



# **ERO Working Group**

## **Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry**

**ERO Plenary Session 2016**  
**Poznan, Poland**



**Report of the European Regional Organization  
of the FDI World Dental Federation (ERO)**

**September 2015 – August 2016**

The European Regional Organization of the FDI World Dental Federation is established in accordance with the FDI Constitution and is registered in the Swiss Canton of Geneva. The official seat of ERO is at the FDI headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The ERO Secretariat is located in Bern, Switzerland, courtesy of the Swiss Dental Association.

ERO associates member organizations of the FDI from the European Geographical Area – currently from 35 countries. ERO's aim is to associate national dental organizations from all 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

ERO's beginnings date back to 1950's. ERO was the first regional organization of the FDI and thus served as model for the other regional organizations. In 2014 ERO celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

ERO promotes the concept of dentistry as an independent profession based on the principle of freedom of choice in the relationship between dentist and patient; adopts resolutions, expressing the views of European dentists, that are valuable documents serving as background and supportive papers for national dental organizations in their contacts with local authorities.

Day-to-day management of ERO is a task of the Board (5 persons) elected for 3 years at the Plenary Session – ERO's supreme authority composed of delegates of all member organizations which gathers twice a year – usually in April and September (as part of FDI World Dental Parliament).

#### Plenary Sessions

At the Plenary Session in Bangkok on 23 September 2015 the delegates adopted Statement on liberal dental practice in partnerships, practice networks, and medical care units. In this statement ERO acknowledges appearance of new legal and organizational forms of dental practice, however in its view the liberal dental practice should remain the main model of dental work. ERO underlines that it is absolutely necessary to permanently adjust the new forms of professional practice to the profession's ethic principles.

In the discussion it was noted that cooperation with companies using the franchising system are very difficult to control and therefore it is important that the ethical requirements are defined by the profession itself.

Statement on the continuing medical education in dentistry was also adopted in Bangkok. ERO points out the vitality of the continuing medical education in dentistry for the advocacy of global health whereof oral health is an integral part. To this end ERO identifies the need to raise awareness of dental profession of bilateral relationship between oral health and general health; improve collaboration and synergies between different health professionals and enhance the extended role of dentists and dentistry.

The current state of each ERO working group was analyzed and guidance for further activity was given. A new working group which will focus on elderly patients was established in order to collect experiences and information related to the issue of aging population. The goal is to work out a few guidelines or recommendations on how best to deal with this problem.

In 2016 ERO held its Plenary Session in Baku on 29 and 30 April, hosted by the Azerbaijan Stomatological Association.

During the Plenary Session, which was preceded by a meeting of ERO Board and meetings of ERO working groups, delegates adopted ERO accreditation guidelines for Continuing Dental Education Providers and recommendations for national dental organizations to cooperate with dental faculties in the field of clinical guidelines and their use in dental practice as a supportive tool.

ERO delegates approved summary of the results of the questionnaire on Clinical guidelines and their use in dental practice as supportive tool elaborated by the Working Group Relation between Dental Practitioner and Universities. This document, published on the website, indicates that majority of

dentists who provided their responses know and implement clinical guidelines in their work. 81% believed in the benefit of clinical guidelines for dental practice, however differences were noticed among the respondents. More than half of them believed that there is role for NDAs, especially in creating a general awareness on clinical guidelines. It is therefore suggested that NDAs may need to consider collaborating with dental faculties in developing evidence-based clinical guidelines, disseminating clinical guidelines and increasing the implementation of clinical guidelines into practice.

Further, participants discussed a wide range of issues related to dentistry in Europe, in particular the scope of professional tasks of dental hygienists – delegates unanimously reconfirmed that the principle "Delegation – yes, substitution – no" is fully valid and should be applied in all countries of the region.

FDI President, dr Patrick Heacot (former ERO President between 2007 – 2010), attended as guest and informed the delegates about the recent activities within the FDI (focusing on the implementation of the FDI Strategic Plan 2014-2017). Dr. Heacot also underlined the importance of deep cooperation between the FDI and its members - national dental organizations. Personal attendance of the FDI President at regional and national dental assemblies is one of the methods to develop this cooperation.

Finishing his term of office dr. Philippe Rusca (Switzerland) handed over ERO Presidency to dr. Anna Lella (Poland) – first woman elected for the position of the ERO President. The elections for other positions in the ERO Board took place which for the next 3 years will be composed of

- dr. Anna Lella – President,
- dr. Michael Frank (Germany) – President-Elect,
- dr. Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) – General Secretary;
- dr. Bartolomeo Griffa (Italy) – Board Member/Treasurer,
- prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey) – Board Member.

The next ERO Plenary Session takes place on 8 September 2016 in Poznań.

