at the University of Wien, where he taught Human Genetics for the Faculty of Sciences; during his time there, he coordinated "Biological Archive," a sub-project of the CNR Cultural Heritage project.

Professor De Stefano was an active member of numerous scientific organisations at national and international levels, including the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and the Association Latino Americana de Biologia (ALAB). In 1974 he became a founding member of the Unione Antropologica Italiana (UAI), and in 1985 he became a member of the Executive Council of the same society. In 1976 he represented a founding member of the European Anthropological Association (EAA), and from 1981 to 1989 he sat on the board of directors for the same association—as the National Representative of Italian Anthropologists (an elected position). From 1986 to 1992, he served as the assistant secretary for the association, and in 2005 he was elected president, a position he held

for two years. From 1981 to 1988 served as the general secretary of the Italian Primatological Association, and from 1989 to 1994 he served as the president of the same association.

From 1981 to 1983 he was the deputy secretary of the Istituto Italiano di Antropologia. In 1985 he became a member of the International Association of Human Biologists (IAHB); he was subsequently elected the association's general secretary, in 1992, and its president, in 2001. He was also a full, or honorary, member of other prestigious international scientific societies, including the American Association of Physical Anthropology (AAPA), the American Association of Human Biologists (AAHB), and the International Association of Anthropogenetics. In 2004, he was awarded the International prize Fabio Frassetto by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei.

In addition to acting as Editor in Chief of the IAHB Newsletter, Gian Franco also worked with several scientific journals at national and international levels: *Anthropologischer Anzeiger*, *Collegium Anthropologicum*, *Human Biology*, *Human Ecology*, *American Journal of Human Biology*, *Biosocial Sciences*, *Antropologia Contemporanea*, *Rivista di Antropologia*, *International Journal of Anthropology*, *Acta Medica Auxologica*, and *Gene Geography*.

G. F. De Stefano authored more than 130 papers spanning morphological to molecular variations in humans. His textbook *Epigenetic Variants of the Human Skull* (1989) is still considered to be the most authoritative reference on the topic and—along with other research (1991)—represents an up-to-date guide for the study of non-metric variants of the human skull. His papers examined the morphological and metrical analysis of outstanding anthropological remains, such as *Circeo I* (1991), as well as pre-Incan populations (2009). He participated in large auxological studies focused in Africa and Central and South America (1971, 1980, 1982, 1998, 2002, 2004, 2009). His continuous action as Coordinator of National Research Programmes allowed him to perform several field sampling activities for recruiting outstanding biological samples from peculiar populations. Because of his extensive promoting

activity and his research on population models in Central and South America (Nicaragua and Ecuador, from 1994 to 2014) and Africa (Ethiopian Amhara and Oromo communities, from 1998 to 2013), the leading fraction of his scientific production was devoted to the biological and genetic characterisation of Native American populations (Cayapas and Tsachilas) and the mixed communities of Nicaragua and Ecuador. These samples were employed to dissect a huge number of biological factors spanning the peopling of Central/South America and Africa to immunogenetic adaptation: some of the related papers represent significant milestones for the next generation of researchers (2001, 2003, 2004). Gian Franco, along with his colleagues, also investigated European molecular variation. Sicily, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Apulia, Sardinia, Liguria, Calabria, Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, and Spanish Basques were analyzed for various genetic and protein markers (1987–2013).

Gian Franco was highly respected within the global scientific community. He was an inspiring teacher who could entertain non-specialists and specialists alike with his narrative style, his passionate curiosity for the natural world, and his passion for sharing his extensive knowledge; interests; life experiences; and enthusiasm—a trait that characterised all his activities. He was the founder of the Anthropology research group still active at the University of Tor Vergata, inspiring several generations of students around the world, encouraging them to present at national and international meetings. His colleagues could appreciate his kindness and his gentlemanly style and *savoir-faire*: we always admired the way his firm, and sometimes rigid, mien was tempered by his respect for all. We remember the dedication and professional accuracy he brought to his relationships. We will always remember his kindness, generosity, and intelligent humanity. We have all lost a distinguished scientist, a longtime supporter of Anthropology, and a good friend. On a personal note, we could not forget his marvelous tie—depicting a blue Mrs. Ples picture—with which Gian Franco used to start his Anthropology course at the University of Tor Vergata.

The passing away of Professor Gian Franco De Stefano marks a severe loss for those who have known him and for the entire scientific community. Let the community mourn its loss of a true master, one of the few remaining ones.

We wish to express our sincere condolences to his family.

*Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei  
requiescant in pace*

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