

November 2020



## ERO-News 24



Dear Colleagues,

Although we all knew that Corona had neither been defeated nor had disappeared, the low infection rates in the summer months and the resulting easing of the situation in many European countries had given rise to the hope of being able to return to normality to some extent and to hold larger meetings without any significant risk. In the case of the ERO, this was demonstrated in concrete terms by the preparations for a plenary meeting in Brussels, which was to take place immediately before the CED meeting on 18 and 19 November 2020. In between, the tide has turned again. The number of infections is rising rapidly, the pandemic is on the way back and destroys hopeful plans. In a videoconference on 30 September 2020, the Board decided with a heavy heart to cancel this plenary meeting as a face-to-face event and not to hold it as a videoconference.

This newsletter will therefore also aim to provide you with the information on the working groups and surveys that we announced in the last issue of our News for the planned General Assembly in Brussels.

### Written elections/votes

Due to the pandemic, important decisions that would normally have been taken at the General Assembly in spring are pending. It was therefore legally examined whether written elections or votes are possible. This has been confirmed by the appointed lawyers. The written votes were carried out until the meeting of the Board on 30 September 2020 and the following results are available: The minutes of the plenary session in San Francisco 2019 were approved, as were the annual accounts for 2019. The actions of the executive board were approved for 2019. The Board's proposal for a 2020 budget, which considers the halving of membership fees due to Corona in the current year, was approved.

### ERO-Survey on COVID-19 infections in dental practices

The survey has been running since August 4. A reminder to the ERO members was sent, with the renewed request to participate and distribute the link to the dental practices in the respective countries. Unfortunately, the survey submits

**November 2020**

are still very little in number and not very meaningful (no general conclusions can be made):

There have been 16 responses so far. Of these, 6 come from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 6 from Greece, 2 from Iceland and 2 did not indicate a country.

The vast majority reported no infections at all in dental practices. Both "Dentist" and "Staff" infections were answered with no. Two positive cases (Dentists) were reported from Iceland and Bosnia, but the source of infection is indicated as "Unknown".

Because of the importance of this survey, we again appeal to the dental organizations of our member states to make the survey public among their members and ideally to point out the data to be submitted (e.g. only report infections, no non-infections) in the respective national language.

### **Reports from the working groups**

Despite the cancellation of the Brussels plenary session, the working groups were invited to submit their reports. The following is a brief overview:

#### **WG Relations between dental practitioners and universities**

The evaluation of data in the ongoing project "Interprofessional education (IPE) and collaborative practice" showed that 96% of the respondents are of the opinion that implementing interprofessional education would increase awareness of other graduates in medicine about oral health as well as awareness of dental graduates about general health.

#### **WG Digitalization in Dentistry-E-Health-Artificial Intelligence**

The vision of the group is to connect different sources of information in this scientific and industrial field through a

website. The application would be integrated into the ERO. The Czech Dental Society would be willing to exchange and regularly update all information about digital dentistry and artificial intelligence in dentistry via this application.

#### **WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe**

In relation to the question how young dentist want to work in future (corporate dentistry run by investment companies or liberal dental practice) the group presents a [paper](#) based on the results of the evaluation "Expectation of dental students in Europe regarding the prospects for their future careers".

#### **WG Quality of Care**

The group presents the survey conducted among the ERO member organizations. In all countries, the profession contributes to quality improvement through publications, lectures, continuing education.

#### **Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry**

Part of the report is the construction of a survey about evaluation of diet and nutrition and their effects both on oral health and individual risk and circumstances as a collaborative theme between the organizational levels and the interdisciplinary Collaboration with the Central European Diabetes Association (CEDA).

The Group also acknowledges ERO SESSION as an opportunity to organize interdisciplinary panels or lectures highlighting "Oral and general health related to medical topics" with the FDI CE Regional Directory support.

#### **WG Dental Team**

The working group presents the results of the survey that had been conducted among the members of the ERO on the impact and consequences of the health crisis COVID 19 in dental offices with a particular focus on the dental team.

**November 2020**

The results of the survey can be found here <https://www.erodental.org/publications/reports/year/2020> (ERO WG Dental Team - Presentation DT COVID 19 23.07.2020).

### **WG Ageing Population**

The group is gathering and studying further information especially from Germany and Switzerland; considering a White paper about toolkits for nurses and auxiliaries, but also for home care.

The Working Groups' reports are available on the ERO website <https://www.erodental.org/publications/reports/year/2020>.

### **Cooperation between the CED and the ERO**

President-elect Simona Dianiskova has reported to the Board of Directors about the cooperation with the CED in a task force on "Antimicrobial resistance" announced in the last newsletter. In the course of this cooperation a podcast was produced, which has been completed in the meantime and can be downloaded and listened to at <https://soundcloud.com/knmt/ced-and-ero-minimise-the-resistance-to-antibiotics>. Please make active use of it and forward the podcast to your members.

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Simona Dianiskova also thanks the ERO member countries for the dissemination of the flyer for the virtual workshop that took place on 23 September 2020. Former ERO Presidents Anna Lella, Philippe Rusca and the President-elect spoke for one and a half hours about the ERO and thus had a very good opportunity to present the ERO, its self-image, its tasks and functions.



### **Election of EDSA Executive Committee and Officers**

The new European Dental Students' Association team for 2020-2021 has been elected at the 66th EDSA Meeting, which took place online on August 29th, 2020. The Executive Committee is responsible for the administration, finances, marketing, development and the support all of the projects of the association. The officers cover topics like policy, mobility/exchange programs, prevention/public health, trainings between scientific societies and companies for educational purposes and volunteer work. You find the [new members of the Executive Committee](#) and the [new Officers](#) with their contact information on the EDSA website.



The good cooperation between ERO and EDSA will continue under the new President James Coughlan (UK). The "Memorandum of understanding", which regulates their cooperation, was signed by the new EDSA President with minor modifications. Initial talks will focus on planning the premiere of the joint science prize, which has been postponed to 2021 due to the corona pandemic. In addition, strategies will be discussed on how to encourage more dental students throughout Europe to participate in the competition.

**November 2020**

### **Member movement in the ERO**

The Danish Dental Association had already announced its withdrawal from the ERO last year and could not be persuaded to stay. The Latvian Dental Association, which had also announced its withdrawal, could be convinced to continue its membership, which makes us very happy. The Icelandic Dental Association also wants to leave the ERO and it is still open whether our friendly request to reconsider this decision will be successful.

The Board is concerned about this trend, especially in the Nordic countries, and will try to give more attention to these countries and to involve their NDAs more closely in order to counteract further membership loss.

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COVID-19 caught us cold at the beginning of this year. However, we had to expect the pandemic to become even stronger in the autumn and winter months which we are currently experiencing. Even though the problems of many colleagues in our member states are great and many people are still becoming victims of this new respiratory and systemic disease, we now have the experience of the last major wave of infections on our side. We know above all that our dental practices are not places of increased risk.

We must not abandon the goals of better oral health for all people in our countries and worldwide and can work towards giving our patients a sense of security even in the pandemic. Let us continue to do this together.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Michael Frank

### **Dates**

**16/17 April 2021**

Bucharest, Romania  
ERO Plenary session

Pictures: svershinsky / 123RF Standard-Bild, EDSA