#### Working Groups

Important part of the ERO work is carried out within the ERO Working Groups which are set up and composed of internal and external experts nominated by the Plenary Session. Working Groups consider and examine in detail matters of particular importance to the dental profession, gather relevant information and prepare drafts of ERO resolutions and other documents.

There are currently 7 ERO Working Groups chaired by respectively:

- WG Dental Team – Edoardo Cavalle (ITA);
- WG Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry – Hande Sar Sancakli (TUR);
- WG Integration – Elena Ivanova (RUS);
- WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe – Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach (GER);
- WG Quality in Dentistry – Roland L'Herron (FRA);
- WG Relation Between Dental Practitioners and Universities – Simona Dianiskova (SVK);
- WG Aging Population – Philippe Rusca (SUI).

At its meeting in Warsaw in June 2016 ERO Board decided to submit a draft statement on medical education in dentistry for adoption at the FDI General Assembly. This draft together with a cover letter is to be found in the FDI General Assembly Binder available for download on the FDI Website – pages 109 and 110.

Comprehensive information about ERO is available at the organization's website: [www.ero-dental.org](http://www.ero-dental.org)

Elaborated by: Dr. Anna Lella, ERO President.

## Medical education in dentistry

The General Assembly of the FDI World Dental Federation,  
gathered at the 104th FDI Annual World Dental Congress in Poznań, Poland  
between 6 – 10 September 2016

taking into consideration that

- the importance of oral health has been underlined in a number of important documents adopted by international organizations – one of them being the FDI Istanbul Declaration of 2013,
- oral health is an integral part of general health and the role of dental practitioners is not limited only to maintaining oral health of their patients but also their overall health and well-being,
- dentists can significantly contribute to improve their patients' overall health by taking on new tasks such as screening and monitoring non-communicable diseases,
- to fulfill these tasks dental education has to include more medical knowledge than nowadays,

recommends that

- national dental curricula should be reviewed in order to deepen medical sciences education,
- continuing education in dentistry should include medical topics allowing practicing dentists to upgrade their clinical experience and competency in medical fields,
- collaboration with medical scientific associations should be strengthened and joint educational programmes should be developed.

185 words

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5. In consistency with the necessity of the lifelong learning for continued competence and proficiency in all health professions, continuing medical education in dentistry is crucial. This will enable the dentist to review and upgrade his or her clinical experience and competency in medical fields that are in a permanent evolution.
6. Oral health professionals of today can be defined as the most often "front-line" medical professionals in prevention, early detection, and monitoring both oral and systemic diseases, and will become more involved in assessing and ensuring the overall health of their patients through screening, diagnosis and referral to a specialist.
7. Recognising all these particularities and the integration of oral in general health, today still exists an important gap between dental and medical education. It is therefore essential for the dentist to have the knowledge and competencies to undertake new tasks and address broader issues in medical care, including action on the social determinants of health to contribute on patients quality of life.
8. Continuing medical education in dentistry should enable the professional to:
  - maintain and develop future dentistry on a evidence and science based approach for optimum healthcare;
  - address the needs for continuing development with regard to the new trends on medicine, dentistry and epidemiology considering the general health needs of the patient;
  - deepen medical knowledge, enhance skills and competences related to dental sciences;
  - assure high importance not only for the patients oral health but also their quality of life and patient safety.

ERO-FDI, referring to the profile of dentists from ERO zone, identifies the need to:

- raise awareness of dental profession with better clarification and more evidence of bilateral relationship between oral health and general health;
- clarify an inevitable multidisciplinary approach with the intention of not interfere with the competences of other health professionals;
- improve collaborations and synergies between different health professionals;
- enhance the extended role of dentists and dentistry

This is a multidisciplinary task which is needed to underline health advocacy, where oral health is integrated.

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European Regional Organisation is the first and model regional organisation of the FDI to support its member organizations in providing the best possible oral and general health to the patients. Regarding the outcomes, ERO supports a stronger integration of dentists into the overall health system to reinforce the recognition of their clinical competence and provide for an expanded role towards as stated in Vision 2020.

ERO-FDI recommends:

- to inspire, promote and support NDAs in their role of advisers recommending the review of their national education curricula on dentistry in order to deepen medical sciences education underlining that oral health integrates general health;
- to draw scientific programmes including related medical topics in the CE programmes, congresses and in the other scientific activities of dentistry;
- to collaborate, both at the national and international levels, with medical scientific associations participating and collaborating in scientific events and CE programmes;
- to foster joint educational tools such as publishing articles in our NDA journals, links to websites underlining the related issues, distributing NDA publications and guidelines<sup>1</sup>; to give stronger and determined emphasis on interprofessional education and practice with improved continuing professional development.

