



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



The ERO Newsletter
March 2010 – no.9

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

This ninth ERO Newsletter is the last in our mandate. We have aimed with this Newsletter to establish a strong and durable relationship between all ERO members. Now the time has come to assess the work accomplished over the past three years. It is with great pleasure that I have had the honour, with each and every Board member, to fulfill our mission.

Today, all agree that the ERO is on the right tracks, that it is truly engaged on the democratic path, that it has clearly established its position. Together, we want to place oral health at the heart of the general health of the millions of Europeans in our Region. The task is vast and ambitious, but it is also exhilarating. We are in the fledgling stages, but have already enabled each of our national dental associations to become the privileged partner and acknowledged actor in this task. The ERO, within the FDI and alongside the other European associations, has been accomplishing its share of work for a number of years now. There is no doubt that the next team, under the leadership of my friend Gerhard Seeberger, will also make a significant contribution to the advancement of our profession.

I cannot end this last editorial without thanking the Board member for their work, and Monika Lang for her invaluable management of the Secretariat. Their support and their friendship, and the support and friendship of all of you, have enabled us to rise to the challenge we took up three years ago – to re-establish the ERO as a leading organisation.

Thank you all.

Dr Patrick HESCOT
ERO-FDI President

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ERO

2007-2010 – A VERY POSITIVE MANDATE!

>>> Gerhard Seeberger, President-elect

Chairman of the Working group "Quality", also in charge of liaising with the WG "Prevention"

At the end of this mandate it can be stated clearly that the leadership of the ERO Board has developed the Organization to a consolidated and respected reality in the dental world. The merit goes especially to our ERO-FDI President, Dr. Patrick Hescot. He has guided the entire group wisely and improved the individual capacities of every Board member.

It is a pleasure to support and promote Patrick's politics in every occasion. I had the possibility to extend ERO's message and its leadership in its territory during my travels to other continents and during the FDI Caries Conference in Rio de Janeiro last year.

ERO-FDI has grown in the last three years as an entity and as the European Organization to be considered by our colleagues and the administrations of their countries. Italy thanks Dr. Hescot especially for his support in difficult moments for the dental profession. Thanks to his efforts and the work done by the entire ERO Board, countries which had left the Organization have come back with enthusiasm.

The ERO President has acted wisely by recognizing the spirit of our days significantly jeopardized by different phenomena such as the global economic and financial crisis. Together we have highlighted the importance of prevention in dentistry as a key to healthier peoples in ERO-Europe. Under his leadership the First European Conference on Oral Cancer was organised last year where I had the honour to contribute with a lecture.

It is my strong will to continue Dr. Patrick Hescot's politics and respect his wish to contribute to an even better and stronger ERO-FDI.

On the Working group "Quality"

Group members – March 2010 :

- Gerhard Konrad Seeberger, Chairman (Italy)
- Ulrich Rohrbach (Switzerland)
- Chris Hayward (Great Britain)
- Olga Gilova (Russia)
- Barbara Bergmann-Kraus (Germany)
- Nermin Yamalik (Turkey)
- Vladimir Margvelashvili (Georgia)
- Larisa Kiselnikova (Russia)
- Alex Mersel (Israel)

All delegates agreed that quality in dentistry is important and has to be part of the work in the ERO.

The plan to organise an ERO Consensus conference on quality issues has not been realised. The first topic to be discussed has been pain management. An ERO statement on "Pain Management" was drafted by ERO Liaison Officer to CEN, Philippe Calfon, and discussed and adopted during the 2008 Plenary Session in Istanbul.

Quality in healthcare has been a largely discussed topic during the last three years in EU and non-EU countries. In some states quality is already a legal issue, in others it is about to be imposed by law and in many of them it is liberal to pay attention to it. The WG has analysed several data from different publications of activities and research dealing with quality in dentistry from EU- and other countries. It has been evidenced that a clear definition of quality does not even exist in the EU member states nor are quality strategies equal in their entity, and quality assurance is different from country to country. Even though some guidelines and recommendations on quality of structure, process and outcome do already exist in some ERO countries, it has been clearly stated that the definition of guidelines is not realistic for the Organisation. The approach that consists in adapting quality models from the industry such as the Toyota model to medicine and dentistry has been definitely abandoned.

