



AASTA NEWSLETTER

Palaeoproteomics And Archaeology, Society for Techniques and Advances

1/2026

Dear PAASTA community,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026! Last year we had our first in-person conference, a new steering committee, and many more achievements thanks to our community.

Please let us know about any events for 2026, so we can announce them here in time.

Happy reading and, as always, if there is anything you would like to let others know via this newsletter - no matter if it's a big or minor thing - you are very welcome to let us know by sending a message to paasta.community@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

March 30th - April 2nd [UK Archaeological Sciences conference](#). Registration until Feb. 16th

June 28th - July 2nd [SMBE](#) (Society of Molecular Biology and Evolution) 2026, Copenhagen Symposium: L01 Insights into the past through the lens of palaeoproteomics, Deadline: February 3rd

July 6th - 9th ASAPA (Association of South African Professional Archaeologists) 2026 session, [Molecules & Meaning: New Frontiers in African Archaeology](#), University of Mpumalanga, Mbombela, South Africa, Registration deadline March 31st, Correspondence: bacara.spruit@gmail.com

August 26th -29th [European Association of Archaeologists](#) annual meeting in Athens, Registration deadline April 29th



CALL FOR PAPERS - SPECIALIST WORKSHOP

Tuesday 10th March 2026 - Online (Teams)

Maximising data from Palaeolithic bone: methods, integration and application

Bone from Palaeolithic excavations is often very fragmented, limiting its interpretive value. However, recent **methodological advances in archaeological science, proteomics and genetics** can now help maximise the biological, environmental and behavioural data that can be extracted from these non-diagnostic bones and teeth.

This **free, online workshop** will explore strategies for extracting maximal information from Palaeolithic bone collections. It will include **short (10-15 min) talks** on either a specific method or case study, followed by an **open discussion** on current issues (e.g. sampling strategies, method integration, collagen preservation, ethical considerations, open science). We especially encourage student presentations!

Come join the discussion!

We welcome submissions on:

- Zooarchaeological and taphonomic analyses
- Biomolecular preservation (e.g. deamidation)
- Radiometric dating and chronological modelling
- Stable isotope analyses for diet, mobility, and palaeoenvironment
- ZooMS, shotgun proteomics, and ancient DNA applications
- Non-destructive and imaging methods (e.g. NIR, microCT)
- Integrative multi-proxy approaches
- Sampling strategies, ethics, and open science

If you are interested in presenting, please **submit an abstract** (max. 250 words) by email to Karen Ruebens (k.j.ruebens@reading.ac.uk) by **Friday January 23rd 2026**.



UK Research
and Innovation



University of
Reading

Is there some event you are missing in this list? Let the community know in the #events Element channel (info how to join Element in footer). We also have a google [calendar](#). If you have any events that you would like for us to add to this calendar, please send them to paasta.community@gmail.com.

Updates from community projects

Targeted databases for LC-MS/MS	ZooMS Marker Database	ZooMS blind test
White Paper	Metadata Standards	PAASTA peer-to-peer school

ZooMS marker database

The team has developed an initial structure for the main marker table. Publications associated with the ZooMS markers are being organized. Next meeting in February. Upcoming meetings may be organized as “hackatons”, i.e. blocking out a whole day to work.

Do you work on interesting projects inside or even outside PAASTA and want to let others know or ask for help? Let us know via [email](#)!

New Publications

André, C.A., Fonseca, R., Figueiredo, A.Q., Lodeiro, C., Benazzi, S., Belcastro, M.G., Lugli, F., Di Rocco, G., Santos, H.M. and Capelo, J.L., 2026. **Fast ultrasonic-based extraction of peptides from teeth for forensics and archaeological purposes.** *Microchemical Journal*, p.116915. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.microc.2026.116915>

Aleo, A., Bradtmöller, M., Chasan, R., Despotopoulou, M., Fernández, L.G., Gomez, J.A.G., Kozowyk, P.R., Rodríguez, F. and Langejans, G.H., 2026. **The Needle in the Haystack: a Multi-Analytical Approach for the Identification of Palaeolithic Adhesive Residues at Morín Cave, Spain.** *Journal of Paleolithic Archaeology*, 9(1), p.2. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12520-021-01367-4>

Appart, M., Vnouček, J., Fourneau, M., Gros, N., Cecchet, F., Poumay, Y., Canon, C., Collins, M.J. and Deparis, O., 2025. **Peeling back the past: sheepskin delamination and patch repairs in parchment.** *npj Heritage Science*, 13(1), p.665. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s40494-025-02250-4>

Barakat, S., Jimenez, E.L., Heikkilä, R.K., Royer, A., Hodgkins, J., Niven, L., Soulier, M.C., Lagle, S., Dancette, C., Steele, T.E. and Castel, J.C., 2026. **Sulfur isotopes evidence spatial ecology of Late Pleistocene ungulates in southwestern France.** *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 374, p.109744. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2025.109744>

