



European Regional Organisation of  
the Fédération dentaire internationale



## The ERO Newsletter September 2007 – No.2

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Since the first ERO Newsletter in July, we have had the satisfaction to see all the working groups make good progress. They have all found their tracks, are picking up momentum and are ready to take on board any of you who wishes to join them.

A first update will be provided at the ERO meeting in Dubai, where we will also have the opportunity to think together about ways of improving the ERO's involvement in the work of the FDI. We wish to play an active role in the FDI, in order both to provide efficient liaison with the national dental associations when necessary, and to become a driving force and increase our audience.

See you in Dubai!!!

The ERO President

Dr Patrick HESCOT

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ERO

#### THE ERO WEBSITE

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

Our website is still going strong. The secretariat is in charge of keeping it up to date.

Any information you may deem necessary is welcome. Please do not hesitate to send us your articles, calendars of events, and any other data you would like to have posted on the site. The ERO website is a pleasant and easy means for the whole dental profession to exchange ideas and information. It is your communication tool!

### THE ERO WORKING GROUPS

All the Working Groups are supervised by one of the Board members:

Bartolomeo GRIFFA – Parity / The Dental Team  
Philippe RUSCA – Liberal Dental Practice in Europe / Women in Dentistry  
Gerhard SEEBERGER –Quality / Prevention  
Alex MERSEL – Education  
Vladimir SADOVSKY – Enlargement

#### *Prevention*

This group is chaired by Dr Denis Bourgeois.

The Working group will give a presentation of its work at the ERO plenary session in Dubai. The FDI will introduce a resolution concerning a project for an Oral Health Day. The ERO wishes to get involved in this project and to organise events integrated into the FDI objectives.

The group is also working on the implementation of a framework policy for the professional strategies to be developed in the fight against oral cancer. This framework policy should be recommended at the end of the Consensus conference that will be organised in 2009.

The European Global Oral Health Indicators (EGOHID) pilot project was launched at the beginning of September. Its purpose is to assess the implementation in ten countries of the data collection methods recommended by the group's experts. The data is collected by dentists in their dental practices. A call for declarations of interest from national dental associations, some of which are already active members of the project, has been issued.

Prevention is a complex topic that requires the contribution of each and everyone of us. We would like to remind you that the working groups are not set entities, that you may join one at any time, and that to do so, you simply need to contact the ERO secretariat who will transfer your request to the group's chairman.



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### Education

This group is chaired by Pr Alex Mersel.

The group is currently drafting a paper on the general dental practitioner, based on a pragmatic view of the dental practice rather than an academic one. The purpose of this work is to better understand how dentists see their profession in Europe and how they see their future colleagues. The text describes the general dental practitioner and not the specialist, it provides an overview of the knowledge, skills, competencies and training of a general dental practitioner.

The paper will be submitted for discussion at the plenary session in Dubai.

The charter will also be presented in Dubai. The headings and objectives alone will be given, so that the national dental associations can contribute their input to the final version of the text.

### Parity

This group is chaired by Dr Anna Lella.

As the differences within European countries regarding costs, earnings, and working hours are too great, the working group will be exploring the legal framework of the practice of dentistry (laws and prescriptions to be followed in each country, required number of years of study, of internship)

### Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

This group is chaired by Dr Voicu A. David

The final version of the resolution on "External interference in dental practice" will be submitted in Dubai. A Forum on Liberal Dental Practice is planned to be held in Brussels next spring. The event, which has already taken place several times, was initiated by a number of associations, including the Freier Verband Deutscher Zahnärzte (FVDZ), the ANDI, the Austrian Dental Chamber, and the Swiss Dental Association.

### ERO Enlargement

This group is chaired by Bedros Yavru Sakuk

A questionnaire has been sent out to the new ERO member countries to establish how the dental profession functions in these countries. The group is currently making progress on recommendations for actions.

### Women in Dentistry

This group is chaired by Dr Vesna Barac Furtinger.