A questionnaire on quality issues sent out to all member associations has been considered by more than half of the ERO member states. While most of the members wanted to focus on quality of procedure and improvement of dental practice, others wanted to draw attention to legal issues and their application. Almost all participants declared that much has to be done to implement quality management, quality assurance and quality

maintenance, but a clear definition of these terms remains mandatory.

Rewarding for the application of quality strategies has been discussed in the context of the global economic and financial crisis. Quality makes a difference even in difficult times and could help to save money. The latter aspect however has to be verified. Data collection and exchange is needed and shall help to keep the quality issue within the profession. A standard of quality of outcome cannot be realised in any field of medicine or dentistry although it is requested from third parties. The profession must also pay much attention to acts dividing the profession and to the quality of behaviour of professionals.

A quality model on a legal basis applied in the UK has been presented and discussed. "Quality is not an option, it is a necessity" is the final statement of the author. Quality measures shall be carefully analysed in order to avoid external regulations. The professional expertise of the dentist is the only key to the development of quality in dental care. All citizens of the ERO area shall have the possibility to maintain and improve their health status. Quality in dental care is one of the essential prerequisites to reach this goal and finds its realisation in effective treatment options, in safe conditions for the patient and the dental team, and corresponding to the patients needs and wishes.

Quality in the dental profession, its implementation and the improvement of dental practice will always depend on education as well as technical and communicational skills, together with the capacity of critical thinking and the behavioural qualities of the individual professional. Quality in public services will depend on the awareness of the Governments that the delivery of quality is furthermore based on time, adequate financial and sufficient human resources.

The definition of dental quality and the effectively useable quality measures together with the evaluation of data and experiences with quality models remain the commitments for the future of the ERO WG "Quality in Dentistry".

To all who served in the WG in the name of quality in dentistry, to all who participated in the questionnaire and the discussions in the last three years I would like to express my sincere gratitude.

Dr. Gerhard Konrad Seeberger
Cagliari, March 2010

>>> Philippe Rusca, Secretary General

Co-chairman with Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach of the Working group "Liberal dental practice in Europe", also in charge of liaising with the WG "Women in Dentistry"

On the workings of the Organisation

During the 2007-2010 mandate, as in the previous period, the ERO secretariat managed a lot of tasks with success:

- The membership fees were calculated using a new formula in line with the FDI method (change made in 2009). Each member country can estimate in advance the fees for the following year.
- The new accounting system gives at all times a precise and up-dated overview of the situation.
- The financial situation has been improved spectacularly by using electronic correspondence. Funds have been created to finance future projects and to support special needs.
- The ERO website has improved the communication level between our member countries, as well as the image of the ERO.
- The plenary sessions (Moscow, Istanbul, Rome) were organised very professionally with the help of the local dental associations and organisers, and have attracted an increasing number of participants.
- The minutes of the plenary sessions, Board meetings and other documents were disseminated in a fair time limit.
- The secretariat was always reachable and we tried to give an answer in the shortest time possible.
- All these tasks have been realised with the support and the constructive help of all the ERO Board members.

On the WG "Liberal Dental Practice in Europe"

Chairmen

- Voicu A. David (Romanie) – 2006-2008
- Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach (Germany) / Philippe Rusca (Switzerland) since 2009

Members – March 2010

- Stefan Hanson (Belgium)
- Vesna Barac-Furtinger (Croatia)
- Roland l'Herron (France)
- Ralf Wagner (Germany)
- Gergios Tsiogas (Greece)
- Nathan Fuhrmann (Israel)
- Nico Diederich (Luxembourg)
- Anna Lella (Poland)

Meetings

- April 2007 Moscow
- October 2007 Dubai

- April 2008 Istanbul
- September 2008 Stockholm
- April 2009 Rome
- September 2009 Singapore

Work topics

- "External interference in dental practice"
→ Questionnaire, presentation, resolution
- "Selective contracts of national and private health insurance companies for dental treatment"
→ Questionnaire, presentation, draft resolution

