



European Regional Organisation of  
the Fédération dentaire internationale



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# ERO COMMUNICATIONS

1<sup>st</sup> Issue - February 2011

Dear colleagues,

the ERO Communications substitute the ERO Newsletter and shall help to give our members an insight into their Organization's work and development of activities in the Board and in the Working groups. In this edition you will also find all extra-information needed for the upcoming Plenary Session in Sofia.

## President's Welcome

Welcome to this ERO Communications, I am happy to submit after a new era has started in ERO-FDI. All of you have followed the development of the changes in the Constitution which have been kept on a minimum in order to maintain consolidated values, but extended and modified as much as necessary to fulfil the requirements of Geneva State, Switzerland, where ERO is registered, like other important medical and dental organizations, as a Non Governmental Organization, NGO.

President-elect, Philippe Rusca, supported by the President and all Board members has presented a final draft at the Plenary Session in Salvador, Brazil, which has been supervised by legal experts from different ERO members. After discussion the new Constitution has been voted unanimously on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 and since December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 ERO is registered as an NGO at the *RÉPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DE GENÈVE*. This new status opens new perspectives for future activities of our Organization. My congratulations go to all of us and my sincere thanks are addressed to those who have worked hard and to those who demonstrated an open-minded approach to necessary changes.

## Trends

Dentistry seems to be of high interest for State administrations and politicians in almost all of our member countries. The profession is more and more influenced by laws, decrees and drafts of laws which do not promise positive outcomes in the future neither for the dental profession nor for the patients. This development is present also in other countries outside of ERO. The trend is to try to acknowledge dental competences to team members and non-health professionals in order to decrease costs for dental care. The motivation is oftentimes that financial and economic crisis has changed the patient's attitude and therefore possibilities to receive dental treatment. We know from several surveys that this does not correspond to reality and that the problem has a SOCIO-economical character. More than 80% have maintained their "dental habits" and their dentist. For those of us who make part of the European Union, which does not mean that all the others should pay less attention, it is important to know that there are proposals of national laws which do, not only, prepare the institution of other health care professionals in dentistry, but, in addition, give a "pivot role" to a team member – the dental assistant - in the dental team and not to the dentist. Cross-border healthcare would be allowed also for those "new dental team leaders" in EU territory should this nightmare come true. ERO documents voted in Singapore and Salvador oppose this development clearly. I invite each ERO member to make frequent use of them and I wish you fruitful negotiations with your administrators. The topic might be of interest for a discussion in Sofia.

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### ERO-Working groups

Every ERO-Working group has a liaison officer who maintains the contact with the WG Chair, informs the Board about progress of the topics to be developed and delivers the news for this newsletter and the state of the art. The officers are:

#### **ANNA LELLA**

Relation between Dental Practitioners and Universities:  
Women in Dentistry:

Chair: Nermin Yamalik  
Chair: Vesna Barac-Furtinger

#### **PHILIPPE RUSCA**

Prevention:  
Liberal Dental Practice in Europe:

Chair: Denis Bourgeois  
Chair: Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach

#### **MICHAEL FRANK**

Quality in Dentistry:  
Dental Team:

Chair: Roland L'Herron  
Chair: Edoardo Cavallé

#### **BEDROS YAVRU-SAKUK**

Integration:  
Education:

Chair: Elena P. Ivanova  
Chair: Alexandre Mersel

### Workflow in the ERO Working groups

#### **WG Prevention**

The project of this WG is entitled "Oral Health and Cardio-Vascular Diseases". Denis Bourgeois will present the various steps he has drafted for the work for this mandate during the Plenary session in Sofia, Bulgaria. About the existent knowledge of the influence of oral health on CVD, the dentists attitude facing CVD's and a later action plan for ERO's NDA's, the WG Chair will extensively inform. As prevention is a very important topic and playing the dentist a key-role in preventive medicine it would be appreciated if every ERO member would encourage one of their experts to register in this WG.

