

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2024 TO NOVEMBER 2025

To be presented at the 25th UMAC Annual General Meeting - held online, November 27, 2025.

For timing see: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/AGM27Nov25">https://tinyurl.com/AGM27Nov25</a>

#### **BOARD MEETINGS**

The UMAC Board met three times online during this period on 02/12/2024, 16/07/2025 and 29/09/2025. Other business of the board was conducted via email. The Board was only required to vote on expenditure proposals that were outside the general agreed approach of spending the equivalent of the annual ICOM subvention on support for annual meetings, usually in the form of bursaries for attendance (paid as reimbursements) after application through a competitive process.

Board members Giovanni Vitelli, Fatemeh Ahmadi as Vice Chairs, Gina Hammond as Secretary, Dominick Verschelde as Treasurer and the Ordinary Members Ana Isabel Díaz-Plaza Varón, Sian Tiley-Nel and Margarita Guzman all contributed to the work of the Board both inside and outside of the meetings. Margarita Guzman resigned from the Board on July 6, 2025. The bylaws allow for the appointment of a voting member when an elected member resigns. Margarita was replaced by Zhao Ke, already a coopted non-voting member of the Board through his work with Chairing the UMAC Futures Working Group.

All three Ordinary voting members have provided individual reports (see below).

## **CONFERENCE**

The conference with the title of "Shaping Transformation. University Collections in a Changing World" was held from September 24<sup>th</sup> to 29th, 2024, at the Technical University of Dresden. Colleagues from over 40 countries and all parts of the world came together at TU Dresden for this joint annual conference of ICOM-UMAC and Universeum European Academic Heritage Network, to discuss the impact of transformation processes on university heritage. The theme attracted a rich collection of diverse presentations focussed on the idea of agency within the professional workforce of university museums and collections.

This was the second time that UMAC and Universeum had held a joint conference. The first occasion was during the Covid pandemic in 2021 with the theme "New

Opportunities & New Challenges in Times of COVID-19" from the 1st-3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2021. The 2024 meeting was therefore the first opportunity for the two groups to meet face to face. The conference was in person only, although keynotes were livestreamed.

There were 264 delegates, 3 pre-conference workshops, 2 keynotes, 3 roundtables and 116 lectures and poster presentations. Two exhibition openings and over 20 collection visits, tours and excursions. The conference was jointly organised by TUD Dresden University of Technology, Office for Academic Heritage, Scientific, and Art Collections, ICOM-UMAC and the Universeum European Academic Heritage Network. Conference Patron was the Minister-President of the Free State of Saxony.

The conference was financially supported by Gesellschaft von Freunden und Förderern der TU Dresden e.V. (Society of Friends and Sponsors of TU Dresden), the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Free State of Saxony as part of the Strategy of Excellence, led by the German Federation and States, Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur (Saxon State Ministry of Science and Culture), Gesellschaft für Universitätssammlungen e.V. (Association for University Collections), Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and ICOM Germany

The Lord Mayor of Dresden was a conference supporter, conference partners included Dresden University of Fine Arts, Dresden State Art Collections – Albertinum, the coordination Centre for Scientific University Collections in Germany, Saxon State and University Library, Dresden, the International Centre for Pietism Research, Halle and the ERASMUS+ Project "Teaching with Objects". UMAC's financial contribution to the conference covered a range of bursaries plus public transport costs and keynote support.

We commend the high quality of conference sub-themes and the excellent work of the Organising Committee coordinated by TUD Dresden. This was viewed as a highly significant event providing the opportunity to reconnect with Europe after the significant 2023 Asia Pacific conference in Australia attracted little European participation. It was the first time UMAC held a conference in the Federal Republic of Germany and an opportunity to acknowledge Cornelia Weber, UMAC's second Chair, who attended the conference. Conference participants were mostly European with over 60 from Germany.

There was a combined Universeum UMAC meeting for the Teaching with Objects group and a separate Working Group meeting for UMAC Futures.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership grew by 82 over the period of this report. Most recent figures prior to reporting identified 617 members consisting of 512 individuals and 105 institutional members.

Over the period of the current mandate (2022-2025) UMAC's membership has grown by 50%. Most of this increase is a growth in membership from outside Europe. Numbers of European members have increased overall despite their overall percentage decreasing. There has been a general rebound in membership across ICOM post-pandemic, but UMAC has been one of the fastest growing ICs (data from 2025 SAREC analysis).

