

**LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT**



Rafael Latorre, DVM, PhD

Letter from the President of the International Society for Plastination

Dear Friends and Plastinators:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you Volume 31, Issue 2, of the Journal of Plastination. I want to thank the authors of the papers who have chosen our journal to publish their results. These articles allow us to know more details about specific protocols with very interesting applications in our laboratories. I would like to thank the reviewers for taking their time to review the manuscripts.

This issue presents four remarkable papers. The first paper, *Analysis of Radio Frequency Identification Tagging of biological specimens prior to plastination*, from Dr. Vandezande et al. shows how radio frequency identification tags are a feasible and low-cost option for the identification and management of plastinated biological specimens. This study demonstrates the possibility of embedding these tags in advance to have the option of tracking and monitoring samples during the plastination process. The second study, *Pitcher plant plastination: preserving botanical specimens for education and display*, from Dr. Golos et al., contemplates one of the most difficult applications, the plastination of plants. It offers a method to preserve the trapping leaf of a carnivorous pitcher plant in its natural shape and coloration for long-term display. The last two papers, from Dr. Okoye, are about P45 plastination technique. One of them is an *Updated protocol for the Hoffen P45 sheet plastination technique*. With this protocol the plastinated sections obtained are semi-transparent, durable slices with a clear delineation of the tissue morphology including the connective tissue. The other P45 paper, *Tissue shrinkage after P45 plastination*, present physical properties of P45 plastinated specimens, with shrinkage between 6.39 and 19.86 %.

As most of you know, the XX International Conference on Plastination (<https://www.icp2020chile.com>) will be held in Temuco, Chile, next July. The host is Prof. Nicolás Ottone and his team from Universidad de La Frontera. The dates are July 20-24th, 2020. As president of the ISP I would like you all to become actively involved in this conference, sending communications and attending it personally. It will be a great opportunity to share new experiences about innovation and to establish future collaborations for the advancement of plastination. I hope I can meet all of you in Temuco.

I should remind that to attend this Congress, the General Assembly of the ISP approved three travel grants for postgraduate students, working in plastination, and members of the International Society for Plastination.

I would like to welcome all new members of the International Society for Plastination and to invite all of you to participate in the Journal of Plastination. Please, share with us your results, your expertise in plastination and other anatomical techniques.

With best regards from Murcia, Spain

Rafael Latorre