



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



The ERO Newsletter December 2009 – no.8

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the end of 2009 fast approaching, we are happy to send you this 8th number of the ERO Newsletter, with full updates on the various activities of the Working groups.

It will be time soon to review the work accomplished by the current Board. As emphasized in Singapore, all ERO member associations have taken a very active part in the life of the Organization, thus giving it a new lease of life and contributing to its increasing dynamism. I would like here to thank each and everyone of you for this achievement.

At the threshold of the New Year, we all make the wish that the ERO carries on growing at the service of the national dental associations and within the FDI World Dental Federation, so that Public Health may continue to make progress in Europe and that the Dental profession may be fully confirmed as the true guardian of oral health.

Wishing you all a very merry festive season and all the best for the New Year,

Dr Patrick HESCOT
ERO-FDI President

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ERO

THE ERO WORKING GROUPS

Each Working group is supervised by one of the Board members:

Bartolomeo GRIFFA – *Relation Between Dental Practitioners and Universities and The Dental Team*
Philippe RUSCA – *Liberal Dental Practice in Europe and Women in Dentistry*

Gerhard SEEBERGER – *Quality and Prevention*

Vladimir SADOVSKI – *Enlargement*

Alex MERSEL – *Education*

Prevention

Group chaired by Prof. Denis Bourgeois.

12th June 2009:

First European Conference on Oral Cancer

The conclusions of this first Conference organised in Paris by the ERO in partnership with the INCa (French National Cancer Institute) and the French Ministry of Health are available for download on the ERO website www.erodental.org in the section "News > Communications" under the title "Proceedings of the Oral Cancer Day – 12 June 2009".

The Conference, which was attended by 200 practitioners from 18 countries, revealed that there are many diverging views in Europe regarding the early detection of oral cancer, and that it is therefore necessary for all countries to engage in a constructive dialog to try and establish a common work basis. A Policy Statement will be drafted to this purpose and presented at the next plenary session in Yerevan to be voted on.

In the future, the ERO also hopes to be able to provide all member associations with an e-learning tool on the topic, similar to the CD Rom available to French practitioners since January 2009.

Education

Group chaired by Prof. Alex Mersel.

The group is currently working on two projects, one that aims at providing a forum where national dental associations involved in Continuing Education can exchange and analyse experiences in order to engage in common actions; the other that proposes to set up peer networks with the aim of establishing an official Lecturer Accreditation system.

The group also continues to support the development of Continuing Education in the ERO member countries, particularly in Eastern Europe. This support translates among other things into partnerships for the organization, for example, of conferences or e-learning projects, in countries such as Croatia, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Relation Between Dental Practitioners and Universities

Group chaired by Dr Anna Lella.

This new group was set up during the plenary session in Rome to replace the WG on Parity, which has fully fulfilled its mission.

The group has been assigned the task of identifying what dental practitioners expect of universities and of defining the best ways of collaborating, the general feeling being that clinical practice differs radically from what dental students are currently learning at university. In a first stage, the group will focus on analyzing the current situation in the various ERO member countries, using the EU Manual of Dental Practice published by the Council of European Dentists (CED) and the answers to the questionnaire sent out last August. The results of this first analysis will be presented in Yerevan.

Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Group currently working under the supervision of Dr Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach and Dr Philippe Rusca

In Singapore, Philippe Rusca presented an overview of the answers to the questionnaire on "Selective contracts with insurance companies". The initial results show that situations vary significantly from one country to the next, but that the dental profession as a whole is facing one common threat: in the long term, practitioners may no longer receive adequate remuneration for their services and may also risk losing freedom of choice in terms of treatment. The answers to the questionnaire need to be further analyzed to be presented in more detail in Yerevan. However, the discussions in Singapore led to the conclusion that the dental profession must strongly emphasise the importance of quality and firmly oppose any kind of limited access to dental and medical services.

Enlargement

Group chaired by Dr Bedros Yavru-Sakuk.

The group has started the series of visits that should help better identify the needs of Eastern European countries in terms of support to the dental profession. Vladimir Sadovski's who is the supervisor of this WG, personally visited Tajikistan and Ukraine. The situation in Ukraine is more close to Western Europe, where the Dental Association coordinates all reforms with the office of Chief Dental Officer of the Ministry of Public Health. As a result since the year 2009 the Continuing Education credits system in dentistry appeared in Ukraine. The private dental practice is developing and at the

same moment the state dental care system still exists. There are only some concerns about Ukrainian dentistry in regard to the absence of a state program of dental diseases prevention and dental care in some rural areas.

In regard to Tajikistan the WG notes that the country didn't recover the economics fully after the civil war and as a result there is a slow growth of state healthcare system in general. Dentistry isn't an exception both in questions of lack of technological means and training resources.

