

Regional European Organization of the FDI

NATIONAL REPORT

Tiflis (Georgia), April 2015

COUNTRY: SPAIN

ASSOCIATION: SPANISH DENTAL ASSOCIACION
*(Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales
de Odontólogos y Estomatólogos de España).*

VENUE: Madrid, Spain

YEAR: 2014

1. CHANGES IN THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS ORGANISATION:

After the elections for the Executive Committee of our Spanish Dental Association, celebrated the 13th of June 2014, the new Board for the period 2014-2018, is made up of the following members:

President:	Dr. Óscar CASTRO REINO
Vice-President:	Dr. José Antonio ZAFRA ANTA
Secretary:	Dr. Juan Carlos LLODRA CALVO
Treasurer:	Dr. Joaquín DE DIOS VARILLAS
Vice-Secretary-	
Vice-Treasure:	Dr. Jaime SÁNCHEZ CALDERÓN
Member:	Dr. Francisco GARCÍA LORENTE
Member:	Dr. Luis RASAL ORTIGAS
Member:	Dr. Guillermo ROSER PUIGSERVER
Member:	Dr. Alejandro LÓPEZ QUIROGA
Supernumerary member:	Dr. M ^a Concepción LEÓN MARTÍNEZ
Supernumerary member:	Dr. Miguel Ángel LÓPEZ-ANDRADE JURADO
Supernumerary member:	Dr. José Miguel ERRAZQUÍN ARBELAIZ
Supernumerary member:	Dr. Antonio GÓMEZ JIMÉNEZ
Ethic Commission President:	Dr. Carlos CAÑADA PEÑA

2. TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS:

2.1. In professional politics:

2.1.1. Unauthorized practice of the profession: As we indicated last year, the State Organization of Dental Technicians (High Technicians from our Vocational Training studies), persevere in its claims that the patient, after obtaining the prescription of the prosthesis by the dentist, can go directly to the dental technician. They continue also with their fallacies about the prosthetic prescription being equal to a medical prescription, comparing it with going to a pharmacy with a doctor's prescription to buy medicine.

They persist with their campaigns of misinformation to citizens, which our Organization attempts to counteract each time.

Lately, they have opened a new path in their claims, denouncing the use of CAD / CAM (CEREC) systems in dental clinics.

In the legal field, and following a complaint by the Organization of Dental Technicians to the State Agency for the Protection of Competition, our Dental Association has been sanctioned, although the sentence has been appealed. Meanwhile, this State Agency has initiated disciplinary proceedings to several of our Regional Colleges, (Murcia, Extremadura, Andalusia), and imposed a heavy financial penalty on the College of Tenerife, but this sanction imposed in 2013, seems to have prescribed.

We continue to obtain favorable sentences for the unauthorized practice of the profession, mainly against some dental technicians and hygienists who usurp functions expected from dentists. We carry on our harassment policy to these activities with: complaints to the Administration and to the State security bodies; lawsuits; investigations with private detectives, etc.

2.1.2. A plethora of professionals. The situation is similar to 2013. With a number of professionals already exceeding the figure of 33,000, we still cannot get the Regional Governments (who have assumed responsibilities in the areas of Health and Education) to restrict the number of students admitted to the Faculties of Dentistry, establishing a *numerus clausus*. Besides, we have noted the presence of a high number of students from various EU countries (mainly Italy and French) in the Faculties of Dentistry of the Spanish private universities.

2.1.3. Advertising. It is possible to detect more and more advertising campaigns made by macro-clinics and franchises, (but also by professionals urged by the economic crisis), which are extremely aggressive and in which a purely commercial treatment is given to dental services and products. Besides, there is an increase in advertisements promoting tooth whitening treatments in cosmetic centers, hair salons, spas, etc., without apparent supervision of a qualified health professional, as well as the selling of custom products online, normally occlusal splints, which are served directly to the buyer, without the

supervision and subsequent prescription from the dentist. Several Colleges have made official complaints about this type of advertising and online sales.

Both, the Dental Association and the Dental Colleges, are working to raise awareness about the special treatment and consideration that sanitary advertising should receive. In this sense, we are urging the Autonomous Communities, through meetings with administration officials and reports, to develop regulations in this area which competence they have been conceded. At present, some Autonomous Communities have specific regulations under which the Administration has the ability to control and approve sanitary advertising before being broadcasted, requiring greater rigor and the prohibition of certain behaviors on behalf of the citizens' health.

Similarly, the Law on the guarantees and rational use of medicines and health care products provides administrative control at different levels (approvals, manufacturing, distribution, sales, advertising, etc.) on: medicines, medical devices and cosmetics products through the relevant Health Authorities and the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Sanitary Products (AEMPS).

