



Citation: Francesco Maria Galassi, Elena Varotto, Mauro Vaccarezza, Veronica Papa (2023) Special issue on “Anatomical radiology and morphological studies applied to radiological and palaeoradiological contexts”. *Italian Journal of Anatomy and Embryology* 127(1): 5-6. doi: 10.36253/ijae-14520

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Data Availability Statement: All relevant data are within the paper and its Supporting Information files.

Competing Interests: The Author(s) declare(s) no conflict of interest.

Special issue on “Anatomical radiology and morphological studies applied to radiological and palaeoradiological contexts”

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Keywords: anatomy, anthropology, morphology, mummy studies, palaeoradiology, radiology.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Italian Society of Anatomy and Histology and this journal’s Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Dr. Domenico Ribatti, for kindly granting us the opportunity to launch a special monographic issue dedicated to the intersection between the field of morphological studies and that of radiology. Instead of limiting the scope of this issue to the well-studied area of “radiological anatomy”, which Italian anatomical scholars know *inter alia* thanks to the masterful translation of Weir et al.’s “An Atlas of Radiological Anatomy” (*Anatomia radiologica di Weir & Abrahams. Atlante di anatomia umana per bioimmagini*, 6th edition, Edra, 2021) by V. Macchi, A. Porzionato, R. De Caro, we have opted to consider the additional applications of this field. This proves true for sub-areas of human anatomy such as palaeopathology, mummy studies and bio-anthropological research. A mini-review by V. Papa and colleagues, for instance, examines the impact of the use of non-invasive radiological techniques in the study of ancient (naturally or artificially) mummified bodies. An original contribution by C. Moraes and co-authors, instead, by re-analysing previously published tomo-

graphic and radiographic images, endeavours to offer a new anatomically grounded facial approximation of the famous Pharaoh Tutankhamun, also critically considering previous attempts presented both in scientific journals and public venues in the past. If palaeoradiology can enhance our knowledge of morphology in past individuals, we should nonetheless remark how it can also be implemented to verify, in close collaboration with the discipline of toxicology, the embalming formulas that were used by famous embalmers to preserve bodies. A reflection of this very topic makes R. Bianucci and colleagues re-open the vexed case of the Salafia embalming formula by further problematising its nature and subsequent reception by scholars.

As the discipline of human anatomy continues to evolve through time, one of the greatest lessons it never fails to teach its students is that by embracing complementary fields it can not only expand its disciplinary boundaries, but it can also increase the quality of discoveries made in closely related fields, to the benefit of learners and teachers alike.