



ERO-News 27



Dear Colleagues,

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is this: Meetings, conventions and congresses can also take place in the virtual world and serve their purpose even at a distance. The advantages and disadvantages of this mix of proximity and distance are more or less balanced. Resources are conserved, time is saved, but in return one has to do without networking and maintaining contacts during the breaks, the actual interpersonal aspect. But no matter where you stand on the question of online versus face-to-face meetings, the most important thing is that organisations remain able to make decisions and do their work - even and especially in times of a pandemic. The meeting of the World Dental Federation (FDI) in Sydney, the most important results of which I would like to inform you about today, proves that this is the case.

World Dental Congress - Special Edition

The Australian Dental Association hosted the Sydney 2021 Virtual Congress from 26-29 September, which also included the FDI General Assembly and the World Dental Parliament meeting. Although the discussions were a little shorter than usual due to the format chosen, all participants agreed that the meeting was very well organised and the technology worked flawlessly. Elections were held, important decisions were made and the FDI Policy Statements were adopted.



World Dental Congress | Special Edition

Change at the top of FDI



In accordance with the statutes, the handover of the presidency took place during the General Assembly.

The outgoing Dr Gerhard Seeberger (Italy) was succeeded by the current President-elect **Prof. Ihsane Ben Yahya** (Morocco, picture above). The Assembly elected **Dr Greg Chadwick** (USA,

October 2021

picture below) as the new President-elect, who will take office in two years.



Results of the elections from ERO'S point of view

The election for the new FDI Treasurer was in favour of Asst. Prof. Nikolai Sharikov (Bulgaria); Dr Susie Sanderson (United Kingdom) was confirmed as Speaker. New members of the FDI Council are Dr Sophie Darteville (France), Assist. Prof. Duygu Ilhan (Turkey) and former ERO President Dr. Anna Lella (Poland). Council member Prof. Paulo Melo (Portugal) was re-elected.

Several positions on the FDI Standing Committees were also filled by colleagues from ERO member countries. Dr Doniphan Hammer (France) was elected to the Dental Practice Committee; Dr Mick Armstrong (United Kingdom) was confirmed as a Committee member. Dr. Enrico Lai (Italy, AIO) and Prof. Dr. Marzena Dominiak (Poland) were re-elected. Dr Marco Mazevet (France) is a new member of the Public Health Committee. The Science Committee is now strengthened by my compatriot Prof. Dr. Falk Schwendicke (Germany), Dr. Wendy Thompson (United Kingdom) and Prof. Marco Colombo (Italy, ANDI), who was elected to the Committee by the FDI Council.

On behalf of the ERO member states and organisations and, of course, on behalf of the entire ERO Executive

Board, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those mentioned by name and, of course, all other colleagues on their election or re-election to the highest bodies of our World Dental Federation.

Policy Statements

The FDI's policy statements on topics such as amalgam and waste management, the role of dentists and practice teams in medical emergencies in the practice and their role in pandemics were adopted by the parliament after a few adjustments in the course of the discussion and will be published online in due course. I would like to briefly address three aspects of the statements that are of particular relevance to our practice.

Dental Amalgam

With regard to the use of dental amalgam, the FDI supports the WHO's call for a gradual reduction in the use of this material with the best possible protection of patients and the environment from mercury exposure. In view of better prevention, a steady decline in demand for amalgam fillings and the testing of alternative filling materials, this decision for a "phase down" is preferable to a "phase out" at a certain point in time.

Basic Life Support and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the most frequent causes of death - not only in western industrialised countries. The teams of dental practices worldwide should be in a position to deal with such an emergency in a confident manner through appropriate exercises and training - also in the use of an AED - in accordance with the internationally applicable medical guidelines. This statement not only strengthens the perception of dentists as practitioners of a medical profession.

October 2021

Dental practice and tobacco cessation

In contrast to other medical disciplines, dentists and their practice teams regularly come into contact with patients who do not otherwise take advantage of preventive medical services. This is especially true for men under the age of fifty. The emphasis on the role of dental professionals in tobacco cessation according to internationally valid methods and guidelines and the measures recommended in the position paper in cooperation with doctors and therapy facilities illustrate the manifold links between oral and general health and the resulting importance of dentistry, not least in cancer prevention.

The Nobel Prize for Medicine was recently awarded for the discovery of receptors for warmth and touch, both sensations that have become rarer in times of pandemic. Although we should remain aloof and cautious, I would like to conclude by expressing the hope that, despite all the advantages of virtual meetings, we can meet again in person next year in Bucharest.

Until then, take good care of yourselves and stay healthy!

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Michael Frank

Dates

29/30 April 2022
Bucharest, Romania
ERO-Plenary Session

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