

## **IFAA College of Representatives Report, 11 August 2024**

1. The College of Representatives of the IFAA was initiated at the General Assembly of the IFAA (London, 2019) and approved ad referendum following that meeting. The College is composed of one Representative of each member association of the IFAA. Each Representative is nominated by their own association to serve on the College.
2. The remit of College of Representatives was prepared in consultation with the President of the IFAA and sent to the members of the College for interpretation, suggestions, and revision. After the approval by the IFAA EXCo, the remit was placed on the website of the IFAA on July 1, 2020.
3. In order to ensure communication with the nominated Representatives, email addresses of the members (50) of the College were updated.
4. As a first task of the College, a questionnaire was prepared in collaboration with the President of IFAA to investigate the global scarcity of trained anatomists. This questionnaire was shared with the members of the College by email on May 11th, 2021 for their input and comment. In that e-mail it was stated that the first item among the tasks of the College was to investigate the global scarcity of trained anatomists. The aim of the questionnaire was to identify the existing situation and to assess the need for manpower from the point of view of member associations. The deadline for the responses was June 10th, 2021.

In the same e-mail the opinion of the College Representatives about the organization of a “Google Group” was also asked. This to improve the communication between members of the College.

A reminder was sent to all members of the College on May 29th, 2021 by e-mail (56 individual e-mails).

- Seven member associations responded with comments on the draft of the questionnaire.
- One member association returned an empty response.
- Eight member associations answered the questionnaire.
- Three member associations sent a reply but not a comment nor an answer.
- There were no responses from the rest of the Representatives of the member associations.

Thus only 19 responses out of a total 50 Associations represented in the College.

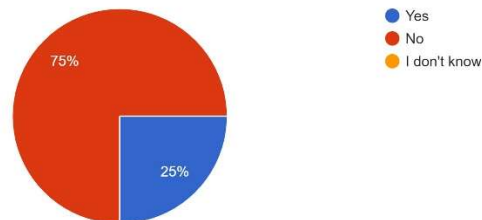
The Chair is currently waiting for the completion of the IFAA FICSAP and FIPAE survey and the FICEDA survey before moving forward with the current task.

The details of the questionnaire is provided below:

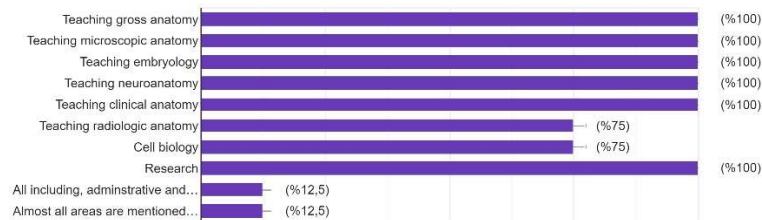
The questionnaire on “shortage of anatomists” was composed of 20 questions. The questions included topics such as the qualifications required for an individual to join an anatomy association, the responsibilities of an anatomist, the number of anatomists in the country, whether this number is sufficient, how anatomy education is sustained in the event of a shortage of anatomists, the possibility of someone teaching anatomy without holding a degree in the field, the pathways to becoming an

anatomist (such as through a PhD program, specialized training, or an MSc program), the number of new anatomy positions available each year, and any challenges faced when hiring an anatomist. The following are some of the outcomes of the questionnaire: Eighty-seven and a half percent of the respondent societies reported that no other anatomical sciences-related societies exist in their country.

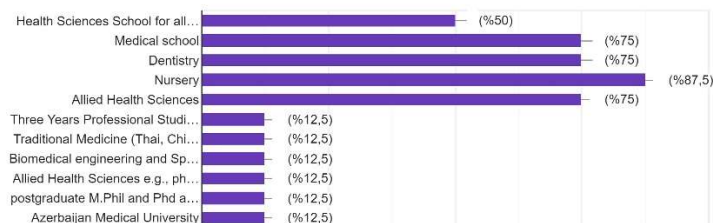
Are there "sufficient" anatomists in your country to undertake the teaching of anatomy?



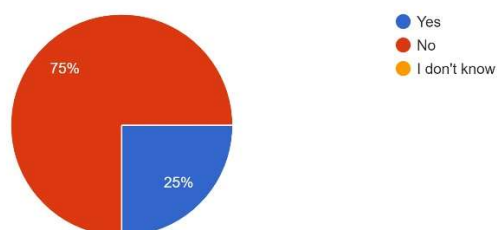
What are the main responsibilities of an anatomist in your country?



At which school/schools anatomy education is given?



Are there "sufficient" anatomists in your country to undertake the teaching of anatomy?



There were no responses related with organization of a Google Group for the College of Representatives.

