



**V Reunión de la Asociación de Paleopatología en Suramérica  
*Paleopathology Association Meeting in South America-PAMINSA V*  
August 14- 16 2013, Santa Marta – Colombia**

Dear colleagues,

This fourth letter contains the descriptions of the symposia and the way to present your works. Remember, the deadline is January 16<sup>th</sup> 2013. It is very important to have them in order to prepare the program of the event and make easier the procedures concerning your travel.

### Symposia titles

1. Links between past, present, and future
  - 1.1. Implementation of paleopathology in forensic anthropology expertise: current challenges and reflections
2. New methodological approaches and new applications of radiological, histological and biomolecular techniques in paleopathology
  - 2.1. Interdisciplinary approaches for paleopathological analysis
3. Biology, nature and culture
  - 3.1. The impact of infectious diseases on health conditions of antique societies in America
4. Health and transitions
5. Paleopathology and zooarchaology (animal paleopathology)
  - 5.1. Chagas disease before contact
6. Recent research in paleopathology

### Description of the symposia

#### 1. Links between past, present, and future

**Moderator:** To confirm

Relates the history of diseases with how they have developed into the present and predictions for the future. This important subject has been studied in the field of paleopathology bringing light to the understanding of health and disease processes in the history of our species. Discussions about the history of specific diseases are still of great interest for researchers, not only in paleopathology; but also in other fields as medicine (evolutionary medicine). Thus,

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paleopathology, specifically the interest in paleoepidemiology, has improved what we know about epidemiology. Although their sources are not completely comparable, elements of discussion are giving by both disciplines in order to build a better understanding of the frequencies and patterns of the diseases through time. This relationship between paleopathology and present problems is also observable in forensic anthropology. The study of suffering from human remains, as paleopathology is defined, is important because it allows the recognition of some characteristics that can lead to the identification of individuals in forensic contexts. Even more, the study of suffering from human remains can help to rebuild the information related with the death of the person, important information for the justice administration.

### 1.1. Implementation of paleopathology in forensic anthropology expertise: current challenges and reflections

**Coordination:** Ana Carolina Guatame. Co-Directora EQUITAS (Equipo Colombiano Interdisciplinario de Trabajo Forense y Asistencia Psicosocial)

## 2. New methodological approaches and new applications of radiological, histological and biomolecular techniques in paleopathology

**Moderator:** To confirm

Here, scholars will have the opportunity to discuss methodologies and the available tools to confront some problems in the discipline, as standardization, recording data and interpretation. It is central to discuss these aspects in order to promote standardization, which is needed to compare studies made around the world, and particularly in South America.

### 2.1. Interdisciplinary approaches for paleopathological analysis

**Coordination:** Maria Antonieta Corcione y Freddy Rodríguez. Universidad De Los Andes, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales, Departamento de Antropología, Bogotá, Colombia.

Analysis of multiple pathologies in human bones and mummified, has made significant progress with the inclusion of various disciplines and the development of new techniques and methodologies, such as molecular analyzes, histopathological, parasitological, for diagnostic imaging, endoscopic, among others, which have been enriched the panorama of classical



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studies of paleopathology. In this sense, interdisciplinary dialogue necessary for any scientific development is the focus of this symposium, which seeks the debate and discussion of the potential, the scope and limitations with the various disciplines and methodologies in the work of analysis paleopathological. It is necessary to create space for presentation and discussion of works and projects that integrate different areas of analysis that contribute to understanding paleopathologies at both individual and population level, and this symposium an opportunity to generate debate in South America.

The main aim is to emphasize on interdisciplinary work for paleopathological analysis, either in individual cases or in a population perspective. Also, reviewing the methodologies used in paleopathological work, their potential, possibilities and limitations in the case analysis. As well as provide a space of discussion for an interdisciplinary approach to the study of paleopathologies, either in the analysis of bone samples or mummified. Finally, the aim is to encourage the creation of interdisciplinary teams to drive paleopathological analysis in South America.

### 3. Biology, nature and culture

**Moderator:** Carlos Serrano, PhD. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. México.

Western thinking divides the human experience into two main aspects: nature and culture. Even if the reality can be more complex; even if limits are very difficult to trace; and even if other ontologies conceive the world in a different way; talking about humans like the product of biology and culture allows comprehension of human adaptation processes in very diverse environments. This topic places the human species in the natural system and simultaneously highlights our particularities.

#### 3.1. The impact of infectious diseases on health conditions of antique societies in America

**Coordination:** Lourdes Márquez Morfin, Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Grupo Sociedad y salud, México; José V. Rodríguez C., Dpto. de Antropología Universidad Nacional de Colombia



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#### 4. Health and transitions

**Moderator: To confirm**

Change is a very important element to observe when studying life conditions in human populations. Political, economical, and other cultural aspects influence health, and at the same time health influences those aspects. The history of one human group can be better understood if the responses to change are studied; this expands the view and allows the analysis of the population dynamics through time.

#### 5. Paleopathology and zooarchaology (animal paleopathology)

**Moderator: To confirm**

The discussions around these subjects are of great interest because many diseases have their origins on the relationships between human beings and other animals. The understanding of these rapports could aid in the reconstruction of population history and the analysis of possible future development for certain pathogens and diseases.

