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American Academy of Forensic Sciences International Affairs Committee

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CROATIAN/AMERICAN ISABS A NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES (AAFS)

**A historic decision: This is the second time in 70 years of AAFS existence that the
AAFS granted this status to an organization**

Board of Directors of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) has accepted the International Society of Applied Biological Sciences (ISABS) with headquarters in Croatia and led by **Professor Dragan Primorac, M.D., Ph.D.**, as an associate member, based on the proposal of **John Gerns**, the president of AAFS, and after several years of evaluation. The decision was unanimous and in accordance with Article 1.5.6. of the Policy and Procedure Manual of the American Academy of Forensic Science. This decision is even more significant if we know that in 70 years of its existence, American Academy of Forensic Sciences approved this status to an organization on two occasions only.

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences, based in Colorado Springs, US, is the world's most prestigious organization in the field of forensic science, with over 7000 members from 50 US states, Canada and 74 other associate countries worldwide. US Army, State Police, Department of Justice, State Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), judges, lawyers, professors and scientists from different American research institutions and universities are involved in its work. AAFS is comprised of 11 different sections from the field of criminology, national security, judiciary, medical and technical sciences, and a number of sub special areas. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences collaborates closely with the National Commission of Forensic Science, US Department of Justice, led by Deputy Attorney General of the United States, and the official journal of the AAFS is the Journal of Forensic Science, the world's leading forensic journal.

International Society of Applied Biological Sciences, (ISABS), based in Croatia, was founded in 1997. So far, more than 4,000 scientists and 600 invited speakers from over 70 countries participated in ISABS conferences, which are held every two years in Croatia. This year, ISABS is organizing a conference entitled "The Tenth ISABS Conference on Forensic and Anthropologic Genetics and Mayo Clinic Lectures in Individualized Medicine" (www.isabs.hr), together with the US leading medical institution - the Mayo Clinic, St. Catherine Specialty Hospital and other national and international institutions. The conference will be held from June 19th - 24th, 2017. in Dubrovnik, with more than 500 participants and 50 invited speakers including five Nobel Award winners: Professor Avram Hershko, Ph.D. (Technion), Professor Herald zun Hausen, Ph.D. (University of Heidelberg), Professor Paul Modrich, Ph.D. (Duke University), Professor Ada Yonath, Ph.D. (Weizmann Institute of Science) and Professor Robert Huber, Ph.D. (Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry).

President of the AAFS, John Gerns, and Professor Dragan Primorac, Ph.D, were recently in Croatia and met with the President of Croatia Mrs. Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, Attorney General of Croatia Dinko Cvitan, US Ambassador Mrs. Julieta Valls Noyes, and others during their stay. As a long-term employee of the United States Air Office of Special Investigations, Mr. Gerns was particularly interested in joint projects in the field of forensic science and criminology involving Croatian and US armed forces and in the joint collaboration fighting against organized crime. The fact that the United States Deputy Attorney General, Sally Quillian Yates, is also the President of the National Commission of Forensic Science, US Department of Justice USA, speaks of the importance of forensic science in the fight against organized crime and terrorism in the United States. The institutions involved in the work of AAFS, as well as its members, play a key role in the systematic fight against organized crime, terrorism, bio-terrorism, human trafficking and international crime.

Statements:

John Gerns *"After many years of collaboration with ISABS and excellent work of Professor Primorac, Ph.D., which I personally witnessed, it is my pleasure to welcome the decision of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences to accept ISABS as an associate institution and the importance of this act lies in the fact that such a decision has been brought only on two occasions since the founding of the Academy."*

Dragan Primorac *"I am sincerely grateful to the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and personally to President Gerns on their tremendous support and on this decision, which is historic for us, because we have entered the family of the most prominent forensic organizations in the world. This collaboration opens up completely new horizons in the context of fight against crime and strengthening of the national security, especially through cooperation with the United States of America."*

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