>>> Bartolomeo Griffa, Board Member

In charge of liaising for the Board with the Working groups "Parity" (dissolved in September 2009), "Relations between Dental Practitioners and Universities", and "The Dental Team"

On the Working groups "Parity" and "Relations between Dental Practitioners and Universities"

Members of the WG "Relations" – March 2010

- Anna Lella, Chairlady (Poland)
- Vesna Barac-Furtinger (Croatia)
- Edoardo Cavalle (Italy)
- Simona Dianiskova (Slovakia)
- Gerhard Seeberger (Italy)
- Bedros Yavru-Sakuk (Armenia)
- Alex Mersel (Israel)

The WG "Parity" was initially chaired by Dr. Dianiskova, who was later replaced by Dr. Anna Lella. The aim of this WG was to obtain a "photograph" of dental practice in the different countries of Europe. Unfortunately, it was impossible to obtain a good comparison between the different working methods. The Board therefore asked Dr. Lella to change the topic of her WG, and so the new topic "Relations between dental practitioners and universities" was chosen. The group is still building up and the first results will be presented in Yerevan in April.

On the Working group "The dental Team"

Group members – March 2010

- Edoardo Cavallé, Chairman (Italy)
- Bartolomeo Griffa (Italy)
- Stefaan Hanson (Belgium)
- Enrico Lai (Italy)
- Alex Mahinson (Israel)
- Haim Neuman (Israel)
- Maria Otheo De Tejada (Spain)
- Nikolai Sarkov (Bulgaria)
- Hans Schrangl (Austria)
- Joël Trouillet (France)

- Georgios Tsiogas (Greece)
- Ralf Wagner (Germany)
- José Antonio Zafra Anta (Spain)

The WG "The Dental Team" chaired by Edoardo Cavallé is very important. Its mission is to compare professional training in Europe, professional entitlement, recognition of diplomas, etc. The group uses existing publications, the Bologna Declaration, the FDI statements, and the topics discussed at the CED, to reach an agreement.

In Singapore, during the Plenary Session, was voted the draft resolution "Dental Team, Tasks And Responsibilities -Top quality for patient safety and oral health care". This is an important document that describes the main characteristics of a truly qualitative practice of dentistry.

The WG is currently working on the profile of the "Dental Chairside Assistant".

>>> **Vladimir Sadovski, Board Member**

Member of the Working group "Enlargement"

Besides primary work in the ERO Board, Dr. Vladimir Sadovski was appointed by the ERO President and ERO Board as coordinator of the ERO WG "Enlargement" and President of the Pan-European Dental Congress project.

On the Working Group "Enlargement"

Members of the WG Enlargement – March 2010

- Bedros Yavru-Sakuk, Chairman (Armenia)
- Ashot Gevorgyan (Armenia)
- Horia Dascal (Romania)
- Vladimer Margvelashvili (Georgia)
- Alex Mersel (Israel)
- Vladimir Sadovski (Russia)

A huge amount of work has been accomplished so far within the ERO WG "Enlargement". The main target of the WG is to bring new members from Eastern Europe to the ERO and to harmonize the level of dentistry between Eastern and Western Europe.

During the last three years, Dr. Vladimir Sadovski made a number of visits to the new ERO member countries for serious negotiations with the authorities of the Ministries of Public Health of these new ERO members.

Negotiations – positive in every respect – were held with the Chief Dental Officers and the authorities of the Ministries of Public Health of Tajikistan, Kazakstan, Ukraine, Russia, and Georgia.

Dr. Vladimir Sadovski was also constantly in touch with the Presidents of the National Dental Associations and the Chief Dental Officers of these and other new member countries to consult, support and coordinate reforms in dentistry in those countries. The support which the ERO gave to new member countries helped them to develop dentistry according to or with the guidance of Western European standards of dentistry, and gave them confidence that dentistry in their countries was assured a stable future. This work should and must be continued because despite all the support given to the new member countries by the ERO and the WG "Enlargement", the level of dentistry in a majority of these countries still remains below that of Western Europe (low fare dental services, irrational system of Continuing Education, etc.).

The next step planned by the WG "Enlargement" is to provide help in the creation of Liberal Dental Practice in the Eastern European member countries of the ERO. This is a very important step and work in this direction should also be continued.