## **UNIVERSITY MUSEUM LEADERSHIP FORUM**

The Qian Xuesen Library and Museum at Shanghai Jiao Tong University recommenced their international meetings in partnership with UMAC for the first time since the pandemic. There was also a ceremony for the redevelopment of the museum exhibition space that attracted dignitaries from the Chinese higher education and museum sectors. UMAC was the only international organisation invited to the event in recognition of our earlier partnership that delivered training workshops for participants.

The Leadership Forum was a new outcome with leading Chinese and international speakers. The UMAC Chair gave a keynote entitled "Contemporary global challenges and opportunities for university museums. The program was moderated by Li Fang, Executive Director of the Qian Xuesen Library & Museum. Following the two day forum (December 11 and 12) there have subsequently been plans for a special edition of the UMAC Journal.

## **UMAC AWARD**

The winner of the UMAC Award for 2024 for their project "Curating Discomfort" was the Hunterian Museum, the announcement was made during the 2024 conference. The UMAC Board revised the rules of the Award entry in 2025 to make the nomination process simpler. The UMAC Award has grown in popularity with 20 entries in 2025. The Board is grateful for the wonderful work done by Akiko Fukuno with the support of our Secretary, Gina Hammond, in coordinating the call, reviewing submissions and communicating with a dedicated group of judges who analyse the entries, identifying the finalists, compiling communications about the finalists projects, using this material through UMAC's social media and organising the announcement of the winner.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

The Abstracts volume of the Journal (16 2) was published just before the Dresden conference.

"STEM in the Art Museum: Innovative Pedagogies for the 21st-Century University" was athematic issue of the journal (16 3) was published late in 2024. This issue was guest edited by Liliana Milkova and Jodi Kovach and featured a number of papers on creative pedagogies developed in the art museum to support higher education programs in the sciences. The issue consists of 10 papers covering chemistry, geoscience, neuroscience, computer science and medicine. The thematic thread focuses on

activating art's capacity to stimulate reflection in a way that strengthens discipline specific skills. The issue has subsequently featured in several seminars and workshops introducing UMAC to new audiences.

The first issue for 2025 was another thematic issue, this one a final outcome from an earlier SAREC funded project on Restitution and Return from university museums. This project was a part of an earlier UMAC decolonisation program. Articles mostly consist of case studies written from two distinctive viewpoints namely the university and communities of origin. The issue is entitled "Beyond Provenance Research: Restitution and Return from University Museums" and was edited by Steph Scholten, Andrew Simpson and Gina Hammond. It consists of 6 case studies from different parts of the world, covers human remains and cultural material, and the volume is foregrounded by UMAC official guidance document that resulted from the project.

At the time of writing, the full draft of the UMAC program for Dubai is almost ready for publication. This abstracts volume (17 2) covers all the presentations in the collaborative sessions with NATHIST, CIMUSET, CIPEG and our International Committee's Day at the American University of Sharjah.

While the number of UMAC Journal issues has increased to 3 per year, we also published the first issue in a new series – "Teaching With Objects". This is intended to build resources for the new Teaching with Objects collaborative Universeum UMAC Working Group (see below). TWO 1 represents the proceedings from the Knowledgeable Object Symposium. It was edited by Eve Guerry, Jane Thogersen, Gina Hammond and Andrew Simpson.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Posting news and announcements on the UMAC website is one of the main ways the UMAC Board communicates with the UMAC membership. During the reporting period 12 items were posted. The UMAC mailing list, hosted by the University of Strasbourg, is the other primary means of communication to 3886 subscribers representing both UMAC members and non-members. Over the reporting period 46 messages were posted.

UMAC maintains active social media on FB, Instagram, X and Linkedin.

Platform	footprint	postings
Facebook	3.7K followers	20 per week
Instagram	2987 followers	58 posts over reporting period
X	2202 followers	17 per week
Linkedin	367 members	20 per week

## **WORKING GROUPS & PROJECTS**

Teaching With Objects – Working Group

During the last year UMAC has made a major investment in the website content of the Universeum Erasmus+ funded project Teaching with Objects. This was an unbudgeted item in the last financial period. The UMAC Board considered it worthy of significant investment because of the opportunity of transforming the resource into a global pedagogy-supporting resource. Initial steps have been undertaken to form a joint UMAC Universeum Working Group to guide the development of the site and initiate further collaborative activities.

