

The liberal professions are a pillar of any free society

ERO

European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



THE ERO COMMUNICATOR

5th Issue - April 2013

President's Review and Gratitude

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present the fifth and last issue of the ERO Communicator for this mandate. With the Communicator a new layout has been introduced. Liberal dentistry, as defined in Article III point 8. of our new Constitution, is a fundamental prerequisite to achieve good health and wellbeing through optimal oral health for all citizens of our Region. Every Communicator has been a scaffold for "The liberal professions are a pillar of any free society." Liberty in practising dentistry is a guarantee for the medical act. Nobody less than WHO President Margaret Chan has expressed this in a very simple sentence, which is based on reality: The dental profession is the pioneering profession of prevention in medicine. This confirms that the dentist is a highly qualified, distinguished and efficient operator in our health care systems since several decades. By no means this capacity, competence and expertise can be taken over by any other health professional.

In these three years activities started with the definition of the new Constitution, which has set the preambles for a more modern and pro-active ERO. It has been possible to become more political, to pick up arguments dealing with the organization of the profession's future and to contribute to important tasks as FDI's NCD strategy. ERO has given a concrete answer to the *collaborative approach* of different medical specialists, the dentist included. The Organization has been innovative in looking into the future setting an accent on a more medicine-oriented dentistry. ERO has demonstrated to keep up with the trends and to deal properly with the factors influencing the health arena.

I have experienced large interest and good participation in almost all ERO working groups and excellent

cooperation with those ERO members, who have organized unforgettable meetings. To them goes my thanks and appreciation for the efforts every participant could take advantage of. The energy spent in the Working groups has been immense and it has delivered useful and concrete results. They are the heart of ERO activities and their engagement has been outstanding. My wholehearted thanks go to all WG-Chairs and –members.

Several issues have been tackled with great professional engagement during the last three years. It started with the registration of our Organization as an NGO and it finishes with the presentation of our new website. All this would not have been possible without a strong and responsible Board and its excellent management of ERO Secretary Monika Lang. Please receive my deep gratitude.

Last but not least I have to thank all Board members for their work in their functions and for the concrete support in all endeavours during this mandate, which has made ERO a well-respected organization of the FDI World Dental Federation. They all have my high esteem and those who will continue together with the new Board members will find a great leader in my friend Philippe Rusca.

May I finish with addressing to all of you words of gratitude, respect and esteem for all you have done during this mandate, especially for friendship. You are the backbone and the future of this Organization and without your constant contribution ERO would not exist.

I wish you all the very best for the future!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Gerhard Seeberger', written in a cursive style.

Gerhard Konrad Seeberger
ERO President

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ERO-Secretariat: 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

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ERO Activities

Philippe Rusca – President-elect

ERO Board Liaison Officer for the WG Prevention and the WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Report April 2010 to April 2013

During the above-mentioned period I worked mainly as board member in the team. Even if the specific tasks are attributed, we tried to take unanimous decisions in the spirit defined in our constitution.

We tried to help each other to find consensual solutions.

- I had the opportunity to meet the leaders of the other Regional Organisations of the FDI during the AWDC and the mid-year meeting in Lisbon. These contacts are interesting and fruitful even we have very different ways to manage our task as regional organisations. The way to finance our organisations is very different and the implication of our member countries is different. The ERO has probably the best organised structure very close to FDI system.
- I had also the privilege to be invited in two ERO member countries: During a private stay in Israel I had the opportunity to meet a delegation of the Israel Dental Association (IDA) in Tel Aviv, thank you to Dr. Y. Chen, chairman of IDA, for the support. The IDA is since many years a regular member of the ERO and his delegates are very involved in ERO matters. In this informal meeting the participants had the opportunity to discuss several actual problems occurring as well in Israel as in ERO. On many items there is a common point of view between ERO and IDA. Such exchanges

are important to reveal worries, which are often not declared in official meetings but can also appear in our member countries. The ERO is interested to have more contacts with the national dental associations and get more information from the practitioners' reality. The input of the NDA is very important to achieve a clear policy, supported by all ERO members.

