



International Symposium: **The evolutionary history of the human face**

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Lacruz was trained as a field palaeoanthropologist in South Africa obtaining MSc and PhD at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. He has since specialized in the use microanatomy to interpret a number of important characteristics related to the way hominins developed. In particular, his focus has been growth lines in enamel to measure daily growth of teeth to make inferences on age at death of juvenile fossils. He has also used microscopic structures found in bone to assess patterns of facial growth in several hominin groups to answer the question of when humans acquired their unique faces. In his career as an enamel biologist, he is funded by NIH/NIDCR to conduct ground-breaking studies on the physiology of enamel cells in his research lab at New York University College of Dentistry focusing on the challenges represented by the transport of calcium by ameloblasts and associated diseases. He also teaches anatomy at NYU.