Future meetings of the Working Group will be held with the annual conferences of both organisations. The platform developed to carry TWO resources will require support from the membership of both organisations to keep expanding the availability of resources and develop a global community of practice. It will also require investment and there is a need for both organisations to collaboratively seek financial support both from within ICOM in partnership with other ICOM groups and externally from research and philanthropic agencies.

The UMAC Board recognises that the Teaching With Objects website needs integration with other UMAC resources. The new publication as part of the output of this new Working Group is noted above.

Two Horizons - Project

The Two Horizons project is a major multi-partner research project by UMAC looking at the integration of different epistemologies in the museum and higher education systems. It is linked with the decolonisation objective in our current strategic plan.

Resources to be made available on the UMAC website (including presentations, debates and publications) are being currently being compiled. There was no significant expenditure of project funds over the reporting period. In general progress on this project has been slow and funding has not been completely expended. This is a long-term project because it relies on partnerships between individuals, communities and institutions that must be developed slowly to ensure they are based on trust. This can take time with Indigenous communities.

The change in mandate at the end of this reporting period will provide the incoming Board to review the project and ascertain whether it should continue or whether unspent money should be returned to ICOM. Note: ICOM through the SAREC committee is reviewing its annual funding mechanisms for project work to allow finances to be tracked through multi-year projects. The new UMAC Board could consider continuing the project.

There has been initial discussion with members of the ICOM Asia Pacific Regional Alliance for the development of project workshops in the region in 2026.

Meanwhile research on different knowledge systems and their incorporation in university collections continues with the University of New England and the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences.

A presentation on "Indigenous and Public Knowledge" was made at the Dresden conference; a presentation on "Two-way Museology: Museum Experiments in Epistemic Inclusivity" was made at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Inclusive Museum. The paper "More than Museums: Care for Natural and Cultural Heritage in Australia" was published in Geoheritage.

A recent call for proposals for a thematic issue of the University Museums and Collections Journal was made, it has attracted 9 proposals at the time of writing this report.

UMAC Futures – Working Group

Zhao Ke currently Chairs this Working Group and has outined the progress with the project in his report below.

Building Bridges - Project

Ana Isabel Díaz-Plaza Varón currently directs this project and has outined progress below in her individual report.

UMAC database - Project

In the first half of the current mandate we were not receiving requests to update the database, these requests were defaulting to previous Board Office Bearers. After this issue was rectified, we still received very few requests to update information on the database. This year a small subgroup of Board and non-Board members have conducted some experiments with AI on the data in the UMAC database.

There is currently a total of 3958 entries in the database and this number has been stable for some time (at least during the current mandate). From the AI experimentation it is apparent that much of the data is legacy data and the "Wikipeadian" model of data acquisition is not keeping pace with changes in the higher education sector. A proposal for the future of the database is being developed.

## Other activity

UMAC sponsored (non-financial) the online conference "International Congress of Culture in Climate Action 2024" held in December. A paper "The Unique Potential of the University Museum in the Anthropocene" was presented.

UMAC contributed the following article to PH Magazine, a periodical publication of the Andalusian Institute of Historical Heritage (IAPH); "Museos y colecciones universitarios: algunas experiencias globales en relación con el patrimonio académico"

# **Board member reports – Sian Tiley-Nel**

UMAC-SA has participated in numerous engagements in 2025. UMAC was represented at the 89th South African Museums Association Conference (2-4 September 2025) in Pretoria, and I chaired a session on cultural heritage preservation and served on the paper peer review committee for the conference. Several cultural working group meetings took place as South Africa prepares to host the G20 Summit in November. An op-ed titled "How South Africa's universities can unlock the heritage within their museum collections" was published in The Star Newspaper on 21 September, marking Heritage Month.

Another important development in South Africa is that a new online heritage resource database known as SAHRIS, managed by the heritage authority of the SA Heritage Resources Agency, is plotting museums on a digital geographic map (this has not been done before), which includes listing and showcasing university museums and collections. This project is currently under development.

