



## ERO-News 20

Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to address you with this newsletter for the first time as the new President of the ERO and I would like to thank you for the trust you have placed in me.

On April 26 and 27, the 55th Annual General Meeting of our organization took place in Frankfurt am Main, where we were also able to celebrate the 55th anniversary of ERO. Besides further information you will find the most important results of this meeting in this newsletter.

### ERO-Plenary session

**Guests** In addition to the representatives of the member organisations, numerous members of the FDI Council were present: FDI President Dr Kathryn Kell (USA), President-elect Dr Gerhard Seeberger (Italy), Treasurer Dr Jack Cotrell (Canada) and Council members Prof Ihsane Ben Yahya (Morocco), Prof Nikolai Sharkov (Bulgaria), Dr Susie Sanderson (United Kingdom) and Dr Edoardo Cavallé (Italy). Further guests were Alyette Greiveldinger, President of the EDSA (European Dental Student's Association) and Dr Werner Betz, President of the ESDE (European Society of Dental Ergonomics). Dr Peter Engel, President of the Bundeszahnärztekammer (BZÄK), the most important German organization, and representative of

the host country welcomed the guests and informed them about the situation in Germany.

**Elections and handover of the presidency** The General Assembly elected Dr Simona Dianiskova as the new President-elect. Prof Taner Yücel (Turkey) was elected Secretary General, Dr Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) and Dr Edoardo Cavallé were elected as new members of the Executive Board.



The new President-elect of FDI-ERO Dr Simona Dianiskova (photo: Dr Georgios Tsiogas)

**The handover of the Presidency** took place at the end of the Plenary session. Dr Anna Lella reviewed the three years at the head of the ERO and expressed her thanks to all colleagues for the good cooperation. In return, the new President expressed his gratitude and hope that Dr Lella might be able to further contribute the high level of expertise

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she had impressively demonstrated to other important functions.



The former President Dr Anna Lella and her successor in office (photo: Dr Georgios Tsiogas)

Many thanks also to the retiring Dr. Bartolomeo Griffa. During his last term in office, he was in charge of the Finance Department.



The resigning board members Dr. Bartolomeo Griffa and Dr. Anna Lella (Photo: Dr. Georgios Tsiogas)

Meanwhile the new board used the CED meeting in Vienna for a first board meeting. In a detailed "brainstorming" first decisions for the future joint work and the activities of the board were made. The results of this meeting and other suggestions from the Board's discussions will be presented by President Frank at the September plenary meeting in San Francisco.

### New President-elect of EDSA

Another upcoming change at the top of an organization was presented by Alyette Greiveldinger, acting president of EDSA, in Frankfurt. On 17 April 2019, at the 63rd Assembly in Kazan (Russia), **Tin Crnić**, the former Secretary General of the European Dental Student's Association, was elected as the incoming President. He will take up the post of President at the EDSA Summer Meeting on 21 August 2019.



(photo: [www.edsaweb.org](http://www.edsaweb.org))

In order to consolidate and expand the cooperation between the EDSA and the ERO in the future, a **scientific prize for a student project** is to be designed and awarded.

### National reports

**Twenty-two reports** were submitted to the plenary session by various member organizations. Among the problems and challenges that dentistry needs to address most urgently now and in the near future, there are three that are most evident in the reports:

The **quantity of dentists and their training**. These include questions of the number of dental practitioners in the member states, the changes due to migration and immigration, the number of students and the quality of dental education. **Dentists as entrepreneurs** with the associated topics ethics, possibilities of regulation and control and finally the broad field of **digitization** with its chances and risks for the profession

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and of course data protection and security at national and European level. All country reports are available [online](#).

### **From the working groups**

**Liberal Dental Practice in Europe** is no longer threatened solely by state intervention, digital networking or complex insurance systems; a new threat affecting all member states is the increasing interest of financially strong investors and private equity companies in taking over dental practices. The influence of profit-oriented companies on dental care endangers the autonomy of the dentist in the choice of therapy and thus also the quality of care for our patients. This highly explosive development affects not only the countries in the ERO, but also the other member states of the World Dental Federation (FDI). In Germany, a law has recently taken account of this development and the concerns of the profession and first steps were taken towards regulating and curbing this new practice. This shows that persistent intervention and argumentation are crowned with success.

Ralf Wagner, ERO-Delegate and member of the working group Liberal Dental Practice wants to ask European students about their expectations for the future and invites the delegates to share the [link to the survey](#).

### **Dental practitioners and university**

In order to find out how the term inter-professional education is defined in Europe, a survey was conducted among ERO and ADEE members in May 2019. The results will be presented at the next ERO General Assembly in San Francisco.

### **Quality in dentistry**

How can the quality of care in such a heterogeneous and large region as Europe be measured and compared? What do individual states recommend,

how binding are these recommendations and is the profession involved in their development? For this purpose, the working group tries to find answers and presents a questionnaire.

### **Continuing medical education in dentistry**

Remember that a template for medical training conferences in dentistry has been prepared and is available to member associations. The useful learning formats were classified as interactive, e-learning, classical lectures and articles. This resulted in a corresponding evaluation. Finally, the group's work was reflected in an FDI policy statement, which is now also available on the FDI website.

### **Integration**

The aim of this working group is the efficient implementation of the integration process and the improvement of the basic dental education at the universities of the new independent countries. It is important that this group takes up the results of the other working groups and tries to implement them.

### **Dental Team**

The working group is dedicated to the question of what influence the rapid technological progress in dentistry and the possibilities of digital workflows in practices will have on the composition and training of dental teams. How will the team members be integrated in the future and who will take what place in the practice of the future? These questions should be addressed at an early stage and in dialogue with the dental industry.

### **Ageing population**

The challenge of a changed age structure affects all countries in Europe. Also in this case, a questionnaire, which will be to the members in May, is to be used for an inventory. Results will also be

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presented in San Francisco. With "Oralien" a digital instrument developed in France was presented, which is to train the older population, relatives and care specialists and to sensitize for the mouth hygiene as condition of good general health.

All information regarding the 55th PS of ERO can be found [on our website](#).

**Our aim** is not only to identify and discuss problems of our profession in Europe and beyond the borders of the member states, but also **to find solutions** on the basis of a secure data situation, which we collect by means of surveys, and to name those responsible for implementation. This requires **your help and support** in all countries and organisations. Make our concerns and resolutions public, pass them on to the political decision-makers and use all the channels at your disposal!

#### **Dates & Events**

6 September 2019,  
San Francisco, USA  
ERO-Plenary session  
within the framework of the FDI WDC  
(September 4 to 8, 2019)

24/25 April 2020, Almaty,  
Kazakhstan  
ERO-Plenary session

16/17 April 2021, Bucharest,  
Romania  
ERO-Plenary session

With friendly, collegial greetings  
Yours,



Dr Michael Frank