ERO-FDI further points out the vitality of the continuing medical education in dentistry for the advocacy of global health whereof oral health is an integral part.

Resources:

FDI ERO Working Group Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry- "Evaluation of the extent of dental education regarding the linkage of oral health and general health" Questionnaire Results. Presented on ERO-FDI Plenary session in [Tbilisi](#) 2015.

FDI Policy Statement: The association between oral health and general health (revised version adopted in 2009).

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases. 16 September 2011.

<sup>1</sup>Turkish Dental Association & Turkish Diabetes Foundation Joint Publication: Clinical Guidelines in Dentistry for Diabetes. To be linked in the ERO website.

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2016;Baku

#### ERO Accreditation Guideline for Continuing Dental Education Programme Providers

Dental profession, like many other professions with a practical undergraduate education, is maintained by the continuity of the professional development after graduation with a lifelong learning. Continuing education and post-graduate training is usually provided by professional associations, dental organisations, societies, universities or relevant private bodies.

Regardless of the educational provider resources and apart from the undergraduate education, continuing professional development is of vital importance as it has principles and the ultimate goals to deliver best quality services to the profession and thus for a better patient health care. For this reason, the quality standards and accreditation systematics are required and already present for the educational activities.

The worldwide continuing professional development and education systems, beside varying in practice, contain a lot in common. A Continuing education programme provider is required to have structural functioning. Demanding on those basics, carrying out the detailed conditions of targeted accreditation system would be more effective and meaningful.

Another important issue is that the creation of a quality approach in the continuing education organization and the adoption of the related staff is extremely important for the continuity and effectiveness of the system. Thus primary reintegration of the fundamentals mentioned in this guideline may be strong and useful to start to the accreditation process.

Among the accreditation and recognition standards accepted worldwide are analysed" (ACCME, ADA CERP, IDA...), the essential fundamental requirements should indicate the following categories:

- The CE programme provider must have a Quality Management System.
- The CE programme provider must carry out the Education Planning Activities in the framework of specified policies and procedures.
- The CE programme provider must have an "Assessment and Evaluation System" to assess both the institutional functioning and the education performance.

The primary but essential domains constitute the preliminary basis for the accreditation procedure. The requirements mentioned above can also be evaluated as the leading guide to follow through the application processes which include further details of various quality definition aspects (attached criteria).

##### A. Quality Management System

In order to receive any continuing education accreditation, the requirements that a programme provider is required to meet are as follows:

- ✓ to define the objectives of organization mission
- ✓ to determine the basic values and principles to be used for the process to reach it's vision
- ✓ to describe and manage the activities carried out within the institution and define how efficient the activities are
- ✓ to describe and manage the services provided by the institution and define effectiveness
- ✓ to set the targets both for administrative and educational processes

- ✓ to follow the quality of service and ensure the continuous development

Carrying out the above requirements, can easily be accomplished by the help of a Quality Management System

##### B. Education Planning

Below are the vital criteria for an institution and should be taken into consideration:

- ✓ Defining education planning process
- ✓ Determining the basis of the decision of making in education, needs assessment.
- ✓ Identifying the training purposes. For each training, it is also required to define the knowledge obtained, the skills and behavioural achievements of the participants at the end of training.
- ✓ Defining the teaching methods.
- ✓ Determining the criteria for the instructors eligibility.
- ✓ Measurement and assessment of the educational performance.
- ✓ Defining the scope and continuity of the certification.
- ✓ The scientific validity and up-to-date knowledge must be guaranteed.
- ✓ Ethical principles must be determined for the implementation and certification of the educational activity.

##### C. Assessment and Evaluation

In order to guarantee the continuous development of the institution, it is required to follow the rate of achievement of objectives and to make the necessary adjustments and improvements. These conditions evaluate the Quality Management System carried out in the institution.

In order to form the mentioned quality cycle, it is required to establish an effective assessment study. Assessment and Evaluation areas can be defined in the following main headings:

- ✓ The success in carrying out the administrative processes of the institution,
- ✓ Success rate of achieving corporate goals,
- ✓ The implementation rate of the education plan,
- ✓ Success rate of achieving gains of participants,
- ✓ Satisfaction of the participants,
- ✓ The performance of the trainer.

When the CE providers fulfil the basic domains summarized above, they are in conditions to proceed the crucial parts of an accreditation system.



## New project proposal;

to assess “best model” to provide effective and integrative CE activities to reach the the dental profession for updating the medical continuing professional development

- On-line survey
- Disrubution among FDI-ERO member countries

**Working Group-  
CONTINUING MEDICAL  
EDUCATION IN DENTISTRY**

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THANK YOU..