On the Pan-European Dental Congress (PEDC)

Since the Plenary Session in Moscow in April 2007, three Pan-European Dental Congresses were held under the aegis of the ERO in three different ERO member countries, under the direction of Dr. Vladimir Sadovski. The 1st PEDC, which was attended by over 1.800 professionals, was held in Moscow (April 2007). The 2nd PEDC was held in Istanbul (July 2008) with over 700 attendees. And finally, the 3rd PEDC, for which over 2.500 dental professionals were registered, was held in Kiev, Ukraine, in December 2009.

The ERO Board made the important decision to organize the first five Pan-European Dental Congresses in the Eastern European ERO member countries. Thus, the PEDC should help new member countries to tighten up the level of dentistry to Western European standards. The PEDC is a non-commercial project which makes no profits but helps the ERO to acquire more popularity and increases European dentists' awareness of organisations such as the ERO.

It is obvious today that the PEDC as a project should keep its place among ERO interests for the coming years.

Dr. Sadovski has recently been entrusted by the ERO Board with a new project, currently underway: to convince companies who work in the dental area to become Affiliate members of the ERO.

>>> Alex Mersel, Scientific Advisor

Chairman of the Working group "Education"

On the Working group "Education"

Group members – March 2010

Alex Mersel, President (Israel)
Nermin Yamalik, Vice-chairlady (Turkey)
Vjekoslav Jerolimov, Secretary (Croatia)
Gerhard Seeberger (Italy)
Vesna Barac-Furtinger (Croatia)
Barbara Bergmann-Krauss (Germany)
Paul Melo (Portugal)
Bedros Yavru-Sakuk (Armenia)
Liviu Zetu (Romania)

The WG "Education" was created in 2003 in Bucharest. In 2007 in Moscow, important modifications were made and a three-year agenda was established.

2007:

The WG was involved in the Scientific Program of the 1st Pan European Congress (PEDC). A European Continuing Education programme was also proposed. Main topics:

- 1 - an Educational system, based on a choice of basic disciplines
- 2 - A modular holistic Continuing Education Programme
- 3 - Means and resources: a block system that should allow progressive learning and updating, with:
 - a/ Conferences/Congresses
 - b/ Symposiums, Round tables, Consensus Conferences
 - c/ Hands-on Courses/training programmes
- 4 - Partnership: to be realistic, such a Programme should be supported by the NDA and the Industry, with the contribution also of voluntary Educators
- 5 - Follow-up and accreditation
- 6 - * Presentation by Prof. V. Jerolimov and Prof. N. Yamalik at the FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Dubai
 - * Participation in the XXII AIO National Congress in Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy
 - * Participation in the XVI International Congress, Bucharest, Romania
 - * Participation in the International Congress, Yerevan, Armenia

Publication:

Continuing Education: obligation or duty; The European dilemma – International Journal /07

Council of European Chief Dental Officers:

Communication on the *Professional Integration of Dental Manpower*

2008:

Concerning the disciplines, the means of Education and their Level: out of 16 countries, the answers from 14 were received and analysed.

Pilot Study in five countries, with the following main guidelines:

- 1 - close and permanent collaboration with the national dental association
- 2 - scientific supervision, tests and content of the Education Programme
- 3 - clear and transparent management in line with the Ethical principles of the FDI
- 4 - tests and evaluation of E-learning systems.

Active participation in several Congresses:

- 2nd PEDC in Istanbul, Turkey (Scientific Program).
- Zagreb, Croatia – NDA and Croatian Dental Chamber, November 13-15
- Krasnodar, Russian Federation – Congress of Stomatology, May 20-23

Presentation at the FDI AWDC in Stockholm on *Quality Guidelines and Professionalism*

2009:

- Bucharest, Romania, March 18-21 – session in collaboration with the GADEF (FDI organization for French speaking NDAs)
- Guidelines for the Working groups, designed to improve their efficiency, were proposed and adopted
- a proposal for an ERO Accreditation system was also adopted.
- An innovative Learning System was tested successfully during the 3rd PEDC in Kiev, Ukraine.