- In May 2012 the Turkish Dental Association for their annual congress also invited me. The TDA is an important member of ERO, a large country with many dentists. The information exchange and to get in touch with our members is essential to maintain fruitful cooperation with them. Soon Prof. Taner Yücel will join the ERO board and defend interests of our colleagues from South-Eastern Europe.
- I worked as contact-person with two ERO working groups: the results of all our WG is very different, depending mostly of the leadership of their chairperson. I guess that a WG should count 5 to 7 motivated members, which are willing to work together and meet regularly. It is of course not easy to fulfil such conditions but if the WG members are really motivated by their task they find a way.

The WG "prevention", under the leadership of Prof. Denis Bourgeois, which started to define criteria for our colleagues on the interaction between cardiovascular diseases and oral health has realised fruitful questionnaires with cardiologists and diabetologists. The next step is to analyse this results and to induce a discussion with experts in that field to establish a scientific supported statement. This WG has a lot of members but only very few contribute regularly to achieve the goals.

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The WG "liberal dental practice in Europe" under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Ernst Juergen Otterbach has produced several reports. It is one of the largest ERO Working groups, even if only a part of the registered members participate at the WG meetings. At the moment this WG is elaborating an European statement regarding FDI "Vision 2020".

Anna Lella – Secretary general

ERO Board Liaison Officer for the WG Women in Dentistry and the WG Relationship between Universities and Dental practitioners

At the ERO Plenary Session in Yerevan in April 2010 I had the honour to be elected for the position of the ERO Secretary General.

During my term of office I have been managing the day-to-day business of the organization in accordance with the tasks provided for the Secretary General by the ERO Constitution and rules of procedure.

To this end I have been keeping regular contact with Monika Lang from the ERO Secretariat, based at the premises of the Swiss Dental Association in Bern, and with other ERO Board Members.

I was in touch with the National Dental Organisations which organized the spring ERO Plenary Sessions, providing on behalf of ERO assistance and guidance where necessary.

I have attended all ERO Plenary Sessions and all ERO Board meetings that have taken place in the reported period. One of the Board meetings took place in Warsaw and was hosted by the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists.

In particular, my activities included:

- collecting country reports and presenting their summaries;

- engagement in drafting amendments to ERO Constitution

that were adopted at the Plenary Session in Salvador de Bahia;

- proposal to print and disseminate an information leaflet about ERO and drafting its content and design;

- initiative to adopt "Rules of procedure of the Working groups of ERO-FDI" and elaboration of the initial draft of this document;

- filing a motion to adopt a position paper regarding the competences of dental practitioners and dental technicians (Statement on the role of dental technicians);

- initiative and involvement in creating the new ERO website.

As a Board Liaison Officer I have supervised activities of 2 ERO Working Groups, namely "Women in dentistry" chaired by Dr. Vesna Barac-Furtinger and "Relation between Dental Practitioners and Universities" chaired by Prof. Nermin Yamalik.

I have been closely following their work, liaising between the WG and the ERO Board and providing support when needed.

Details regarding the activities of the Working Groups, their outcomes and plans for the future have been presented on regular basis by their chairpersons.

I would like to thank everybody who cooperated with me in that period, in particular Monika Lang, other ERO Board Members and chairpersons of ERO WG "Women in dentistry" and "Relation between Dental practitioners and Universities", respectively Dr. Vesna Barac-Furtinger and Prof. Nermin Yamalik.

I appreciate all their contribution and assistance.

My thanks also go to Colleagues and staff of the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists who supported my work for ERO and provided valuable assistance.

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Michael Frank – Treasurer

ERO Board Liaison Officer for the WG Quality and the WG Dental Team

- Participation at the regular meetings of the Board under the leadership of President Gerhard Seeberger at various European locations
- Extensive Board discussions and decision-making on the main problems and political / professional policy issues in different Member Countries
- Regular telephone consultation with the Chairman or Board members and our office in Bern
- Supervisor of the working groups Dental Team and Quality
- Participation in numerous meetings, especially at the working group dental team on various European locations (Brussels, Paris, Rome, Cologne, Frankfurt, etc.)
- Building on the position paper on the mission statement of Singapore 2009 "dental team, tasks and responsibilities" development of quality levels in the dental team
- Description of "Dental Chair side Assistant" and adoption of the paper in Sofia 2011 Level 1
- Definition and description of Level 2 "Prevention Dental Assistant" to provide at the General Meeting in Potsdam
- First analyses and discussions about the need for a qualification level DH. This issue must be dealt with in the next legislative period
- As Treasurer together with our Office Manager Monika Lang, control of the cash flow at our bank accounts in the

revenue / expenditure area, in particular observation and post-processing of membership fees

- Annual preparation of the budget plan and budget planning, as well as coordination and control by the auditor.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk – Board member

ERO Board Liaison Officer for the WG Education and the WG Dental Integration

It has been a pleasure and honour to work with my Board members for this ERO mandate. Tasks have been politically oriented and by the same token they have touched scientific questions. I have taken any opportunity to cooperate with the Chairpersons of the Working groups I have supervised.