Membership overall remains steady, with the main universities in South Africa represented either as institutional members or individual members, including the University of Pretoria, University of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch University, University of Cape Town, and North-West University, as well as eight individual memberships. The UMAC emailing list has grown to 46. However, the representation on the UMAC Worldwide database for Africa has decreased to 14 listed universities, compared to 26 in the previous year. LinkedIn, as a professional platform, has expanded its reach to UMAC since its inception in November 2022, with many South Africans using and accessing the regular articles posted and reshared; this remains an important touchpoint for universities in the global south.

## Board member reports - Ana Isabel Díaz-Plaza Varón

During the 2022–2025 mandate, Ana Isabel Díaz-Plaza Varón has actively contributed to the development and international visibility of UMAC through academic representation, research, and project coordination. Her work has focused on strengthening the connection between university museums and collections worldwide, particularly in the Spanish-speaking context. Below her main activities, publications, and initiatives carried out as an Ordinary Member of the UMAC Board are summarised.

UMAC Representation

Puebla / Tlaxcala (Mexico) — 2 September 2025

Event: Il Encuentro Iberoamericano de Patrimonio Universitario

Participation: Roundtable "La gestión del patrimonio: Museos"

Venue: Salón Paraninfo, Edificio Carolino. Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCFiYgtokmo&t=11154s

Granada (Spain) — 30 May 2025

Event: Il Encuentro Nacional de Colecciones Patrimoniales Universitarias

Presentation Title: "El comité de museos y colecciones universitarias de ICOM".

Session: 4 (16:00–19:00), La Madraza. Website: patrimonio.ugr.es

Salamanca (Spain) — 5 May 2023

Event: IV Jornada de Patrimonio Científico

Presentation Title: "El futuro de los museos y colecciones universitarias y su vinculación a UMAC". Participation: Closing lecture, University of Salamanca. Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wt-lfDdM\_UM&t=856s

## **Publications**

- DÍAZ-PLAZA VARÓN, Ana Isabel. "El comité de museos y colecciones universitarias de ICOM." En \*Actas del II Encuentro Nacional de Colecciones Patrimoniales Universitarias\*, Universidad de Granada, 30 de mayo de 2025. (In press).
- DÍAZ-PLAZA VARÓN, Ana Isabel. \*Colaboraciones globales: impulsando museos y colecciones universitarias a través de redes internacionales\*. Revista PH (IAPH), 2024. https://doi.org/10.33349/2024.113.5714

Project - Building Bridges: University Museums and Collections in Spain and Latin America (2022–2025) The Building Bridges project, led by Margarita Guzmán (Colombia) and Ana Isabel Díaz-Plaza (Spain) within the framework of UMAC-ICOM, was launched during the 2022 UMAC Annual Conference in Prague to strengthen the presence, visibility, and cooperation of university museums and collections from Spanishspeaking countries within UMAC's international network. Since this launch it has formed part of the UMAC Strategic Plan's (2022-2025) decolonisation outcomes. Its main purpose is to promote linguistic and professional inclusion, supporting especially smaller institutions that often remain on the margins of global museum dialogues. During this mandate, a first analytical phase was carried out in Spain and Colombia through surveys, interviews, and a research visit to Bogotá (Ibermuseos Grant, 2024). This study identified key challenges: lack of institutional coordination, limited collaboration among museums, and the need for resources and documentation in Spanish. As a tangible outcome, a dedicated Spanish-language section is being developed on UMAC's website. This space is intended to host information, practical tools, and examples of best practices related to university museums and collections in the Spanish-speaking world.

The project remains ongoing, with plans to expand the network to other Latin American countries and to establish a permanent Spanish-language working group within UMAC, ensuring its continuity beyond the current mandate.

# Related project activities

In March 2024, Ana Isabel Díaz-Plaza Varón carried out a field research project in Bogotá (Colombia) as part of the Ibermuseos Fellowship, visiting several university museums and collections (Universidad del Rosario, Universidad de las Américas, and Universidad Uniminuto). A short video summary of this research is available here

Subsequently, the project Building Bridges. University Museums and Collections in Spain and Colombia: An Analysis from UMAC was presented by Ana Isabel Díaz-Plaza Varón at the Universeum Annual Meeting (Dresden, September 24–29, 2024).

# Board member reports - Zhao Ke

Many of my initiatives have received support from colleagues around the world, and I am very grateful to everyone.

#### **IMAGINATIONS**

Up to now, we have interviewed 26 scholars from 22 university museums.