The group's report is currently being drafted. However, one point already clearly stands out: continuing education is different for women, as these work in different areas of practice from those of men. For example, 80% of the dentists who specialise in dentofacial orthopaedics are women.

### Quality

This group is chaired by Dr Gerhard Seeberger.

Developing a quality model is a long and difficult process, and none of the quality models known so far can really be applied to dentistry. One of the group's main objectives is to establish minimum quality rules and to underline that quality is not technology. The working group is focusing on a scientific approach as opposed to a technical one.

In some countries (France, Russia), standards have been defined for dental sciences, but these "standards", being perceived as too binding, have become "recommendations".

### The Dental Team

This group is chaired by Dr Bartolomeo Griffa.

This year's topic is under preparation. Anyone wishing to join this group is very welcome. You can contact either Bartolomeo Griffa directly or the ERO secretariat who will put your request through to the chairman.

The group is currently working on a paper drafted by Jean-Claude Michel (France), who has just joined the group and has substantial experience of Risk Management.

The participation and cooperation of a majority of people will give added weight to the results of the group working on the Dental Team.



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### THE CONSENSUS CONFERENCE

Project coordinator: Dr Philippe Calfon

A special session is planned during the Pan European Congress that will take place in Turkey next June. The experts have received the first papers drafted by Philippe Calfon on the subject of Pain management (the topic of the conference). Their comments will be collected and discussed very soon.

### THE PAN-EUROPEAN DENTAL CONGRESS

The ERO is not legally responsible for the Pan-European Dental Congress. The event should however help our organisation to strengthen its influence within Europe. There is no financial obligation.

Patrick Hescot, Alex Mersel and Vladimir Sadovsky will present the Pan-European Dental Congress during the meeting in Dubai. The presentation will be attended by a delegation from the Turkish Dental Association.

### THE ERO IN ACTION

#### - Dental Laboratory Technicians – Italy

Although a policy statement by the FDI and a CED directive exist, there are several countries (Canada, Finland, Switzerland and many more) throughout the world where dental laboratory technicians treat patients, as a consequence impeding the development of new private dental practices. It should be born in mind that dental lab technicians are not health care providers, that they have not received the medical training necessary to provide dental treatments.

#### - Intrusions into the profession

The questions relating to dental hygienists, insurance companies, and commercial entities will be explored by the ERO working groups as follows: The WG on Prevention will address the issue of dental hygienists, the WG on Liberal Dental Practice in Europe will work on the problems relating to insurance companies and commercial corporations, and the WG on the Dental Team will deal with the question of advertising.

If you feel particularly concerned by any of these issues, please feel free to join one of the ad hoc working groups!

#### - The president's travels

The ERO president, Dr Patrick Hescot, will attend at the beginning of October the Prague Dental Days to which he has been invited by Jiří Pekárek, president of the Czech dental chamber.

### FDI

The ERO Board will meet on 24 October in the morning in the Dubai Convention center, and the ERO plenary session will meet on the same day in the afternoon.

The candidates to the FDI elections are presented on the FDI website. Dr Patrick Hescot, as ERO President, will be running for a position in the FDI Council, as will Prof. Alex Mersel, who will be running as delegate for Israël, with the support of the ERO.

All papers for Dubai should reach the secretariat before 1<sup>st</sup> October. We count on you to ensure that the ERO is largely represented in Dubai. Only by joining forces in great numbers will we make the ERO a driving force and an efficient liaison body.

### TO JOIN OUR WORKING GROUPS

contact the ERO Secretariat

Monika LANG

[Ero-sekretariat@sso.ch](mailto:Ero-sekretariat@sso.ch)

Tel: + 41 31 311 74 71

Fax: + 41 31 311 74 70

#### The ERO Calendar

24 octobre: Board meeting in Dubai

24 octobre: Plenary session in Dubai

3 december: Board meeting

#### The ERO Board

President: Dr Patrick HESCOT

Président 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