

ERO

European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



The ERO COMMUNICATOR

4th Issue - July 2012

President's Welcome

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present this issue of the ERO Communications right before the holidays and before our next meeting in Hong Kong at the end of August.

ERO has had a marvellous frame for its Spring Plenary session 2012 in Prague. On behalf of the entire ERO I would like to thank again the Czech Dental Chamber, represented by Dr Pavel Chrz and his staff for the generous hospitality and Mrs Hana Stepankova for the outstanding assistance and work in the backstage.

Deputy Health Minister of Health of the Czech Republic, Dr Ferdinand Polak, has expressed his appreciation for the variety and the importance of the topics discussed.

Special guests have honored the Prague meeting. Among them, Dr. Jean-Luc Eiselé, Executive Director of FDI, Dr Wolfgang Doneus, President of CED and a guest from our affiliate member, ESDE Secretary Mrs Anna Szymanska.

ERO has demonstrated once more to be at the forefront with its work in all of its Working groups. Interesting results and preliminary data have been delivered and the updates to be expected in Hong Kong will further motivate to be an active part in our Region.

ERO has spent and will spend even more efforts on organizing and optimizing its work in any field. The fact, that the ERO Working Model, supported by the official ERO slogan, did not need any changes, speaks for itself. A future

document, which will increase ERO's efficiency, is under construction and will be presented at FDI's Annual World Dental Congress. This year it has been for the first time that the Regional organizations have been invited to participate in the FDI's Midyear meeting. Vice-president, Philippe Rusca has said it clearly in Prague: ERO distinguishes itself for its organization and for its sound financial situation. Who wants to be part of this success will find a way to be on board; who does not want to be part of it will find excuses.

Our Team

ERO Board has worked eagerly on new topics for the Working groups to be presented to and adopted by the Plenary in Hong Kong. Vice-president, Philippe Rusca, Secretary general, Anna Lella, Treasurer, Michael Frank, Councillor, Bedros Yavru-Sakuk and myself have discussed with the WG-Chairs in order to be proactive in advocacy issues in due time. Secretary of office, Monika Lang has given her support in coordinating the developments.

Trends

In difficult times professions are facing different challenges. Dentistry has seen both: intrusion of commercial interests and intellectual responses to worn out business models. Third parties are present in many countries to compensate the lack of public finances and the call for "organized" dentistry at a large scale is becoming more consistent. Would this threaten the liberal dental profession and the liberal choice of a patient's dentist?

Many young dentists do not have the chance to be integrated into the working process in an increasing number of ERO countries, while in others dentists are lacking. The first might be due to an incorrect calculation of workforce

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Boardmembers: Dr. Michael Frank (Germany) • Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk (Armenia)

ERO-Sekretariat: Monika Lang, P.O. Box 664, CH-3000 Bern 7 - Tel. +41 31 311 74 71 - Fax +41 311 74 70/mail: ero-sekretariat@sso.ch

Bank account: CREDIT SUISSE AG, 3001 Bern, Switzerland - Account No. 1872503-32, IBAN CH14 0483 5187 2503 3200 0, BIC CRESCHZZ80A
in the name of European Regional Organisation of FDI, 1216 Cointrin, Switzerland

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need and untouchable privileges of the universities, but does the latter foretell that dentistry is unattractive from an economic as well as from an intellectual point of view?

To maintain today's level of quality of life, or even increasing it, changes in dental and medical practice are a priority. Prevention and collaborative approach between dentists and medical specialists will be the key to it.

Dentists, compared to physicians, do benefit from a recall-system their patients are acquainted with since decades and from new scientific understandings, which distinguishes them as the most "skilled experts" in prevention by far. Titus Schleyer has been cited in Prague: "The separation of dentistry from medicine is a historical accident!" Although it seems mankind has never learned from history it could at least accept the benefit of organized dentistry. Let me say it more clearly: This shall not only be the case when it is about the identification of persons after mass disasters!

ERO has understood the trends and its working-groups are investigating on most interesting tasks with a forward-thinking approach. Last, but not least, social-accountability is a well-known term the dental community has always taken into consideration with responsible action for those in need. It is now time to sensitize administrators that their social responsibility is that of statesman and as those they need to think of future generations. This needs political skill, we all have, and dignity, which finds itself defined in Tilla Durieux's citate: Public charity is beneficence with a loudspeaker!

ERO-Working groups

WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Chair: Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach

Investigating on dental fee schedules is a task the WG is continuing to work on. Despite economic difficulties in many European countries, health care systems can not be based on criteria of volunteerism; they need to provide adequate remuneration for the professionals taking care of citizen's health. More news are to be expected in Hong Kong. The Vision 2020 document, to be presented by FDI at this years AWDC, might be a task, which the LDPE takes into consideration to discuss, bearing the situation of dentistry in the European region in mind.