## 2021

- 1. Eva Gartnerová, Tomas Bata University in Zlin, Czech Republic
- 2. Mariana Santamaria, National University of La Plata, Argentina
- 3. Federica Gigante, University of Oxford, UK
- 4. Sladjana Savic University of Belgrade, Serbia
- 5. Ayumi Terada Uhiversity of Tokyo, Japan
- 6. Holly Millward, Macquarie University History Museum, Macquarie University, Australia
- 7. Mohamadou Moustapha Dieye, The Théodore Monod Museum of African Art Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal

## 2022

- 8. Rebeca Bombonato, The Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, University of São Paulo, Brazil
- 9. Manuela García Lirio, Department of History of Art University of Granada, Spain
- 10. Michelle de la Harpe, The University of Pretoria Museums, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- 11. Kelsey McMorrow, The Chau Chak Wing Museum University of Sydney, Australia
- 12. Alex Gushurst-Moore, Cambridge Visual Culture Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge, UK

## 2023

- 13. Helena Cox, University of York, UK
- 14. 2023 UMAC Student Committee: Amy Mogensen, Scott Liu, Ruby Grant, John

Fisher, and Louisa Polson, University of Sydney, Australia

- 15. Amohelang Martha Mohajane, North-West University, South Africa
- 16. Przemek Deles, University of Warsaw, Poland
- 17. Nayoung Hwang, Hanyang University, South Korea

#### 2024

- 18. Nigel Bond, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- 19. Caine Chennatt, University of Tasmania, Australia

## 2025

- 20. Joshua Gorman, Harvard University, US (Executive Director, Havard's Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments)
- 21. Mark Louie Lugue, University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines (Curator, UPD Bulwagan ng Dangal University Heritage Museum)
- 22. Hannah Wirta Kinney, Yale University, US (Head of Education, Yale Center for British Art)
- 23. Musiana, Indonesia (will do in November)

## Publication Project

Title: IMAGINATIONS FROM THE FUTURES: Global Voices in University Museums As part of UMAC's ongoing efforts to document global perspectives in the university museum sector, we have compiled interviews with 26 scholars from 22 university museums worldwide into a forthcoming publication.

- The focus of the book, younger voices, is in alignment with one of the major conference sub-themes at ICOM Dubai (Youth Power).
- Chair Andrew Simpson has been invited to contribute a foreword.
- The book (~100,000 words) will be officially published under UMAC's name and launched during the UMAC IC Day at the ICOM 2025 Dubai.
- The manuscript has been completed and is currently in the review stage, with all participants being contacted to confirm their consent and verify the accuracy of their contributions.
- We are evaluating publishing options—a funding-supported publisher has expressed interest, and discussions are underway with Chair Andrew

- regarding whether to proceed with this partner or seek an international academic publisher.
- Once published, IMAGINATIONS will serve as both a historic record of UMAC's global engagement and a reflective resource on the evolving role of university museums.

# **UMuseum App**

We raised the fund for 2025 maintenance of the UMuseums app. We raise the fund (about 4000 euros annually) to maintain the UMuseum app since 2019. We maintain the data and server of the app, and the installations in IOS app store and Android google play every year from all over the world.

- Version 2.0.6 updated on April, 13th,2024.
- Version 2.0.8 updated on August, 10th, 2024.
- Version 2.1.0 updated on September, 20th, 2024.
- Version 2.1.1 updated on November 24, 2024.

## New figures planned and tested in 2025:

Building on the consistent maintenance of the UMuseum app, we plan to integrate AI technologies to enhance its functionality and data accuracy. Key initiatives include:

- Implementing an AI-driven database to automatically discover new university museums and capture their exhibitions and events, with built-in verification of data authenticity.
- Establishing a continental data validation framework by recruiting one representative per continent, potentially from the UMAC Futures Working Group, to review and refine AI-captured information.