In 2010 the WG plans also meetings with healthcare authorities of Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan in order to acquire more insight into the difficulties that these new ERO members are facing.

One fact however is certain: the countries of Eastern Europe need the help of Western Europe as much as Africa or Asia, to which European dentists are more used to providing assistance.

Women in Dentistry

Group chaired by Dr Vesna Barac-Furtinger.

The group is still endeavouring to improve the training of women dentists in team management and practice management and, in a more general way, in every aspect of leadership. A first conference on the topic was organised in Singapore, a second one is scheduled in Salvador de Bahia, and the WG plans to regularly publish articles on the subject in dental journals.

The group also hopes to achieve better recognition of e-learning tools, which are very important for women. A draft Statement will be presented to this purpose in Yerevan.

Quality

Group chaired by Dr Gerhard Seeberger.

The highly diverging views on quality issues that persist within the ERO member associations make this group's work extremely difficult. However, a very extensive report was drawn up, which puts at the forefront the importance of quality assessment (self-assessment, peer review, patient feedback). The report gave rise in Singapore to very animated debates, which will be continued at the next plenary in Yerevan.

The Dental Team

Group chaired by Dr Edoardo Cavallé.

In Singapore, the group presented a draft Policy Statement entitled "Dental Team, Tasks and Responsibilities", which defines the role of each

team member (dentist, assistant, dental technician), the team members' relations with one another, and each member's rights and duties. The Statement was voted on and adopted by the delegates in attendance. It is available for download on the ERO website in the section "Working Groups > Resolutions".

The group is continuing to work on defining the profiles of each dental team member, and has planned to meet in January to discuss the Dental Chairside Assistant.

ERO PLENARY SESSIONS

1st 2010 session – Yerevan, Armenia

The Spring session will take place in Yerevan from 28th April until 1st May 2010

The Board will meet on Wednesday 28th April from 2 to 5 p.m. , the Working groups on 29th, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The plenary session will start on 29th April in the afternoon (2 to 6 p.m.) and will be continued on the following day in the morning (9 a.m. -1 p.m.). The afternoon of 30th April will be dedicated to the Scientific session, about which you will receive more information in February along with the detailed program of the plenary.

Further information is available on the ERO website www.erodental.org in the section "Plenary Session > Agenda". You will receive all the necessary forms (list of delegates, hotel reservation) by email.

Elections:

Except for the President-elect Gerhard Seeberger, who will be taking the ERO Presidency until 2012, all the other members of the Board – i.e. president-elect, general secretary and two members – must be (re)-elected, for a three-year mandate.

You will receive detailed information on the submission of candidatures and on the voting procedures in January.

2nd 2010 session – September 2010

Salvador de Bahia, Brazil – during the FDI Annual World Dental Congress

Candidate countries for the following years

2011 – Bulgaria (Sofia)

2012 – Czech Republic (Prague)

PAN EUROPEAN CONGRESS

3rd Pan European Dental Congress (PEDC), Kiev, Ukraine – 9-11 December 2009

The 3rd PEDC, organized under the aegis of the ERO was a huge success, both for the excellence of its scientific content and for the attendance it attracted (2,352 dentists).

Big contribution of Ukrainian Dental Association, IADP (Supporting Member of FDI) and personally of Dr. Vladimir Sadovski(President of the PEDC), and Prof. Alex Mersel(Scientific Chairman of PEDC) to the success of the 3rd PEDC is noted. The PEDC thus gave dentists from Central and Eastern Europe an excellent opportunity to once again appreciate the contribution of the ERO-FDI to the advancement of dentistry in this part of Europe.

FDI

At the last FDI Annual World Dental Meeting in Singapore in September, the Federation came under the presidency of Dr Roberto Vianna, whilst Dr Orlando Monteiro da Silva was elected to the position of President-elect.

In September also, the FDI moved to its new headquarters in Geneva. This move, along with the arrival of new staff members and the Federation's efforts since the Spring to achieve more transparency and to improve communication, comfort us in the idea that the voices of the national dental associations will effectively be better heard in the future, and that the FDI will truly become a federation at the service of Public Health.

Next FDI Annual World Dental Congress: Salvador de Bahia – 2-5 September 2010

The ERO Calendar

18th January 2010: Board meeting, Geneva

28th April-1st May 2010: ERO Plenary Session – Yerevan, Armenia

2-5 September 2010: FDI Annual World Dental Congress – Salvador de Bahia, Brazil

Visit the ERO website for more information

www.erodental.org

The ERO Board

President: Dr Patrick HESCOT

President-elect: Dr Gerhard SEEBERGER

General Secretary: Dr Philippe RUSCA

Board members: Dr Bartolomeo GRIFFA & Dr Vladimir SADOVSKI

Scientific Advisor: Prof. Alex MERSEL