



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



The ERO Newsletter March 2008 – No.4

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Each of our working groups has made good progress, as you will discover in their reports. The forthcoming meeting in Istanbul, which we hope you will attend in great numbers, promises to be exceptionally rich and dense, as many guidelines will be submitted for discussion in addition to the usual activity reports of the working groups. An important topic of discussion will be the ERO's position and role with regard to continuing professional development.

I look forward to seeing you all in Istanbul on 17th, 18th and 19th April!

Dr Patrick HESCOT
ERO President

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ERO

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 SADOVSKI – *Enlargement*

Prevention

Group chaired by Dr Denis Bourgeois.

A letter of information and a questionnaire were sent out at the beginning of the year. The deadline for replies and feedback is quite short because the working group would like to analyse the results before the plenary session in Istanbul next April. This is the reason why the questionnaire has been simplified to the maximum. A statement on oral cancer should also be submitted in Istanbul.

The working group's activities have brought forward for consideration a new topic: the prevention of oral diseases in elderly people. We should remember that the future of the profession lies in interdisciplinarity. We should not isolate ourselves but on the contrary stay open to other disciplines and adopt a global approach. A good example of this view is the relationship between diabetes and oral health. A multidisciplinary approach to prevention is necessary.

Education

Group chaired by Prof. Alex Mersel.

The working group has observed that private institutions, the industry, university institutes and dental associations are interested in education. A paper entitled "An attempt for guidelines for continuing education in Europe" will be presented at the plenary session in Istanbul. Prof. Mersel insists on the need to implement a continuing education programme that meets the strong demand of practitioners. There is still a lot to be done in the countries of Eastern Europe. The Working group will therefore investigate the needs and expectations of these countries in terms of education. The next steps to be taken are:

- 1) the presentation of the paper "An attempt for guidelines for continuing education in Europe";
- 2) the study of the possibilities of continuing education;
- 3) the implementation of a programme for the countries interested.

These programmes will consist of a modular system in progressive learning, which will include conferences, congresses, symposiums and e-learning. They will be organised under the supervision of the national dental associations.

Parity

Group chaired by Dr Anna Lella.

The intention being to harmonise the different legal systems at the European level, a new questionnaire about legislation is being drafted. Another questionnaire will be sent out to the national dental associations to find out about their expectations regarding parity. The chairwoman believes it would be interesting to compare important data relating to dentistry in European countries, e.g. the volume of expenditure on dentistry (in terms of GDP %), the number of active dentists and other data such as the DMFT index.

The group hopes to present the results of these surveys in Istanbul.

Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Group chaired by Dr Voicu David.

The resolution will be submitted to the general assembly in Istanbul for the last time. New topics will be proposed during the plenary session.

Enlargement

Group chaired by Dr Bedros Yavru-Sakuk.

As a result of the survey recently conducted by the working group in the countries of Eastern Europe, actions are being considered for implementation in the following fields:

- Improvement of dentists' working conditions by exerting pressure on government bodies;
- Harmonisation of undergraduate dental education programmes;
- Post-graduate training: implementation of recognised and mandatory programmes.

The ERO could pressurise the authorities into making post-graduate education available to all dentists.

- Possibility for the ERO to help and support the organisation of dental congresses in the countries of Eastern Europe;
- Analysis of the code of ethics of each East European country to eventually harmonise the Eastern European code with the Western one.

The working group has a lot to do.

Women in Dentistry

Group chaired by Dr Vesna Barac Furtinger.

The working group is still collecting data, about women working part-time, about the problems they face in terms of continuing education...A new questionnaire will be sent out, to identify among other things the similarities and differences in terms of access to the internet and to online post-graduate training programmes. Are e-learning courses available in the language of the country? If so, are they recognised by the competent authorities as equivalent to other forms of post-graduate education? The group hopes to have results ready for presentation in Istanbul.

Quality

Group chaired by Dr Gerhard Seeberger.

The working group is now fully established. Its mission is to investigate quality management in order to analyse how it is viewed and dealt with.

The project on "Pain Management"

The statement on "Pain Management in the Dental Surgery" has been drafted and will be sent out to all national dental associations, in order to be discussed and adopted at the plenary session in Istanbul.

The Dental Team

Group chaired by Dr Bartolomeo Griffa.

In Istanbul, the working group will give a definition of the dental team, will explain what the dental team and its role are.

The group is also in charge of organising the Saturday morning scientific session on Risk Management, of which the detailed programme will be sent to you soon.

ERO PLENARY SESSION IN ISTANBUL

The next Plenary session will be held at the hotel Marmara in Istanbul, Turkey, on 18th April. The Turkish dental association, presided by Dr Celal Kurkut Yildirim, has planned a welcome cocktail on 17th April for all delegates registered to attend the ERO meeting. The gala dinner will consist of a dinner cruise on the Bosphorus on 18th April.

During the General Assembly will be presented and discussed the progress of the various working groups, the latest developments within the Organisation, and the ERO statements, as well as the national reports of the member countries and our Organisation's budget and finances.

The ERO Board will meet on 17th April in the morning, the Working groups, on 17th in the afternoon. The scientific session, which will focus on Risk Management, is scheduled on Saturday 19th April from 9:00 until 12:00, and will include communications from various speakers.

PAN EUROPEAN DENTAL CONGRESS

Under the supervision of Vladimir Sadovski, Philippe Rusca and Alex Mersel, the Board will draw up the specifications for the organisation of Pan European Dental Congresses under the aegis of the ERO. These specifications will be discussed at the plenary session in Istanbul.

FDI

JT Barnard has left the FDI headquarters where his position as Executive Director has been taken ad interim by John Hunt. His successor will be selected in May.

The ERO Calendar

17th April 2008: Board meeting in Istanbul
18th April 2008: Plenary session in Istanbul
19th April 2008: scientific session

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