##### 5.1. Chagas disease before contact

**Coordination:** Aduino Araujo (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)

**Participants:**

Dr. Katharina Dittmar (University of Buffalo, the State University of New York, USA)

Dr. Karl Reinhard (University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, USA)

Dr. Felipe Guhl (Univesidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia)

Dr. Sheila Maria Mendonça de Souza (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)

We will discuss the origin and evolution of Chagas disease. It was formerly proposed that Chagas disease became a health problem to pre-contact Andean populations after they became sedentary and started to keep domestic rodents indoors, nearly 6,000 years ago. On the other hand, the classical theory proposed that the infection by *Trypanosoma cruzi* was introduced in Brazilian territory (where no pre-contact domestication is known) only after European colonization. However, the findings of paleoparasitology predate the period when the parasite would have begun causing problems in large human groups during pre-Columbian times.

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Recent findings in archaeological material pushed back the dates for human infection, both in the Andean region and in Central Brazil.

Chagas disease was diagnosed in a pre-contact mummified body found in Texas, USA/Coahuila, Mexico border. An enormous amount of feces in its intestinal tract was characteristic of a megacolon, and suggestive of Chagas disease. In Brazil, human remains dated from 7,000 years were found positive for *T. cruzi* DNA. Other findings in the Andean region, like the Chinchorro mummies dating 9,000 years ago, were also positive for *T. cruzi* DNA.

Therefore, paleoparasitology has changed the paradigm of the history of Chagas disease, demonstrating that both infection and disease were present in different regions before European contact and animal domestication.

## 6. Recent research in paleopathology

**Moderator:** To confirm

A place for the participants who wish to present their recent contributions to paleopathology in topics not covered in the general topics. Here, papers about other subjects will inspire participants to explore several areas of the fields.

### Podium Presentations

**Proposals for podium presentations** should be sent to the email [paminsacolombia@gmail.com](mailto:paminsacolombia@gmail.com) and must have the following elements:

1. Title of the paper in English and Spanish.
2. Author or authors with their institutional affiliations.
3. Summary of maximum 300 words (in Spanish and English, very important for the Newsletter).
4. Symposium in which the proposal would best fit.

The proposals must be submitted in Word file .doc or .docx using Arial font size 11.

Proposals will be evaluated by the coordinators of the symposia. The evaluation results will be released on February 20, 2013.

### Poster Presentations



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In addition to the format of podium presentations, we invite you to participate through the **poster format**. Poster Proposals will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee. For submission, please send the abstract of the proposed poster to the email address [paminsacolombia@gmail.com](mailto:paminsacolombia@gmail.com) before **January 16, 2013**. This abstract must have the following characteristics:

1. Contain the title of the poster in English and Spanish.
2. Include the name of the author or authors with their institutional affiliations.
3. Submit an abstract of 300 words (in Spanish and English, very important for the Newsletter).
4. Using Word file .doc or .docx in Arial 11.

Accepted posters must be printed by the authors and be no larger than 850 mm by 1200 mm (33.5 inches by 47.24 inches); and be given to the logistics group at the event.

### Eve Cockburn award

As usual, the Paleopathology Association-PPA will award the **Eve Cockburn** prize to a paper presented by a student at the podium and a paper presented by a student in the form of a poster.

The information regarding the award is available at the following link: <http://www.paleopathology.org/Cockburnprize.html>. The papers that wish to be considered for the Eve Cockburn award should be sent to the Director of the contest (who will begin his term after the PPA meeting in the United States in April 9 and 10, 2013) no later than the Monday of the week preceding the PAMINSA V, this means before August 5, 2013.

### Important dates

We invite you to pay attention to these important dates and send your abstracts before the deadlines so we can stay in line with our calendar.

Activity	Start Date	End Date
Submission of abstracts for podium presentations and posters	November 30, 2012	<b>January 16, 2013</b>
Evaluation of abstracts for podium presentations (Coordinator(s) symposia) and posters (Scientific Committee)	January 16, 2013	February 20, 2013
Publication of accepted podium presentation proposals and posters (send letters of acceptance)	February 20, 2013	February 27, 2013

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Presentation of the program	April 15, 2013	
Sending the paper or poster abstract to be considered for the Eve Cockburn awards		August 5, 2013
<b>PAMinSA V</b>	<b>August 14, 2013</b>	<b>August 16, 2013</b>
Post-congress courses	August 17, 2013	August 18, 2013

### Registration fees

The registration fees for Paminsa V are as follows:

	Registration before April 15, 2013	Registration from 16 April to 14 August 2013
Unimagdalena students	90 USD	110 USD
Other institutions students with ID	120 USD	140 USD
Unimagdalena teachers	150 USD	170 USD
Professionals	200 USD	230 USD

We are trying to secure funding in order to support international young professionals who could not attend without financial support. As soon as we have information about this possibility we will release the selection criteria. Do not hesitate to mention that you would be interested in this possibility when submitting your abstracts.

The information about the event is posted at the website:

[http://www.quequen.unicen.edu.ar/paminsa/Home\\_PAMINSA\\_V\\_Ingles.html](http://www.quequen.unicen.edu.ar/paminsa/Home_PAMINSA_V_Ingles.html)

We are wishing you all the best in your academic activities and we are looking forward to reading your abstracts.

Best wishes to you all,

Claudia M. Rojas-Sepúlveda

Astrid L. Perafán Ledezma



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