**5. One of my roles as Chair of the College of Representatives is to keep member associations of the IFAA informed of IFAA activities (including that of its FICS and FIPS and Plexus). Hence numerous “Soundbites” were shared with the College of Representatives over the past years.**

**Activities of IFAA (including FICS and FIPS, Plexus) that were shared with the College of Representatives are listed as follows:**

1. On August 15, 2021 an announcement relating to the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomist Programme's "Introduction to Scientific Writing" Workshop was sent to the members of the College.
2. On Sep 17, 2021, an update related to 20th IFAA Congress was sent to members of the College individually.
3. On Nov 28, 2021, an e-mail requesting the upcoming anatomical congresses with their dates was sent to the members of the College. Respondents are as follows:
  - a. The Society of Experimental and Clinical Anatomists of Nigeria
  - b. The Republic of Azerbaijan, Public Association «Scientific Society of Anatomists, Histologists and Embryologists»
  - c. The Bulgarian Anatomical Society
4. On November 28, 2021, a further e-mail about 20th IFAA Congress and updated information was sent to the members of the College.
5. On March 22, 2022, members of the College received an e-mail informing them of the passing of Prof. Sergio Morini, Full Professor of Human Anatomy at the Campus BioMedico University of Rome and Italian Member of the IFAA College of Representatives.
6. On April 4, 2022, a message regarding the Survey of the IFAA Federative International Committee on Equality and Diversity in Anatomy (FICEDA) from the Secretary of FICEDA, Professor Bernard Moxham was sent to the members of the College. Only two responses were received by the Interim Chair of the College. These responses were forwarded to the Secretary of FICEDA.
7. On June 26, 2022 a message announcing the FICSP Webinar 2 on Publishing in Anatomy Journals was sent to the members of the College.
8. On July 22, 2022 a message announcing the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomist Programme Webinar on Introduction to Scientific Writing was sent to the members of the College.

9. On October 2, 2022 a message announcing the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomist Programme Webinar on Introduction to Scientific Writing was sent to the members of the College.
10. On November 1, 2022 IFAA Soundbites announcing the 5th FIPAR Webinar was sent to the members of the College.
11. On February 21, 2023 a message announcing the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomist Programme Webinar on Writing an Abstract was sent to the members of the College.
12. On March 29, 2023 a message announcing the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomist Programme Webinar on Women in Science was sent to the members of the College.
13. On April 7, 2023 a message announcing the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomist Programme Webinar on Introduction to Scientific Writing was sent to the members of the College.

**On 08 May 2023 updated list of IFAA member societies' officers was sent by Prof. Susana Biasutto and the list of the representatives was updated according to this list.**

14. On May 26, 2023 a message announcing the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomist Programme Webinar on Social Media and Scientific Communication was sent to the members of the College.
15. On June 13, 2023 a message announcing 9th IFAA FIPAR Webinar was sent to the members of the College.
16. On June 19, 2023 a message announcing Webinar 4 - Federative International Committee on Scientific Publications (FICSP) of IFAA on 'Data Integrity and Ethical Publishing Behavior in the Anatomical Sciences' was sent to the members of the College.
17. On June 19, 2023 a message announcing 2023 Festival of Anatomical Education which is a virtual/online festival organized by FIPAE (Federative International Program for Anatomical Education) was sent to the members of the College.
18. On September 15, 2023 a message announcing the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomist Programme webinar on "Micro-computed tomography in morphological research" was sent to the members of the College.
19. On October 9, 2023 a message announcing the topic for the upcoming World Anatomy Day: "Teaching diversity in the dissection laboratory" was sent to the members of the College.
20. On February 19, 2024 a message announcing the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme Webinar on "Medical and Biomedical Imaging at the forefront of research and innovation with AI-related approaches. - Competencies in Digital Health for training and education for the next generation of physicians and health-related disciplines" was sent to the members of the College.

21. On February 19, 2024 a message on the IFAA's Emergent Anatomist Incentive for Registration costs to attend the IFAA Congress in Korea in September 2024 was sent to the members of the College.
22. On March 29, 2024 a message on the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme Webinar "Women in Science" was sent to the members of the College.
23. On May 9, 2024 a message on the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme Webinar "Ethical considerations around anatomical images" was sent to the members of the College.
24. On June 1, 2024 a message on the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme Webinar "Artificial Intelligence tools for research tasks" was sent to the members of the College.
25. On August 10, 2024 a message on the IFAA President's Emergent Anatomists Programme Webinar "Tensions between human variability and AI algorithms: A case for considered approaches of AI in Anatomy Education" was sent to the members of the College.

While periodic messages and requests to the Representatives of the College are sent out regularly, due to the low rate of responses received I would like to appeal to the Representatives to communicate with the Chair and to notify him of any changes to the nominated Representatives or their email addresses. In addition, suggestions from associations through their Representatives in the College are welcome.

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