

## Preface

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we welcome you to this Special Issue of the Journal of Forensic Science and Medicine (JFSM). It contains full papers presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Sino Swiss Evidence Science 2016 (2<sup>nd</sup> ISSSES 2016), held at the School of Criminal Justice (SCJ) (Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice, and Public Administration) of the University of Lausanne (UNIL) over September 6–9, 2016 (<http://wp.unil.ch/isseses/>).

ISSSES is a symposium series conceived to develop and promote the works of the Sino Swiss Evidence Science Research Center (SSESRC), jointly established in 2013 by the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) and the SCJ of the University of Lausanne.

The 1<sup>st</sup> ISSSES was held in Hainan (China) over January 19–21, 2015.

The symposium provides a forum for discussions on the current frontier developments and new directions in the field of evidence science. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ISSSES 2016 was jointly organized by the School of Criminal Justice and the SSESRC, chaired by Professor Baosheng Zhang, who is currently chairman of the Collaborative Innovation Center of Judicial Civilization, China.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ISSSES 2016 symposium topic was scientific evidence and judicial proof and promoted the interchange of ideas between Chinese and Swiss lawyers, scientists, academics, and their foreign counterparts. The symposium provided a platform where eminent scholars from China as well as other overseas countries shared their experience and expertise in the field of evidence law. The main invited speakers were Ronald J. Allen (John Henry Wigmore Professor of Law, Northwestern University, Pritzker School of Law, Chicago), Edward J. Imwinkelried (Edward L. Barrett, Jr., Professor of Law Emeritus, School of Law, University of California, Davis, USA), Thomas Man (Professor from Practice, School of Transnational Law, Peking University), and Bernard Robertson (barrister and visiting lecturer at Auckland University of Technology, Wellington). Their perspectives on the advancement of the administration of justice in an interdisciplinary perspective were of high interest to scholars and researchers from both forensic science and evidence law from different jurisdictional backgrounds. The symposium also encouraged and supported the participation of young researchers and Ph.D. students from both CUPL and UNIL.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ISSSES 2016 was generously supported by: 2011 计划”司法文明协同创新中心: The “2011 Plan” of China – Collaborative Innovation Center of Judicial Civilization; 111 计划”证据科学创新引智基地: The “111 Plan” of China – Evidence Science Innovation and Talent

Base; The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) through grants Grant no. IZ32Z0\_168366 (Christophe Champod) and BSSGI0\_155809 (Alex Biedermann); The University of Lausanne (UNIL) through its School of Criminal Justice of the Faculty of Law, Criminal Justice and Public Administration; 中国政法大学证据科学研究院: CUPL with its Institute of Evidence Law and Forensic Science.

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISSSES 2016, participants were encouraged to revise their papers based on discussion and commentaries received during the symposium and to submit their manuscripts to a peer-reviewed journal that best fits the scope of their work, but preferably this Special Issue of the JFSM. After a double-blind peer review conducted by the JFSM editors, qualified papers has been retrained for this JFSM Special Issue; The selected papers reflect original perspectives on evidence and proof for the administration of justice through an interdisciplinary and international exchange, which are topics that are at the core of the ISSSES initiative. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ISSSES 2016 contributions have also appeared in other specialized journals,<sup>[1-4]</sup> highlighting the depth and breadth of the symposium contributions and their relevance to the wider academic community.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we would like to thank the authors for their substantial contributions and the editors of the JFSM for welcoming this selection of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISSSES 2016 articles. We also express our gratitude to all the reviewers for their valuable advice and support provided to the JFSM editors.

Through the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISSSES 2016, CUPL and UNIL have successfully demonstrated that focused exchange favors progress on important topics in scientific evidence and judicial proof. We hope that these promising achievements motivate all involved partners to foster their common research interests through future editions of ISSSES.

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