



Dr. Deepika Bablani Popli
Joint Editor (2023-25)
Professor, Oral Pathology
Faculty of Dentistry,
JamiaMilliaIslamia, New Delhi



Dr. Priyanka Kapoor
Editor -in-Chief (2023-25)
Professor & Incharge, Orthodontics
Faculty of Dentistry,
JamiaMilliaIslamia, New Delhi

**Journal of INPAFO :
The way ahead**

At the onset, We would like to extend our heartiest gratitude to Indo Pacific Academy of Forensic Odontology for giving us an opportunity to serve the academy as Editor-in-Chief and Joint editor for a term of three years . We would like to congratulate Dr. PradhumanVerma for an exceptional tenure as Editor-in-Chief, where he worked tirelessly to regularize and elevate the standard of publications in the journal. He has ensured that this journal is fully equipped for indexation and citations in reputed journals; and has both a national as well as international presence. Forensic odontology has been constantly evolving in its scope and has now become an integral constituent of forensic investigations. The advent of newer techniques for individual identification from human remains using teeth has amplified its potential and it is now a vital subject in the undergraduate dental teaching curriculum. With the rising significance of varied aspects of forensic odontology, it is justified that the scientific articles published in forensic academy journals explore each domain to make the readers aware of new and upcoming fields while maintaining the sanctity of established well researched foundations. Journal of INPAFO has since its inception tried to cover a broad contextual plethora including original articles on bite-mark analysis, age estimation, chieloscopy, rugoscopy, identification by DNA, fingerprinting, dental records, and also interesting case series using teeth for human identification. In addition, the journal have presented reviews and view point in the form of mind-maps or outlooks in newer interdisciplinary dimensions of paleontology, forensic facial approximation, dental jurisprudence, and broadened the vision of readers to fade their narrow specialty barriers to achieve a wider goal of helping the mankind. We envision that coming years will see faster progression in forensic odontology in futuristic domains to enhance possibilities in addressing and overcoming upcoming potential challenges in the current times.

As is rightly said **“Technology breeds crime and we are constantly trying to develop technology to stay one step ahead of the person trying to use it negatively”**

With increasing crime rate and mass disasters worldwide, and increased use of technology in these crimes, it is important that we stay one step ahead. Futuristic vision may include research in three dimensional scans and radiographic records, role of dental implants in identification, stereophotogrammetry for face recognition, 3-D reconstruction of face, digital printing, software for ethnicity based parameters, exploring the identification aspects based on facial parameters from “selfie” photographs, and many more.

We are a continuum. The rich legacy which we are about to inherit and hitherto take further requires a strong vision, determination, and motivation to comprehensively include create a progressive niche where inputs from seniors, colleagues, researchers, and students are most welcome.

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