WG Relation between Dental Practitioners and Universities

Chair: Nermin Yamalik

The work as planned is going further in the Working group. As defined in Prague, surveys were sent to the NDAs in order to be forwarded to the dental schools. The responses gathered will show the state of the art and where do we stay with evidence-based dentistry and its application into daily dental practice. Further results from the current investigations, will be ready to be presented in Hong Kong.

WG Integration

Chair: Elena Ivanova

A congress, in which different representatives from the Eastern European ERO members sit together to discuss the organization of dentistry in terms of education, organization, quality and liberal dental practice as defined in the ERO is planned in November in Moscow. WG Chair Elena Ivanova will present the state of the art at the next Plenary session.

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WG Prevention

Chair: Denis Bourgeois

The Prague meeting has seen the results produced by the dental profession regarding the relationship periodontal disease and cardiovascular pathologies. Further investigation is now planned with the help of diabetologists and cardiologists and neurologists ("stroke people") who will respond to a questionnaire set and adapted by the ERO WG Prevention to these medical specialists. This step has been done to support the collaborative approach in prevention supported by those who are involved in lowering the burden of NCDs. The results shall evidence the awareness that general health can be positively influenced maintaining optimal oral health and that treating the same patient with the same risk factors adopting a multi-disciplinary input might optimize treatment outcome. With this approach ERO is in line with FDI strategies, but setting its own preambles and being a pioneer in starting a survey involving other medical specialists.

WG Education

Chair: Alex Mersel

Prof. Mersel will present a summary of all the results of the questionnaires sent out in the last four years. This will contribute to reconsider the realization of an ERO-wide reciprocal recognition of continuing-education-credits and an eventual definition of a new task.

WG Women in Dentistry

Chair: Vesna Barac-Furtinger

The WG continues its work constantly. The number of female students is still growing in dentistry. To produce

the right answers at the right time to this on-going development is the main task of the group.

WG Quality in Dentistry

Chair: Roland L'Herron

The WG needs WORKING MEMBERS!
ERO has a big chance to be a proactive part in quality matters. This chance must not be underestimated. Future dentistry will undergo a process in which two benchmarks are of utmost importance: quality and patient safety. If we will not be able to define these criteria for the profession we are giving away what we have carefully defined in our ERO slogan: The liberal professions are a pillar of any free society!

WG Dental Team

Chair: Edoardo Cavallè

The WG has met in Brussels recently. How to set the competences of a "second level dental assistant. Is there a change in workforce also in our area? Do we need market-and economy-oriented workforce in rural areas or shall we optimize the patient-oriented dental team? Is it time to harmonize competences, capacities and titles of other health care workers – as dental hygienists – in the ERO Region? More at the next Plenary session!

Future ERO Plenary Sessions

Spring Session 2013 in Potsdam, Germany

The German Dental Association, BZAeK has organized all for the upcoming meeting in Potsdam; a historic place to set the next ERO-Team.

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**Fall Session 2012 on behalf of FDI AWDC Hong Kong,
SAR China, Thursday, August 30th 2012**
Hall 3B - Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
(HKCEC) 1
Expo Drive Wanchai Hong Kong SAR China

**Fall Session 2013 on behalf of FDI AWDC Istanbul,
Turkey**

Future candidates for Spring Plenary session 2014

ADF, the French Dental Association has pledged
for the **Spring Plenary session 2014** to be held in Paris.
Another candidature has been presented for this event from
the Georgian Dental Association: Tbilisi.

FDI matters

FDI is working constantly on the type of change as
it has been promised in Mexico City. Finances, future
congress organization and administration and interesting
projects aiming at delivery of optimal oral health to all
peoples have been worked on eagerly and with concrete
success. The Vision 2020 document is one of the
milestones for FDI's global engagement in dental therapy
and policy.

For further news please go to the following link:
www.fdiworldental.org

Future FDI Annual World Dental Congresses

2012 Hong Kong, SAR China,
World Dental Parliament, August 27th - 31st
Annual World Dental Congress, August 29th - September 1st

2013 Istanbul, Turkey, August 28th - 31st

more details on www.fdiworldental.org

Miscellaneous

After a proposal from the Polish Medical and Dental
Chamber the ERO Board has worked on "Rules of
procedure of the ERO Working groups". The document will
be presented in Hong Kong.

The ERO website is going to be renewed. Contacts with an
ID firm have already been taken and a draft version will be
available at the upcoming Plenary session.

**It is my pleasure to thank the ERO-Board members for
their work throughout the year. They are very much
motivated to increase ERO's efficiency.**

**For the summer holidays my most heartfelt greetings
and nice and safe travels to Hong Kong to all!**

The ERO Board and Secretary

Dr. Gerhard Seeberger (President),
Dr. Philippe Rusca President-elect,
Dr. Anna Lella (Secretary general),
Dr. Michael Frank (Treasurer),
Prof. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk (Councillor) and
Mrs. Monika Lang (ERO Secretariat)

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

Visit the ERO website www.erodental.org

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