

The liberal professions are a pillar of any free society

ERO

European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



The ERO COMMUNICATOR

3rd Issue - December 2011

President's Welcome

Dear colleagues,

time for the last issue in 2011 of ERO Communications has come. After the Plenary session in Mexico City the Working groups have continued their work as defined. The hot topic "FDI", discussed extensively in Mexico, has raised fundamental questions that have received prompt and concrete answers. ERO has asked for more transparency in FDI actions and for more influence on FDI strategies. This opportunity as been taken and the results are evident.

The new ERO Working model presented during the last Plenary session has been well accepted and found its application in the different working groups. Cooperation is one of the utmost approaches in our ERO reality shall our efforts contribute to reach the goal of a better dentistry in terms of quality and patient-adequate dental therapy. Furthermore, shall the principle of a liberal dental profession be the guideline for the integrated ERO-countries. The brochure, prepared by Secretary general, Anna Lella, and supported by the Polish Dental Chamber, contains what should be our daily message for our members in the NDA's. The Organization's project is an integrative part of FDI's NCD strategy. The relationship between periodontal disease and cardiovascular health is probably more relevant for our regional area than other oral pathologies. Europe in a wider range, as defined by our membership-countries, is undergoing a rapid and unexpected change, socially and demographically, and almost forgotten dental therapies are becoming a new challenge in a kind of dentistry with plenty of innovations and new technologies. Therefore, once more ERO has a chance to show that the oldest Regional organization of FDI is not condemned to be considered old-fashioned, but must take advantage of the experience

gathered in the dental profession in almost one century and a half.

Together with the entire ERO staff, Vice-president, Philippe Rusca, Secretary general, Anna Lella, Treasurer, Michael Frank, Councillor, Bedros Yavru-Sakuk and Secretary of office, Monika Lang I wish each and everybody all the best for the upcoming Season, to conclude 2011 with the desired success and to start a New Year full of enthusiasm, health and prosperity.

Trends

In difficult times professions are facing an increase of commercial and intellectual activity. Third party interests are called in many countries to compensate the lack of public finances and the call for "organized" dentistry on a large scale is becoming more consistent. Would this threaten the liberal dental profession and the liberal choice of a patient's doctor?

Many young dentists do not have the chance to be integrated into the working process in some countries, while in others dental professionals are lacking. Is the first due to a wrong calculation of workforce need and untouchable privileges of the universities, while the latter might foretell that dentistry is unattractive from an economic as well as from an intellectual point of view?

To maintain today's level of quality of life, or even increasing it, needs changes in dental and medical practice. Prevention and a collaborative approach between dentists and medical specialists will be the key to it. Dentists, compared to physicians, do benefit from a recall-system their patients are acquainted with since decades and from new scientific understandings which distinguishes them as "the experts" in prevention by definition. ERO has understood the trends

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and its working-groups are investigating on most interesting tasks with a forward-thinking approach.

ERO-Working groups

WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Chair: Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach

The ERO-brochure has found a large acceptance and many compliments have been expressed.

On November 10th a restricted WG meeting took place during the congress of the German Dental Association in Frankfurt. The questionnaire sent out recently has been defined there investigating on "How free or compulsive are dental fee schedules in the ERO-member states?" The results will be milestones for the future work in the WG.

WG Relation between Dental Practitioners and Universities

Chair: Nermin Yamalik

The results of the questionnaire sent to the universities to find out how they see the dental profession will be prepared for the plenary session in Prague. As a first success on a larger scale the publication of an article in the International Dental Journal about the collaboration between dental faculties and National Dental Associations in Europe can be reported.

WG Integration

Chair: Elena Ivanova

Elena Ivanova is working hard to make the group more consistent and effective. The congress in Antalya, where many NDA-presidents from the Eastern part of Europe met,

has been a promising start for future activity. The group will work on defining the "dental identity" of each member-country.

WG Prevention

Chair: Denis Bourgeois

FDI's Non-Communicable-Disease-Policy is actively supported by ERO with its questionnaire investigating on the relationship between cardiovascular disease/stroke and periodontal disease from the dentist's point of view. The deadline has been postponed to the end of the year and there are still many answers from the NDAs reaching the ERO-secretariat.

In the meantime first contacts have been taken with other medical specialists as cardiologists, diabetologists and stroke-experts. Their interest in a questionnaire addressed to their specialist group is very high. The WG will take this request into consideration. Paulo Melo is working on an event in which all results will be summarized and used as basics for an ERO-guideline.

WG Education

Chair: Alex Mersel

Prof. Mersel is working on a summary of all the results of the questionnaires sent out in the last four years. This will contribute to reconsider the realization of an ERO-wide reciprocal recognition of continuing-education-credits.

WG Women in Dentistry

Chair: Vesna Barac-Furtinger

The WG has developed many results with its work in the identification of differences between man and women in

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dental practice. WG-chair Barac-Furtinger will work with her group on a summary considering the last four years.

WG Quality in Dentistry

Chair: Roland L'Herron

The WG is gathering questionnaires and working on the answers from the NDAs. The results will be presented in the next ERO Plenary session.

WG Dental Team

Chair: Edoardo Cavallè

The WG will meet in Paris in the near future and continue its work on drafting the method of training and the curriculum of education of the dental assistant. There will be a presentation and a discussion at the upcoming Plenary session in Prague.

Future ERO Plenary Sessions

Spring Session 2012 in Prague, Czech Republic

The Czech Dental Chamber has organized all for the upcoming meeting. Many efforts have been made to make this meeting very attractive.

Fall Session on behalf of FDI AWDC Hong Kong, SAR China

The details are about to be defined.

Future candidates for Spring plenary session

The German BZAEK will host the Spring session 2013 in the City of Potsdam, Germany. A short presentation will be given in Prague.

FDI matters

FDI has been very active with its Non-Communicable-Disease strategy. The Executive Director Jean-Luc Eiselé and Dr. Julian Fisher have attended a meeting organized by WHO on "Global monitoring framework and targets for NCDs" on December 15 in Geneva. FDI politics have been become transparent as promised in Mexico-City.

Future FDI Annual World Dental Congresses

2012 Hong Kong, SAR China, August 29th – September 1st

2013 Seoul, Korea, August 29th – September 1st

more details on www.fdiworldental.org

It is my pleasure to thank the ERO-Board members for their work throughout the year. They are very much motivated to increase ERO's efficiency.

For the upcoming Season my most heartfelt greetings and t all the best for 2012 !

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The ERO Board and Secretary

Dr. Gerhard Seeberger (President),
Dr. Philippe Rusca President-elect,
Dr. Anna Lella (Secretary general),
Dr. Michael Frank (Treasurer "in spe"),
Prof. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk (Councillor)
and
Mrs. Monika Lang (ERO Secretariat)

wish you a successful work and are looking forward to welcoming you all in Prague !

Visit the ERO website www.erodental.org

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