



European Regional Organisation of  
the Fédération Dentaire Internationale



## The ERO Newsletter December 2007 – No.3

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

We held a highly fruitful meeting during the Plenary session in Dubai, where the different Working groups reported on the progress of their work.

Our goal, now more than ever, is to be an active stakeholder of the FDI, and we will have the opportunity to suggest various actions to this purpose, such as the promotion of the Oral Health Day scheduled on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

We wish you and your families a very happy New Year and all the best for 2008.

Kind regards,

Dr Patrick HESCOT  
ERO President

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ERO

#### THE ERO WORKING GROUPS

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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 SADOVSKI – *Enlargement*

#### Prevention

The group is chaired by Dr Denis Bourgeois.

Prevention is not only an investment in oral health; it is also an investment in general health. During the plenary session in Dubai, Denis Bourgeois presented the goals of the WG, which are:

- a) To promote a European Oral Health Day within the context of the Day initiated by the FDI (scheduled on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008). The purpose of this special day in September is to bring the ERO health policy to the knowledge of the political authorities, to show the proficiency of our Organisation, its unity and dynamism at the service of prevention, to inform and involve all dentists and - last but not least - to make the population aware of the necessity of prevention.
- b) To contribute to the surveillance of oral health. By taking part in the EGOHID-Survey (European Global Oral Health Indicators Development project), the ERO will contribute to the Quality of Oral Health Surveillance. Having the best quality information will help to improve the performance of the health system, lead to a better definition of health policies, and facilitate decisions in terms of organisation, funding and professional demography.
- c) To encourage the dental profession to get involved in the early screening and the prevention of oral cancer. The WG is also preparing a framework statement on the prevention of oral cancer to guarantee the efficiency of preventive measures against this disease.
- d) To address the issue of prevention for senior and elderly patients. This population is seriously neglected and needs a special approach, be the patients independent or living in nursing homes. The dental profession should clearly emphasize who is responsible in this field, and what manpower and financial resources are necessary.

### *Parity*

The group is chaired by Dr Anna Lella.

The ERO member countries will be subdivided into homogeneous groups to allow the WG to compare countries with the same features and to determine in what ways the ERO can be of help to the different member associations. This means that a new questionnaire needs to be drafted, as simple in its wording as possible. The WG will beforehand collect all existing documents and information.

### *Education*

The group is chaired by Pr Alex Mersel.

The WG is currently focusing on three major points:

- a) The competencies and abilities of the general dental practitioner.
- b) Basic dental training.
- c) Support to Continuing Dental Education.

Doctors Nermin Yamalik and Vjekoslav Yerolimov gave an excellent presentation on the progress of the group's work, which should help us draft a document that will be submitted for discussion at the April Plenary session in Istanbul.

Concerning Continuing Dental Education, the Board will prepare a file, during its next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008, on the possible implementation of a support and backing system for continuing education in the countries that would like it, particularly those of Eastern Europe. The file will be presented at the April Plenary session in Istanbul.

### *Liberal Dental Practice in Europe*

The group is chaired by Dr Voicu A. David.

The group's main subject for the time being is the resolution regarding external interference in dental practice. The increasing numbers of commercial non-professional corporations that try to open, own and manage dental clinics call for a statement, the aim of which is to express ERO's strong objection to the interference of external providers in the delivery of dental care. This resolution states the disadvantages of an external interference, which endangers the special relationship between patient and dentist and would, in the long run, jeopardise health in general. It should be emphasised that external interference is not a problem only in developing countries; these clinics also exist in Germany for example. The era of the dental clinic in the shopping mall is not far away now.

Following the debate that took place during the Plenary session in Dubai, the Working group will meet before Istanbul to draft a declaration.

### *Enlargement*

The group is chaired by Dr Bedros Yavru-Sakuk.

The survey conducted by the group in the new member countries dealt with dental education, congresses and exhibitions. The results of the survey show big differences in the duration of undergraduate education, in the availability of postgraduate courses, in the organisation and requirements of continuing education courses and in the "schedules" of congresses.

The ERO will endeavour, at the request of the national dental associations concerned, to exert an influence on the health ministries, in order, where necessary, to ascertain and improve continuing education courses.

### *Women in Dentistry*

The group is chaired by Dr Vesna Barac Furtinger.

This WG's mission is to organise a network of cooperation and support. Women dentists have a different relationship with their patients, due to their particular psychological profile, which results in an approach based less on technique and more on interpersonal skills. Family and motherhood lead to changes in work and postgraduate education habits. There will be more part-time professionals.

The WG wishes to set up a file on the ERO website with information on more specifically women-related topics.

The WG's future work topics will be women's preferences in terms of continuing education, women in the educational process, and the impact of feminisation on dentistry.

### *Quality*

The group is chaired by Dr Gerhard Seeberger.

The data collected from different countries has led to the conclusion that Quality models need to be defined.

### *The "Pain Management" project*

In preparation for the scientific Consensus conference scheduled during the Second Pan European Congress in July, the Working group will draft a declaration on "The Management of Pain by the Dentist", which will be presented and submitted for discussion at the April Plenary session in Istanbul.

### The Dental Team

The group is chaired by Dr Bartolomeo Griffa.

The WG's first task will be to define the members of the dental team and to find out about their legal status in the different countries, because without official data there can only be estimations. The current situation in terms of professional responsibility, legal cases, etc. has to be surveyed. It would also be interesting to know how many individual or group practices there are, how many commercial companies exist and what importance they have in their health organisations.

### THE JULY 2008 CONSENSUS CONFERENCE

The conference will comprise four presentations. It will be organised over half a day during the Second Pan European Congress, and will provide an extensive scientific overview of the issue of pain management.

### PAN EUROPEAN DENTAL CONGRESS

The 2008 Pan European Dental Congress will be organised in the same way as the 2007 Congress in Moscow, under the aegis of the ERO, who will co-ordinate the priority scientific themes and organise the Consensus Conference on Pain Management, but will make no financial contribution. As a result of the debate that took place during the Plenary session in Dubai, it has been decided that the issue of the future and role of the ERO in relation to Continuing Education, and therefore to the Pan European Congress among other things, will be submitted for discussion at the April Plenary session in Istanbul.

### FDI

A meeting between the FDI councillors and representatives from the different regional organisations was held during the Congress in Dubai. The different standards and developments in various fields from North to South and from East to West were discussed.

It once again became very clear how important a good collaboration between the regional organisations is and what an important part the regional organisations can play within the FDI in the future.

### FDI 2007 Elections

President: Burton Conrod  
President-Elect: Roberto Vianna  
Treasurer: Tin Chun Wong  
Four new Councilors: Arif Alvi, Patrick Hescot,  
Datuk N. Lakshmanan, Jiri Pekarek

### FDI Announcement

The Conference for Oral Health in the Americas has been postponed to 6-9 November 2008. The location however remains unchanged, and the Conference will take place as announced previously in Lima, Peru.

### ERRATUM

A mistake was made in the last ERO Newsletter in the translation from the French of the paragraph about dental technicians. It is not of course laboratory dental technicians but clinical dental technicians who treat patients in several countries throughout the world.

### The ERO Calendar

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008: Board meeting in Ferney Voltaire

### The ERO Board

President: Dr Patrick HESCOT  
President-elect: Dr Gerhard SEEBERGER  
General Secretary: Dr Philippe RUSCA  
Board: Dr Bartolomeo GRIFFA & Dr Vladimir SADOVSKI  
Scientific Advisor: Pr Alex MERSEL