

**LETTER FROM  
THE PRESIDENT**



**Dmitry Starchik, PhD**

Dear Fellow Plastinators,

**Remembering Kees de Jong**

It is with mixed feelings that I present Volume 38, Issue 1 of the Journal of Plastination. In February, our Society suffered a profound loss with the passing of our colleague and friend Kees de Jong (1950–2026).

An exceptionally experienced plastinator and a truly generous person, Kees devoted many years to our craft and earned the deep respect and warm affection of all who knew him. In tribute to his memory, this issue opens with two articles dedicated to him: "Honoring the Memory of Kees de Jong (1950–2026)," prepared on behalf of the ISP by Philip Addis, Carlos A. C. Baptista, Rafael Latorre, and myself; and "In Memoriam – Kees de Jong (1950–2026)," written by his Dutch colleagues Roelof-Jan Oostra, Viola Franke, and Bernadette de Bakker. Together, these articles honor his life, his professional legacy, and the personal warmth we will all dearly miss.

**Research Contributions in This Issue**

This issue also presents four research contributions that demonstrate the continuing vitality of our field:

- John Cichewicz, Michelle Baumgartner, and Patrick W. Frank examine whether brain specimens shrink when impregnation is carried out at room temperature rather than under traditional cold conditions in "Altering the traditional cold temperature plastination method: Will brains shrink if impregnated at room temperature?" Their findings address a question of practical importance for plastination laboratories.
- Ellen H. H. Savoini and Paul E. Smolenyak offer an economical approach to acetone recovery in "Cost-Effective Method for Small-Scale Acetone Distillation and Purification," a contribution that will be especially useful for smaller laboratories.
- Katherine Edling and colleagues bring together classical plastination, modern 3D modelling, and licensing considerations, with valuable implications for the study and conservation of endangered species.
- Jessica Antill and Volker K. Schill address an important but seldom-discussed laboratory topic in "The incineration of plastinated specimens."

**Society News and Upcoming Conference**

This is a particularly significant year in the life of our Society. In June, we will hold elections for the officers of the ISP and for new members of the Council—an important moment that will help shape the Society's development in the years ahead.

From 20 to 24 July, the 22nd International Conference of the International Society for Plastination will take place in Odense, Denmark. The Conference is being organized by our Council Member Annette Møller Dall. On behalf of the entire Society, I offer sincere thanks to Annette for undertaking this important mission, and I warmly encourage all members to take part.

**With Best Wishes**

I wish all members of our Society good health, well-being, and prosperity, as well as continued inspiration in your work and new professional achievements.

Sincerely,

Dmitry Starchik

President of the International Society for Plastination

