

After months of planning the Second Biennial Conference on Plastination was held at Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga, California on August 7, 8, and 9, 1991. More than 70 people attended the three day conference, of which nine were international attendees. Three from Australia, two from Canada, one each from Mexico, Spain, India and Sweden. The attendees covered a wide range of Plastinators, from neophytes to experts alike.

The first day was dedicated to the history, theory and basics of Plastination, as well as, practical information of setting up a lab safely and efficiently, with the emphasis on cost effectiveness. First day speakers were Dr. Harmon Bickley, Mercer University; Mr. Bill Collins, University of California, San Diego; Dr. Robert Henry, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. The afternoon of the first day was originally planned to include closed circuit television demonstrations of the basic techniques, but due to the large number of newcomers to the Plastination field, this was set aside to handle the large amount of questions that were generated.

The second day of the conference loosened up a bit as the attendees and speakers became more accustomed to their surroundings. Dr. Henry presented his technique of "Forced Air Impregnation of Air Dried Lungs". Following a short break, Wolfgang Weber presented a detailed and in-depth discussion on "Sheet Plastination". The afternoon was dedicated to the presentation of abstracts. Presenters were: Dan Whitten and Marc Stamer: "Storage of a Plastinated Cross-Sectioned Cadaver"; Gilles Grondin: "Setting up a Plastination Lab on an Extremely Limited Budget"; Dr. Alex Lane: "Using Sheet Plastinated Sections to Teach Cross Sectional Anatomy"; Dr. S. J. Nagalotimath presented slides of his medical teaching library at the BLDEA's School of Medicine in Bijapur, India. The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to hands on demonstrations of the many aspects of Plastination, Fixation, Dehydration, Color injection, Impregnation, and Curing.

The third day started off with a breakfast sponsored by B/R Instrument Company and was

followed by a presentation of an "Acetone Distillation System", manufactured and distributed by the same company. Round Table discussions followed and continued well into lunch. The afternoon was spent with Wolfgang Weber demonstrating "Sheet Plastination Techniques" and allowed all interested a chance to get their hands "gooey".

The attendees all gave a positive feedback and many said that this was the first conference they attended that they had the chance to actually practice the techniques.

For future Conference Planners. Give serious consideration to planning a scientific conference, as "Murphy and his laws" will be sure to participate. Keep a tight reign on your budget, make sure that the people that seem so happy to help you plan in the beginning, will continue when the deadlines start to arrive, and try to think of every thing that will be needed. But first and foremost, don't get into a panic like I did. People associated with Plastination are a fun-loving group of people and most of the schedule changes and other things that don't go as you planned will more than likely be laughed off. Beware of partying with Plastinators, premature fixation of the brain can occur!

For those of you that are wondering where the video of techniques is, don't despair. I am no longer at Chaffey, but will be starting at the University of Southern California, School of Dentistry soon. Hopefully, once I am situated there, I will contact the participants and make arrangements for you to get a copy.

2nd Biennial Interim Conference on Plastination, Chaffey College, 1991.

TO: Jim Johnson
FROM: All Who Attended

THANK YOU!!

It was great. The program, accommodations, and setting were perfect!! All the hard work was appreciated.