#### **WG Education**

Besides a questionnaire to be sent out by Alexandre Mersel the Board has taken into consideration to eventually establish an ERO Lecturers Board. The purpose would be to integrate and program future FDI education-projects with ERO collaboration. FDI-responsible, Sarkis Söskes, has declared to be open to this kind of innovation. Delivery of nationally recognized CE-credits from ERO events has been requested from different member states. It will be rather difficult to reach this goal and it needs an active contribution from each member association interested in this possibility. Some NDA's see in this kind of recognition the only way to deliver continuing education credits to their members without depending on more expensive services from other organizations.

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### **WG Relation between Dental Practitioners and Universities**

During the ERO Plenary session in Sofia Nermin Yamalik will be keen to present the results of the survey she has sent out at the end of last year. Many responses have already reached the ERO-secretariat and it would be important for ERO and rewarding for the WG chair should you want to deliver a "last-minute" survey from your NDA. A change in the denomination of the WG is foreseen. The actual name seems not to be concise enough. The Plenary Session will receive a proposal in Sofia.

### **WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe**

Due to different developments in the profession, which opposite margins are set between commercial modification of dental materials without any relation to treatment need and high-quality, appropriate and individual patient solutions in due time, a request for an actual definition of "liberal dental practice" has been addressed to the WG. Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach, together with his members, is investigating if different understandings and practicing of "liberal dentistry" do exist and if changes in definition and habits will involve the dental profession and its leaders in new challenges.

### **WG Integration**

The WG "Enlargement & Integration" has a new denomination now and will be known in the future as ERO Working group "Integration". Russian Dental Association's Delegate to ERO, Elena Ivanova, is the new Chairwoman and has already started to reorganize her team. She will deliver facts to the plenary session in Sofia which derive from a WG meeting organized in Moscow. All members will brainstorm in order to define their needs for the dental profession and their patient's maintenance of oral health. They will also present a request to ERO in order to know how the Organization can be useful for the integrated members in the enlarged area. As the Chairman position has an "ad interim" status there will be elections of the WG officers in Sofia.

### **WG Women in Dentistry**

Vesna Barac-Furtinger, the WG's Chairwoman, motivated by the Women in Dentistry Conference in Salvador, will present news regarding changes and needs for the ladies in the profession in a presentation at the Spring Plenary Session in Sofia.

### **WG Quality in Dentistry**

WG Chair Roland L'Herron has started with enthusiasm his work presenting his *Note préparatoire à la réunion du groupe « qualité » de l'ERO*. It seems he has been left almost alone with it. On behalf of Liaison-officer, Michael Frank, each member is invited to send an expert to collaborate. Quality is important and even if no direct contribution is wanted it would be appreciated if every NDA would nominate a Quality liaison person.

### **WG Dental Team**

The WG has met several times in order to find a definition of the profile of the Dental Chair-side Assistant, DCA. Will a qualified DCA have the possibility to upgrade his/her profile and will this profile lead to a

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degree recognized all over Europe? Will this degree allow extended competences belonging nowadays to other professionals? More about it in Sofia.

### **Let's tell more**

#### **ERO registers at the Union for International Cancer Control**

On February 4<sup>th</sup> the Union for International Cancer Control has organized the World Cancer Day where the World Cancer Declaration has been presented; more on

[www.worldcancerday.org](http://www.worldcancerday.org)

The Declaration can be downloaded in different languages on

[www.uicc.org/declaration/download-declaration](http://www.uicc.org/declaration/download-declaration)

On February 7<sup>th</sup> the President has registered ERO as the first signatory of a dental organization on international level. Many other NDA's have signed too - more than 1900 organizations and more than 170.000 individual medical and dental professionals; more on

[www.uicc.org/declaration/sign-world-cancer-declaration](http://www.uicc.org/declaration/sign-world-cancer-declaration)

Over 270 actions in the field of cancer control and prevention can be found on the UICC map

[www.worldcancerday.org/events-map](http://www.worldcancerday.org/events-map)

NDA's can register their activities on that map and by doing this underline the importance of cancer prevention in the oral cavity (please remember the 1<sup>st</sup> European Conference on Oral Cancer organized by ERO in 2009 in Paris).