For the Integration WG:

The Chairperson Dr. Elena Ivanova had several meetings with the members of the Eastern European Dental Association, and tried to see the main common concerns and problems.

The WG decided to give serious consideration to the problem of communication and close collaboration between their Health Ministries and their Dental Associations. These relations were sometimes compromised and unproductive.

To that end the WG prepared a Resolution, which will be presented to the ERO Plenary for adoption.

Also the "Prevention Programs" in these Eastern European Countries is the second most important issue to improve the oral/dental health of their population.

A well organised, nationwide, prevention program should be clearly outlined and decided. Of course the implementation of such programs depends from the economic, financial and also political situation of the country. Therefore a more

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detailed approach for a prevention program should be decided.

To that end, a questionnaire will be sent to ERO member countries to find out about the existing prevention programs and to decide accordingly.

For the Education WG:

The Chairperson Prof. Alex Mersel studied in depth the Continuing Education Programs in the ERO member countries by sending multiple questionnaires.

The result showed different approaches to the CE in these countries. In some it did not exist in some others it existed but it was not obligatory, some others it was obligatory, with a minimum necessary amount of hours per year and records of such courses were carefully kept.

Possibilities of Equivalencies of CE Courses taken outside of own country was considered. From the answers received there was not an urgent need for such reciprocal acceptance.

However the issue of the Equivalency is important and before its realization necessary changes should be done to the CE programs in the ERO member countries.

Special thanks to:

The Organizers of the ERO Spring Sessions:

Ashot Gevorgyan and the Armenia Dental Association
for Yerevan

Nikolai Sharkov and the Bulgarian Dental Association
for Sofia

Pavel Chrz and the Czech Dental Chamber
for Prag

Peter Engel and the Bundeszahnärztekammer
for Potsdam

The Chairpersons of the ERO WG and their members
(Please find the actual ERO WG member-list on the new website!)

WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe
Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach

WG Relation between Dental Practitioners and Universities
Nermin Yamalik

WG Integration
Elena Ivanova

WG Prevention
Denis Bourgeois

WG Education
Alexandre Mersel

WG Women in Dentistry
Vesna Barac-Furtinger

WG Quality in Dentistry
Roland L'Herron

WG Dental Team
Edoardo Cavallè

Future ERO Plenary Sessions

Spring Session 2013 in Potsdam, Germany

Fall Session 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey

Spring Session 2014 in Paris, France

Fall Session 2014 in New Delhi, India

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ERO Board Elections

There are four candidates for the different positions in the ERO Board:

Anna Lella for the position of President-elect

Hans Schrangl for the position of Secretary general

Michael Frank for the position of Board member

Taner Yücel for the position of Board member

We wish you good luck!

FDI matters

This years Midyear-Meeting for Council and Executive is hosted in Potsdam right before the ERO Plenary Session.

The first time the World Oral health Day has been celebrated on March 20th. The actively participating organizations in many countries have been almost fifty. This new date contains a hidden message: Children have 20 teeth and they are the target parsons of the WOHD. FDI has well accepted the maintenance of the old date from those countries who had already organized the WOHD for 2013.

The ERO President has been part of the press conference organized by the FDI on behalf of the IDS in Cologne, Germany.

Alexandre Mersel has been proposed by the Board for the FDI position of Coordinator of the Continuing Education Program in Eastern Europe. Good luck!

Further information on www.fdiworldental.org

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Future FDI Annual World Dental Congresses

2013 Istanbul, Turkey, August 28th – 31st

2014 New Delhi, India

The outgoing ERO Board

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

Secretary Mrs. Monika Lang (ERO Secretariat)

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

Visit the new ERO website www.erodental.org