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## **Federative International Committee for Ethics and Medical Humanities (FICEM) of the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA)**

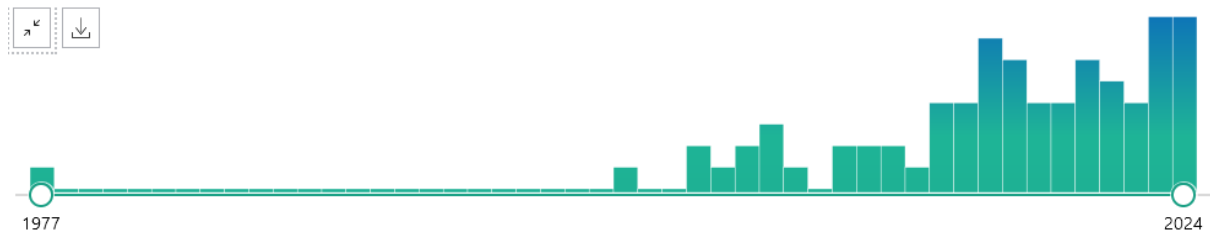
### **5-year-report for 2019-2024**

#### **Members:**

Dr. Brendon Billings, South Africa (since 2022)  
Prof. Thomas H. Champney, USA  
Dr. Jon Cornwall, New Zealand  
Prof. Sabine Hildebrandt, USA  
Prof. Amadi O. Ihunwo, South Africa  
Prof. Gareth Jones, New Zealand  
Dr. Eiman Abdel Meguid, UK (since 2022)  
Prof. Diogo Pais, Portugal  
Prof. Andrea Oxley da Rocha, Brazil  
Brandi Schmitt, MS, USA  
Prof. Sergio Tamayo, Argentina (until 2022)  
Prof. Guo-Fang Tseng, Taiwan  
Prof. Andreas Winkelmann, Germany (Chair)

Over the last five years, FICEM has been active in promoting ethical standards for anatomical practice. In particular, its members have raised awareness of the IFAA guidelines introduced in 2012 ("Recommendations of good practice for the donation and study of human bodies and tissues for anatomical examination") and have tried to support those who may be unable to comply with these

guidelines due to cultural or religious reasons. While FICEM is of course not to be credited for general developments over the last decade, discussions around body donation and unclaimed bodies are high on the agenda of the international community of anatomists, as is attested for example by the rise of publications on these matters in anatomical journals.



Pubmed database, prompt "<unclaimed bodies AND anatomy>"<sup>1</sup>

The program IFAA conferences also demonstrate a rising interest in ethical questions. The meeting in Istanbul 2022 had four sessions on ethical topics, including two organised by FICEM, one on "Anatomical Disciplines as Incubators for Ethics and Professionalism in Healthcare Education" (chaired by Tom Champney), and one on "Historical anatomical collections – Treasure, Legacy, and Challenges" (chaired by Andreas Winkelmann and Brendon Billings). The meeting in Gwangju will now include a total of seven symposia on ethical issues, including three by FICEM: "Ethical Anatomy in Practice: Contemporary Oversight and Management of Anatomical Programmes and Collections" (chaired by Jon Cornwall), "It's Legal, but is it Ethical and Practical: Anatomists as Stakeholders in Legislation and Governance" (chaired by Laura Johnson), and "Are You for or against Public Dissection? An Open Debate" (chaired by Andreas Winkelmann and Claire Smith).

At the Istanbul meeting, we also introduced an "Open Mic Session" for ethical themes, which attracted many anatomists, so that we decided to repeat the format at the meeting in Gwangju.

FICEM has worked on several issues over the last five years and has produced the following documents:

#### 2020

The chair of FICEM contributed to the "IFAA Statement on COVID-19 and body Donors".

#### 2021

In 2021, following reports of a public dissection of a body donor for the entertainment of a paying public in Portland(USA) in November, FICEM has issued a statement condemning such practices, which has been published on the IFAA website.

<sup>1</sup> <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22unclaimed%20bodies%22%20AND%20anatomy&sort=date&timeline=expanded>

2021-24

Several members of FICEM have been part of an AAA taskforce to discuss guidelines on how to deal with "legacy collections" and some of their ethical challenges. Eventually, the group produced such guidelines, which were published in the Anatomical Record in 2024.<sup>2</sup>

2022/23

Led by Jon Cornwall, FICEM produced "Recommendations for Good Practice around Human Tissue Image Acquisition and use in Anatomy Education And Research", which were approved by Exco as IFAA Recommendations in August 2023. They were published in Anatomical Sciences Education in 2023.<sup>3</sup>

2024

At the request of the president, FICEM produced a "Comment on plastination company exhibitors at IFAA Congresses and ethical considerations" to help ExCo discuss this issue.

After serving as chair of FICEM for 10 years, I am happy to hand over this task to Jon Cornwall of New Zealand, who has been the most active member of FICEM over the last years. I thank the members of FICEM and the president of IFAA, Bev Kramer, and secretary-general, Diogo Pais, for the cooperation and support over the last decade.



(Prof. Andreas Winkelmann)

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<sup>2</sup> Cornwall J, Champney TH, de la Cova C, Hall D, Hildebrandt S, Mussell JC, Winkelmann A, DeLeon VB: American Association for Anatomy recommendations for the management of legacy anatomical collections. Anatomical Record 307 (8): 2787-2815, 2024. DOI: 10.1002/ar.25410

<sup>3</sup> Cornwall J, Hildebrandt S, Champney TH, Billings B, Schmitt B, Winkelmann A: IFAA recommendations for the ethical use of anatomical images. Anat Sci Educ. 2023. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/ase.2349>