

Invited Talks



Albert Zink

New Insights into the Life and Death of the Tyrolean Iceman

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***Albert Zink** received his PhD (1998) at the University of Munich, where he also finished his habilitation (Assistant Professor) in 2005. At present he is director of the Institute for Mummies and the Iceman in Bolzano, Italy. He is responsible for the scientific investigation of the well-known Tyrolean Iceman. Moreover, the Institute is planning and performing studies on mummy collection from different parts of the world, including Egypt, South Korea, South America and Europe. Albert Zink is specialized in the molecular detection of infectious diseases in ancient human skeletons and mummies by using ancient DNA technologies. His major scientific interest is the evolution of infectious diseases and the impact of diseases on historic populations and their development.*

The Tyrolean Iceman, commonly known as Ötzi, is one of the world most famous mummies. He was found in 1991 in the Alps and died c. 5300 years ago. A lot of scientific studies have been performed and fascinating results have been obtained, such as the arrowhead that killed him and still is inside his body. It is well known that he grew up and lived at the Southern side of the Alps that he was well trained and used to walk around in the Alpine environment. Within the last years the Institute for Mummies and the Iceman has contributed significantly to a better understanding of the last days of the Iceman and the circumstances that have led to his death in the Alps. The latest findings deriving from morphological, radiological and nanotechnological investigations will be presented that allow new insights into the life and violent death of the Iceman.