On the other hand, the lawsuit for protection against honor presented by Vitaldent against the former President of our Association, Dr. Villa Vigil, for his statements about the advertising made by this franchise against the image of the traditional dentist, has been dismissed by the Courts of Justice. However, it has been appealed by the opposing party, and we are waiting for it to be admitted to procedure by the Supreme Court.

2.1.4. Specialties. The proceedings for the development of our non-official Own Title of Specialist Dentist have been abandoned.

Discussions have begun between the Scientific Societies, the University, and our Association, to draw a consensus document on the establishment of official specialties, which will be submitted to the Ministry.

2.1.5. Budgets. The closing of accounts for 2014 and the financial budget of 2015 were both approved by qualified majorities in the General Assemblies of the year, without significant variations from previous years and in an atmosphere of austerity according to the economic recession of these last years.

2.2. In health politics:

2.2.1. Portfolio of Public Dental Services. Against our permanent request of progressively increasing oral health benefits in the State's portfolio of public health services, the last years' economic recession in our country is causing cuts in certain state and regional health services. As an example: the cancellations of certain benefits and reductions in the age cohorts of the Children Dental Care Plans of some Autonomous Regions.

2.2.2. Health Legislation. The new Law of Professional Colleges and Services has not yet been published.

2.2.3. The amendment to the Law on Value Added Tax (VAT) has involved the adaptation of our internal regulations to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice. This amendment of the law has affected, inter alia, to the types applicable to medical devices: it has gone from the application of a reduced rate, to the standard rate of 21% for medical equipment, medical devices and other medical and hospital instruments. The reduced rate will still apply for specific cases, such as those of people with physical, mental, intellectual or sensory deficiencies.

2.2.4. Pending Approval: The Royal Decree through which the consolidated version of the Law of Guarantees and Rational Use of Medicines and Health Products will be approved. This regulation combines all regulatory changes undergone by the law since 2010, most of which have supervened by the economic crisis.

2.2.5. Private Medical Prescription. With the entry into force at the beginning of 2013 of the Royal Decree on Medical Prescription and Dispensing Orders, the platform created by our Association together with the other professional prescribers Associations and the Pharmacy Board, reliably ensures the safety and traceability in the issuing and printing of prescriptions on paper or by computer.

2.3. In educational politics:

2.3.1. Our Association's Continuing Education Program. During 2014, more than one hundred in-person classes have been taught to update knowledge and skills, with special emphasis on practical application courses. This way, we arrive at all territories of our country, in our policy to bring closer the compulsory continuing education to all Spanish professional dentists considering the difficulties for resource limitation of the small or more isolated Colleges. At the same time, we continue enhancing the online and blended learning activities and the accreditation through questionnaires of the scientific articles published in our Journals.

2.3.2. Special topic courses concluded:

- * Several "Conferences on dental information" have been celebrated, in which important issues of the profession, such as numberus clausus, were discussed, and leading figures in the different fields were present.
- * The course of Mediation and Arbitration for the Colleges' members of the Professional Ethics and Patient Care Commissions, which will end with practical cases in 2015.

* A "Symposium on allografts" was held to inform, among other things, about the new legislation and requirements for clinics that use them.

3. FURTHER INFORMATION (activities, concerns):

3.1. Publications

3.1.1. We continue the editing of our Journals: "RCOE", with a purely scientific content, and "Dentistas", with general and informative subjects addressed to professionals and the general public. Both published in quarterly editions.

3.2. Studies.

Proposal to establish the Observatory of Oral Health, which will begin to develop in 2015.

3.3. Performances

3.3.1. International presence. Several delegations representing our Association have attended various international events: FDI Congress (New Delhi, September); ERO Plenary Session (Paris, April); ERO Dental Team Working Group (Vienna, February); FEDCAR (Roma and Paris); various meetings of the Council of European Dentists (Brussels and Athens); Hispanic-Portuguese meeting between our President, Dr. Oscar Castro and the President of the Portuguese Order, Orlando Monteiro da Siva.

3.3.2. Professional Directory of Dentists. The update of this directory of professionals and clinics is due for 2015.

3.3.3. Participation in the Congress of the Spanish Association of Health Law, organizing and moderating workshops and roundtables on professional liability (October).

3.3.4. Monitoring activities and various studies and events organized by the Centre of Dental Patient Safety.

3.3.5. Organizing smoking cessation programs for registered dentists, and action programs against smoking in dental clinics, in collaboration with the National Committee to Prevent Smoking.

3.3.6. Digitized file of all official documentation of our Association, with special reference to the creation of a database that includes all judgments regarding issues of interest in our sector.

3.3.7. Creation of a new website for our Association, with different sections which are constantly updated, to inform Colleges, members and the general public. The section “Latest news” has also been included with news addressed to our international colleagues.

3.3.8. Development of the Dentists Pro Program: commercial application software for members’ mobile terminals. It gives access to a variety of information: newsletters, agenda, notifications and alerts, interenquiries, ...

Madrid, March 2015