#### **Schedule changes for Sofia**

Due to several requests from our members the Board has decided on February 12<sup>th</sup> to substitute the scientific part of the ERO Plenary session with a political discussion entitled "ERO Politics and Member States: Where do we go?" This will be managed as an open forum where each and everybody can participate.. Therefore the Plenary Session's schedule on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> is changing. The session will take place instead of the scientific event and start at 08:30 a.m. and finish at 10:30 a.m. After this the Friday Plenary Session will start at 11:00 a.m. The late afternoon slot will be eliminated and delegates and accompanying persons are free until the Gala dinner at 19:30.

#### **Treasurer (to be confirmed in Sofia)**

Michael Frank has been proposed for the position of ERO Treasurer. His position will be confirmed during the Plenary Session in Sofia.

#### **ERO Bank Account**

A new ERO bank account will be opened soon and underline our complete autonomy.

#### **Auditor**

An auditor will be nominated in Sofia as this is requested from the statutes.

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### **Insurance for responsibility**

The ERO will have an insurance policy for the responsibility of Board members, Secretary and the WG Chairs.

### **Future ERO Plenary Sessions**

#### **Spring Session 2011 in Sofia, Bulgaria**

All documents have been sent out to the member associations from the ERO Secretary and are available on the ERO website [www.erodental.org](http://www.erodental.org)

The new program will reach you soon.

#### **Fall Session on behalf of FDI AWDC Mexico City, Mexico 2011**

The preliminary date for the ERO Plenary Session is **September 14<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Future candidates**

2012 Prague, Czech Republic,  
Inviting Organization: Czech Dental Chamber

An eventual candidature of the Israel Dental Association has been postponed. Other NDA's can present their eventual candidature writing to the ERO-secretariat or announce it in Sofia.

### **FDI matters**

The FDI Headquarter has become the Headquarter of ERO after the registration of ERO in the *REPUBLIQUE ET CANTON GENEVE*. The last Board meeting has been held there on February 12<sup>th</sup> and we are grateful for the kindness and the support from the FDI staff.

### **FDI CE Calendar**

Professors Margvelashvili and Mersel are involved in the FDI CE program. This happens in part with the involvement of the ERO WG Education.

Romania	10-12 March 2011
Hungary	13-14 May 2011
Slovakia	12-14 May 2011
Bulgaria	17-19 June 2011
Turkey	23-25 June 2011
Armenia	03-05 October 2011
Georgia	14-15 October 2011

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FDI President, Roberto Vianna, and FDI staff attended the 128<sup>th</sup> WHO Executive Board and commented on global health policy.

FDI President-elect, Orlando Monteiro Da Silva, participated at the second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on Mercury (INC2) in Chiba, Japan from 24 to 28 January, 2011

FDI Councillor and ERO WG Chairwoman, Nermin Yamalik, is lecturing on "Educating students and dental practitioners in the field of patient safety" during the AWDC in Mexico.

Two more Councillors from our area, ERO is happy to count on in FDI matters, are Patrick Hescot, who is active in the Finance Committee and Peter Engel who recently focused again on the high potential of the AWDC.

The candidates for FDI elections 2011 will have the opportunity to present themselves in an appropriate time slot during the ERO Plenary session in Sofia.

#### **Future FDI Annual World Dental Congresses, AWDC**

2011 Mexico City, Mexico, September 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>

2012 Hong Kong, SAR China, August 29<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup>

2013 Seoul, Korea, August 29<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup>

more details on [www.fdiworldental.org](http://www.fdiworldental.org)

#### **The ERO Board and Secretary**

Gerhard Seeberger (President),  
Philippe Rusca President-elect,  
Anna Lella (Secretary general),  
Michael Frank (Treasurer "in spe"),  
Bedros Yavru-Sakuk (Councillor)  
and  
Monika Lang (ERO Secretariat)

wish you a successful work and are looking forward to welcoming you all in Sofia!

#### **Visit the ERO website**

[www.erodental.org](http://www.erodental.org)

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