Bromage, T.G., Denys, C., De Jesus, C.L., Erdjument-Bromage, H., Kullmer, O., Sandrock, O., Schrenk, F., McKee, M.D., Reznikov, N., Ashley, G.M. and Hu, B., 2025. **Palaeometabolomes yield biological and ecological profiles at early human sites.** *Nature*, pp.1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-025-09843-w>

Camagni, V., Sestaioni, D., Ventisette, S., Gatti, L., Bray, F., Rolando, C., Lüdecke, T., Sciutto, G., Prati, S., Mazzeo, R. and Scarano, S., 2025. **A molecular finger-imprinting approach for detecting dental enamel amelogenins via surface plasmon resonance and bio-layer interferometry.** *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*, p.118217. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bios.2025.118217>

Charlier, P., Pelzer, V., Augias, A., Slimani, L., Chaussain, C., Poupon, J., Popescu, S.M., Kielbasa, M., Annane, D. and Armengaud, J., 2025, October. **Paleoproteomics reveals chromoblastomycosis as possible cause of King of France Louis XIV's death (1715).** In *Annales Pharmaceutiques Françaises. Elsevier Masson*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pharma.2025.10.005>

Fagnäs, Z., Troché, G., Goldberg, P., Hublin, J.J., McPherron, S.P., Murphree, W.C., Olsen, J.V., Sandgathe, D., Sirakov, N., Soressi, M. and Tsanova, T., 2025. **New methods on the block: Taxonomic**

identification of archaeological bones in resin-embedded sediments through paleoproteomics. *PNAS nexus*, 4(10), p.pgaf289. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgaf289>

Fagnäs, Z., Sieling, S., Troché, G., Bakker, J.K., Olsen, J.V. and Welker, F., 2025. **Identification and removal of contamination in palaeoproteomic analysis of dental enamel.** *Scientific Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-31472-6>

He, G., Sun, Y., Duan, S., Luo, L., Sun, Q., Li, B., Yun, L., Liu, C. and Wang, M., 2025. **Ancient genomes give insight into 160,000 years of East Asian population dynamics and biological adaptation.** *Genome Biology*, 26(1), p.420.

Herbst, R., Ibrahim, A., Hübner, A., Knüpfer, U., Regestein, L., Wiedemann, C., Hellmich, U.A., Warinner, C. and Stallforth, P., 2025. **Actifensin Evolution in the Human Oral Cavity over the Past 100,000 Years.** *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/jacs.5c14335>

Litynski, M.L., 2025. **Unraveling Threads of the Past: Evaluating Cultural, Functional, and Environmental Factors Influencing the Production and Use of Bone Needles and Awls** (Doctoral dissertation, University of Wyoming). <https://www.proquest.com/openview/60cb0a82275d2a38d59bbaa9d432bf4a/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>

Oertle, A., Peters, C., Summerhayes, G., O'Connor, S., Gillespie, R. and Douka, K., 2025. **New collagen peptide markers from New Guinea fauna: identifying archaeological bone in the tropics.** *Royal Society Open Science*, 12(12). <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.251172>

Pigott, E.M., Cheshmedzhieva, K., Zeller, E., van der Sluis, L.G., Pal Chowdhury, M., Gianni, M., Végh, E., Uthmeier, T., Chabai, V., Patou-Mathis, M. and Šimková, P.G., 2025. **A new late Neanderthal from Crimea reveals long-distance connections across Eurasia.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 122(45), p.e2518974122. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2518974122>

Reeves, V.C., 2025. **A Bioarchaeological Study of the Individuals From the Városfalva Burial Mound in Transylvania, Romania (15th-19th Century)** (Doctoral dissertation, University of South Florida). <https://www.proquest.com/openview/d6b93e148c47a240442074d690c3e8bd/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>

Schmölcke, U., Hartz, S., Brendel, A.M., Greeves, S., Groß, D., Nikulina, E.A., Weber, M.J. and Hendy, J., 2025. **The First of Their Kind—The Significance of Sheep and Goat in the Neolithization Process of Northern Central Europe.** *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/oa.70050>

Yang, F., Palomo, I.R., Nair, B.A.B. and Brown, S., 2025. **MALDI Deamidation Score (MDS): A fast and flexible method for assessing deamidation in ZooMS data and its application to the Denisova cave bone assemblage.** *Journal of Proteomics*, p.105577. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jprot.2025.105577>

Is there some publication you are missing in this list? Let the community know in the #papers Element channel (info how to join Element in footer).

Stay connected

- Sign up to our [PAASTA mailing list](#), if you haven't yet!
- Our [website](#)
- Our [calendar](#)
- Our [spreadsheet](#) of palaeoproteomics labs
- Join our [Element space](#) (alternative to Slack)
- Email us: paasta.community@gmail.com
- Speaker [sign-up form](#) for PAASTA talk series
- [YouTube](#)  YouTube
- [Twitter](#) ("X") 
- [BlueSky](#) 

This newsletter was composed by Johanna Krueger.

The PAASTA Community is an affiliate of the International Society for Biomolecular Archaeology (ISBA). ISBA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England. ISBA provides infrastructural and financial support for the student-led activities of PAASTA.