# Supplementary Content

- 1. Introduced and promoted UMAC during 16 universities and university museums' visits to us, attracting them to join the UMAC community. Now some of them are trying to register for UMAC.
- a) University of Montpellier (France), Grenoble Ecole de Management (France), Delft University of Technology (Netherland), University of Trento (Italy), Waseda University (Japan), Khalifa University of Science and Technology (UAE), Karaganda Saginov Technical University (Kazakhstan), Chiang Mai University (Thailand),

National University of Singapore, National University of Sciences and Technology (Pakistan)

- b) Chinese Universities: Tongji University, Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Xihua University, University of Nottingham Ningbo China, Zhengzhou University of Light Industry, Shijiazhuang University of Digital Technology
- 2. Participated in the preparation of the UMAC 2025 Annual Conference. Contacted board members of ICOM-CIMUSET and facilitated a joint session between CIMUSET and UMAC at ICOM 2025 Dubai. Will co-chair this session with Andrew Simpson, Jacob and Diego.
- 3. Undertook part of the review tasks for the 2025 UMAC Annual Conference. Reviewed 18 submissions for the CIMUSET-UMAC joint session and 27 submissions for the UMAC ICs Open Day.
- 4. Invited for interviews about the university museum heritage and UMAC by China Youth Daily (in Chinese: 中国青年报, China's biggest national media for the youth), People's Daily (in Chinese:人民日报, the top media of China). And published in the China Youth Daily newspaper (May, 12th, 2025), in the People's Daily newspaper (August 23rd, 2025).
- 5. Invited UMAC Audit Committee member, David Ellis to visit ESTM, Chengdu, China. David engaged in exchanges with the museum staff and students, which helps expand UMAC's influence. He will shared valuable experience in the establishment of a large new museum.
- 6. As the board member of UMAC and Chair of UMAC Futures, I organized and hosted multiple lectures and conferences in China and promoted UMAC in all of these events.
- a) 2025 Global Natural History Day Youth Natural Science Challenge Championship, Chengdu, China, May 24th, 2025
- b) The 7th Forum on Science Museology, Beijing, China, June 9th, 2025
- c) Annual Conference of the Committee of University Museums in China, Qingdao, China, October 31, 2025 (forthcoming)
- d) The 2025 Annual Conference of the Chinese Society of Natural Resources, Chengdu, China, November 1st, 2025 (forthcoming)
- e) Chinese Association of Natural Science Museums Annual Conference, Chongqing, China, November 6th, 2025 (forthcoming)

- f) The 2025 Annual Conference of the Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology, Nanning, China, November 8th, 2025 (forthcoming) g) Chinese National Industrial Culture Conference, Shanghai, China, November 4th, 2025 (forthcoming)
- 7. Produced key publications to advance knowledge and education in the university museum sector. This includes two academic monographs, one collection catalogue, and a five-volume bilingual children's book series. These publications systematically disseminate professional knowledge to global readers, with the educational series specifically designed to inspire curiosity for cultural heritage among young kids.

  a) Academic monograph: A History of Electronic Science and Technology, ISBN 978-7-5770-1613-9, 210,000 words
- b) Academic monograph: Exploring Sichuan's Electronic Industrial Heritage, ISBN 978-7-5770-1624-5, 240,000 words
- c) Collection catalogue: The Electronic Path of Human Civilization: The Integrated Circuit and Its Microscopic Revolution, ISBN 978-7-5770-0068-8, 17,6000 words d) Five-volume bilingual children's book series: Electronic Science and Technology: The Known and the Unknown, ISBN 9787577014807, ISBN 9787577014838, ISBN 9787577014791, ISBN 9787577014814, ISBN 9787577014821, 10,0000 words in total
- 8. Exploration within the university museum context to rationally obtain visitor feedback on material heritage and exhibitions by AI and deep learning technologies.
  a) Authorized a Chinese invention patent titled A Micro-Expression Recognition Method Based on Convolutional Neural Network and Optical Flow Features (Authorized ID: CN 118675209B).
- b) Published a research paper, M3ENet: A Multi-Modal Fusion Network for Efficient Micro-Expression Recognition, in Sensors, an SCI-indexed journal.

## Some Plans for 2026/next mandate

- 1. To support the joint-session with ICOM-CIMUSET in ICOM Dubai 2025.
- 2. To co-organize an international workshop or seminar on OBL/OBT in China.
- 3. To promote the network of the UMAC FUTURES and recruit more members. We will foster an engaging atmosphere within the network, host more collaborative activities, and generate greater global interaction in UMAC community.
- 4. To maintain the IMAGINATIONS project. To make it more diverse and more inclusive. To edit the episodes different versions suitable for post on various social media and website.

- 5. To iterate the UMuseum app with Al-driven update. And to establish a continental data validation framework by recruiting regional representatives.
- 6. To coordinate and prepare the next Youth Forum/Seminar in Greece if needed.

Andrew Simpson

08/11/25