



European Regional Organisation  
of the Federation Dentaire Internationale



## The ERO Newsletter JULY 2007 – No.1

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

You are reading the very first ERO Newsletter, which I hope will help you better understand the efforts each and everyone of us is making to be at your service. It will also provide you with a clear overview of the work orientations set for each Working Group for the coming years. All the Board members are set and ready to help the president and the Working Group members work in the most useful and helpful way for our member national dental associations.

The work for the first Consensus Conference, which as decided in Moscow will focus this year on Pain Management, will very shortly get underway. The Conference will provide us with the opportunity to establish the ERO as a scientific organisation at the service of dentists and oral health in Europe. We are of course open to all your suggestions and hope, with your help, to enable the ERO to efficiently fulfil its mission within the FDI, in close collaboration with the national dental associations. Wishing you a pleasant vacation!!! With kind regards,

Dr Patrick HESCOT  
ERO President

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ERO

**A BRAND NEW WEBSITE**  
[www.erodental.org](http://www.erodental.org)

Our website has had an excellent start. The secretariat is in charge of "feeding" it with new features and information, and because we want our

site to be always alive and kicking, websurfers will discover a new homepage every month.

A direct link will very shortly be provided in the ERO section of the FDI website. Many direct links will also be available to and from the websites of the ERO member associations. Any suggestions that may help us make improvements are welcome – the ERO website is YOUR website!!!

Each month, the secretariat will send out an e-mail to all ERO contacts to inform them of any new items, which will be just one click away!

### THE ERO WORKING GROUPS

All the Working Groups are supervised by one of the Board members:  
Bartolomeo GRIFFA – Parity and The Dental Team  
Philippe RUSCA – Liberal Dental Practice in Europe and Women in Dentistry  
Gerhard SEEBERGER – Quality and Prevention  
Alex MERSEL – Education  
Vladimir SADOVSKY – Enlargement

Each Working Group has a number of objectives and a set agenda for the three coming years.

#### *Prevention*

Three objectives have been defined for this group, chaired by Dr Bourgeois:

- Contribution to the quality of oral health surveillance;
- Promotion and organisation of a European Day for the Prevention of Oral Diseases. The first European Day is planned for 2008 and promotion should start immediately after the Dubai meeting;
- Involvement of the profession in the early screening and the prevention of oral cancers. Interdisciplinary action will be extremely important for this project, on which the group will work in collaboration with the WGs Enlargement and Education.



### *Education*

This group, chaired by Prof. Alex Mersel, has also set three objectives for the coming years:

- Definition of the general dental practitioner. The aim is to develop a definition of the skills and competence of general practitioners, in order to better outline their field of activity and, consequently, to better assess the necessity or not of creating specialities;
- Support for the organisation of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) in Europe. To achieve this, it will be necessary in Dubai to adopt the Charter presented in Moscow. The aim of the Charter is not to impose the backing of the ERO, but to enable each national dental association to have control of the CPE programmes in their own country, and to implement a Dental CPE management and monitoring system;
- Investigation of the use of new media in education: what do these new media add to traditional education systems, what advantages do they hold?

### *Parity*

The group, chaired by Dr Anna Lella, has decided to use percentages instead of figures to facilitate the analysis of its investigation results. Its aim is to obtain a "photograph" of the different countries that compose Europe. The task is considerable, particularly because no reliable comparison method exists for the moment. The group has taken on a difficult challenge!!!

### *Liberal Dental Practice in Europe*

Dr Voicu David chairs this group, whose task is to investigate how patients pay their dentists, and to determine whether it is preferable to be paid directly by the patient, or by the patient's insurance.

### *Enlargement*

This group is chaired by Dr Bedros Yavru-Sakuk. New countries have joined the ERO, and it is important for our organisation to have information from and about them. The group will work mainly with the countries of Eastern Europe, to support them in their dealings with their governments.

### *Women in Dentistry*

The group is chaired by Dr Vesna Barac-Furtinger. The number of women in the dental profession is steadily increasing, and this is bringing many changes. The aim of the group is to collect as much data as possible on the subject, particularly from our new member countries.

### *Quality*

The priority topic of this group, chaired by Dr Gerhard Seeberger, is service quality rather than the quality of basic training or continuing education. The aim is to work on the organisation and management of quality by the profession. There are concerns with regard to the possible intrusion into the dental office, in relation to standardisation, of external bodies.

### *The Dental Team*

The group is chaired by Dr Bartolomeo Griffa. It was established during the ERO plenary session in Moscow last April, and is in charge of the Topic of the Year 2008: Risk Management. Three main topics of investigation have been defined:

- Task distribution between the various staff members (dentists, dental assistants, dental hygienists, dental technicians, etc.);
- Professional responsibility of dentists in an increasingly litigious society;
- Changing forms of professional practice (individual practice, group practice, commercial company, etc.).

### **THE CONSENSUS CONFERENCE**

The Conference will be organised under the supervision of Dr Gerhard Seeberger, who will work with Dr Philippe Calfon as project manager.

The topic chosen for the first Consensus Conference is Pain Management.

Many of our member associations have already taken part in the project by giving us the names of their experts in the field. It is still time to give us names if you wish to. Meetings with these experts will lead to the drafting of a text that will be submitted to the ERO in 2008.

A Consensus Conference will be organised each year, giving the ERO the opportunity to establish its position as a scientific organisation.



**European Regional Organisation  
of the Federation Dentaire Internationale**



### THE PAN-EUROPEAN DENTAL CONGRESS

The Working group on Education is in charge of this important event.

The first Pan European Congress was organised in Moscow last April with the support of the INEP. The next Congresses will be held under the exclusive aegis of the ERO. Dr Vladimir Sadovsky, as member of the Board, is in charge of the general organisation of the Congress, whilst Prof. Alex Mersel, as scientific advisor to the Board, is in charge of the scientific aspects.

The Board will draft a paper on the subject during its next meeting on 28 August, and submit it to the ERO Plenary in Dubai. The Turkish national association has offered to host the second Pan-European Dental Congress at the beginning of July 2008, at the same time as its annual scientific congress.

### THE ERO IN ACTION

The ERO president contacted the Italian authorities after having been alerted by Dr Gerhard Seeberger to the intentions of a union of dental technicians who may take advantage of the possible introduction by law of 24 new types of health care providers.

The ERO has the duty to intervene and to prevent any deterioration of the quality of care given to patients. We are an organisation whose purpose is to protect not only the oral health of the population but also the profession of dental practitioner.

The president intervened on behalf of all patients and dentists. He hopes that the voice of the ERO will be heard ever more strongly by the governments, and thanks you for your efforts to make our organisation a politically and scientifically powerful body listened to and respected by all.

The letter addressed to the Italian authorities is available on our website.

### THE FDI

The Organisation is currently preparing its annual world congress, which will be held from 24 until 27 October in Dubai. We hope that the ERO will be largely represented. We will get back to you to envisage the best way of collaborating as closely as possible on the various actions conducted by the FDI, our aim being to take a more active part in the organisation, to be one of its driving forces as well as an efficient liaison body with the national dental associations.

#### The ERO Calendar

28 August: Board meeting in Ferney Voltaire

24 October: Board meeting in Dubai

24 October: Plenary session in Dubai

#### Composition

President: Dr Patrick HESCOT

President-elect: Dr Gerhard SEEBERGER

General Secretary: Dr Philippe RUSCA

Board: Drs Bartolomeo GRIFFA & Vladimir SADOVSKY

Scientific Advisor for the Pan European Congress:

Pr Alex MERSEL