

**Participation in the Third Meeting of the European Society for the Study of Human Evolution,
19th to 21st of September 2013, in Vienna, Austria**

I am a third-year PhD student in the Centre of Anatomical and Human Sciences, Hull York Medical School. My research aims to investigate the functional factors underlying the anatomy of the human skull. I graduated as a dentist in the University of Chile, and then pursued an academic career in anatomy, where I have had the opportunity to learn from researchers from diverse areas, such as anthropology, paleontology and zoology. I have a background in clinics, and so the interaction with experts of other fields has allowed me to undertake my research thinking in different ways, seeing things from different perspectives.

The European Society for the Study of Human Evolution (ESHE) aims to promote research which investigates how humans evolved biologically and culturally. Annual meetings are organized to stimulate communication and scientific cooperation between scientists. I participated in the third meeting presenting a study related to my PhD thesis, where I assessed the variation in functional parameters of mastication in relation to differences in craniofacial morphology.

Participating in ESHE meetings has been essential for my progress since my research relates to morphological variation and its causes, which is an important branch on the study of human evolution. Moreover, ESHE meetings bring together researchers of many areas that use new methodologies and approaches from which one can learn beyond the particular question they aim to answer. The interaction with researchers of many areas have led me to evaluate critically my own approaches, re-think some of them and raise new questions, all of this being highly beneficial to my education. Additionally, by presenting my research work and participating in the different meeting activities I had the possibility to meet several colleagues abroad and establishing work networks.

I would like to thank the Anatomical Society for supporting my attendance to this meeting, which has been an important step much appreciated, especially at this early stage of my research career.

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