Publication : *Suggested Guidelines for Basic Dental Education in Europe*. Journal of the Israel Dental Association. Authors: A. Mersel, V. Jerolimov and N. Yamalik

2010:

Current situation and Future Perspectives:

Difficulties in raising funds appeared and after the financial crisis it was difficult to motivate our partners.

E-learning is difficult to promote in Eastern European Countries. It seems that the Programmes need to be better adapted to the practitioners. It was therefore decided to enhance and develop the classical teaching system.

Another problem has been a lack of coordination with the FDI Eastern European Education programme managers. All the parties involved at this time have shown great interest in this issue, and real progress was noted in the last discussions.

Participation in various congresses:

Romania – 11-13 March

Batumi, Georgia – 9 -10 July

THE ERO WORKING GROUPS

The eight currently active ERO Working groups (Education – Relations between Dental Practitioners and Universities – Liberal Dental Practice in Europe – Women in Dentistry – Quality – The Dental Team) will present a full Activity Report for the 2007-2010 period during the General Assembly in Yerevan, where the work topics for the three years to come will also be defined.

ERO PLENARY SESSIONS

1st 2010 session – Yerevan, Armenia

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

All information relevant to the forthcoming Plenary Session – working papers, national reports, detailed programmes and agendas, etc. – have been sent out by email to all member associations and are also available at all times for download on the ERO website at www.erodental.org, in the “Plenary Session” section.

Scientific Session 2010

After having addressed in depth the issues of Quality (Moscow 2007), Risk Management (Istanbul 2008) and Fluoride Use (Rome 2009), the ERO this year is organising a scientific session on “A Global Medical Approach at the Service of the Profession”.

The 2010 Scientific session will take place on **Friday 30th April from 2 to 5 p.m.** Five topics will be explored by speakers of international renown:

- Prof. Denis Bourgeois (France) will talk about “The oral health of people with diabetes”;
- Prof. Luca Ramaglia (Italy) will investigate “Periodontal health – Policy and Education in Europe”;
- Prof. Valeri Tatentsyan (Armenia) will address the issue of “Oral health in people with cardiovascular problems”;

– Dr Francisco Rodriguez Lozano (Spain) will underline the importance of “The involvement of the dental profession in the screening and care of pre-cancerous oral lesions”

– Prof. Alex Mersel (Israel) will end the session with possible answers to the following question: “Gerodontology: how should the profession be organised to face the demographic evolution?”

Elections:

Nominations closed on March 2nd. Six candidatures were submitted to the ERO Secretariat.

In Yerevan, the President-elect Gerhard Seeberger will take over the position of ERO President, while the other members of the Board will have to be elected among the following candidates:

- **President-elect:** Philippe Rusca (Switzerland), Vjekoslav Yerolimov (Croatia)
- **Secretary General:** Anna Lella (Poland)
- **Board Members:** Vladimir Sadovski (Russia), Michael Frank (Germany), Bedros Yavru-Sakuk (Armenia)

The CVs, programmes, letters of support and other official documents relating to the elections are available on the ERO website at www.erodental.org in the section “Plenary Session >>> Working documents”

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)

FDI

Since the last FDI AWDC in Singapore, a number of FDI staff members have left the Federation while new ones have joined the Head Office Team in Geneva. We wish great success in their endeavours to all those who are discovering new professional horizons, and send a very warm welcome to the newcomers.

The ERO, through its Board members, is actively involved in a number of FDI projects:

Global Caries Initiative – GCI: Profession-led global alliance whose aim is to stop dental caries by 2020. The Rio Caries Conference held in July 2009 was part of this project.

Continuing Education: The ERO is currently in negotiation with Dr Sarkis Sözkcs, FDI Programme Manager for Europe, to coordinate the activities of both organisations in the countries of Eastern Europe.

Live.Learn.Laugh: LLL is a public-private partnership launched in 2005. It covers 40 projects in 38 participating countries and works through the collaboration between FDI member national dental associations and local Unilever partners, with the aim too increase oral health education and promotion in countries around the world. Phase II begins in 2010.

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

Registration opened in February. For more information, please visit the FDI website at www.fdiworldental.org

The ERO Calendar

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