

**LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT**



Nicolás E. Ottone, MD, PhD

Dear Fellow Plastinators,

It is a pleasure to address you for the first time as President of the International Society for Plastination (ISP) in this issue of the *Journal of Plastination*. I am honored to assume this responsibility and look forward to working with our members and colleagues worldwide to continue strengthening our Society and advancing the field of plastination.

Remembering Professor Dr. Gunther von Hagens

This issue holds particular significance for our Society following the passing of Professor Dr. Gunther von Hagens on 24 July 2026. As the inventor of plastination, his pioneering work revolutionized anatomical preservation and transformed the teaching, research, and public understanding of human anatomy.

His extraordinary scientific contributions established the foundations of a technique that continues to evolve and inspire generations of anatomists, researchers, educators, and plastinators worldwide. His legacy will remain an essential part of the history and future of our Society.

On behalf of the ISP, I extend our deepest condolences to his family, colleagues, and all those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

22nd International Conference on Plastination – Odense, Denmark

From 20 to 24 July 2026, our Society gathered in Odense, Denmark, for the 22nd International Conference on Plastination. This important international meeting provided an excellent opportunity to exchange scientific knowledge, share technical developments, strengthen professional relationships, and explore new perspectives in plastination.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Annette Møller Dall and the entire organizing team for their dedication and efforts in making this conference possible.

This issue includes a report and photographs highlighting memorable moments from the conference, together with the abstracts presented during the scientific sessions. These contributions reflect the diversity, innovation, and continued development of plastination across the international community.

Research Contributions in This Issue

This issue also presents four contributions illustrating the expanding applications of plastination in anatomical education, technical innovation, and scientific training.

- Albors et al., in “*OrganKits for STEAM Education: Standardized Plastination, Quality Assurance, and Traceability of Multi-Organ Sets*,” address the development of standardized plastinated organ sets for educational applications, emphasizing quality assurance and traceability.
- Revelo-Cueva et al., in “*Plastination of domestic chicken organs using an alternative dehydration process and platinum silicone commercially available in Ecuador*,” present an alternative approach to organ plastination using locally available materials, highlighting opportunities for adapting plastination techniques to different laboratory contexts.
- Islam et al., in “*Comparative efficacy of cryodehydration technique using cryoprotectant and controlled thawing method in preserving tissue morphology*,” investigate alternative preservation procedures, contributing to the ongoing development and refinement of anatomical preservation techniques.

- Mithrakumar et al., in “*Two-day national workshop on plastination techniques in clinical anatomy and translational research: modernizing anatomical preservation within the Indian Ayurvedic medical system*,” describe an educational initiative demonstrating the importance of professional training and the integration of plastination into different anatomical and medical education settings.

Together, these contributions demonstrate the continuing vitality of our discipline and the commitment of our international community to improving anatomical preservation, education, and research.

Looking Ahead

The year 2027 will mark a particularly significant milestone: the **50th Anniversary of the Invention of Plastination**. This historic occasion will provide a valuable opportunity to reflect on the evolution of this remarkable technique and the history of our Society, recognize the contributions of those who have played a key role in their development, and look ahead to the future of plastination.

To commemorate this occasion, we are planning a special issue of the *Journal of Plastination* dedicated to the memory and scientific legacy of Professor Dr. Gunther von Hagens, as well as to the history and achievements of our Society and the development of plastination over the past five decades.

We are also looking forward to the **14th International Interim Meeting on Plastination**, planned for June/July 2027 at the University of Toledo, Ohio, USA, under the organization of Dr. Carlos A. C. Baptista. This meeting will offer another valuable opportunity to bring our international community together, celebrate our shared history, and discuss future developments in plastination.

I warmly encourage all members to participate in these anniversary activities and contribute to this important chapter in the history of our Society.

With Best Wishes

As we approach this historic anniversary, I would like to thank all members of the ISP for their continued dedication to plastination and for their contributions to our international scientific community.

I look forward to working together to preserve the legacy of our pioneers, encourage scientific innovation, promote ethical practices, and strengthen international collaboration.

I wish you all continued success in your professional and scientific endeavors.

Sincerely,

Nicolás E. Ottone, MD, PhD

President of the International Society for Plastination