



The experience on ERO General Assemblies and Working Groups, on FDI's Council and Public Health Committee (PHC), and on CED Board and as chair of the CED WG Education and Professional Qualifications lead me to a better knowledge of the broad spectrum of actions and interventions that can be made at professional and oral health level. Participating in some of the most important international projects including those of the ERO WG "Relation between dental practice and universities", has been a real challenge and a very enthusiastic task.

In these last years, I witnessed a significant improvement of ERO and FDI, with an unprecedented visibility throughout Europe and all over the world, which lead to a greater acknowledgement of ERO and FDI by every stakeholder related with oral health, as well as some related to general health.

My decision to be a candidate for the ERO Board relies on the importance of ERO's aim to protect and support the profession at European level, spreading better Oral Health throughout the world, highlighting the need to decrease the inequalities on Oral Health and trying to improve the workforce and work conditions to provide the best dentistry among the population. This image of ERO is completely in line with my thoughts and actions in the past two decades, highlighting the importance of a good Oral Health for a good Health.

The clinical practice as a dentist and liberal professional, as well as the collaboration in national (Sociedade Portuguesa de Estomatologia e Medicina Dentária and Portuguese Dental Association) and international (ERO, FDI and Council of European Dentists - CED) institutions, gave me the political experience and a deep knowledge of the reality of dental practice in my country, in Europe and in the world.

The position as a professor at the University of Porto, in the areas of Operatory Dentistry, Cariology and Public Health, allowed me extensive teaching experience and also an important participation on research that resulted in Doctoral and Master theses and in over 50 articles published in indexed journals.



Public Oral Health is one of my main interests. Collaborating with the Portuguese Ministry of Health, I had the opportunity to contribute to the creation and monitoring of the Portuguese National Oral Health Program, "Dentist Voucher" and the national dental practice guidelines for COVID-19 pandemic. Also participated as external expert in WHO Interim Guidance: "COVID-19 Pandemic and considerations in the provision of oral health care services".

ERO is a very important institution representing the dental profession and the oral health at European level and it would be an honour to me to be elected as member of the ERO Board. I believe that, as a member of the Board, my experience in the various aspects of dentistry, can be extremely relevant to ERO. In this way, I would like to continue to actively collaborate in the maintenance and strengthening of the image of ERO throughout the world.

Porto, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

*(Paulo Melo)*