

ERO WG Digitalisation in Dentistry-E-Health-Artificial Intelligence

Our expert group is new. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic arose straight after its founding, which prohibited us from meeting in person. Also, the fact that most of us took an active part in the preventative measures of covid-19 within our own countries influenced the fact that our group's actions had to be postponed, meant that our priorities had to be shifted for a period of time. However, we held an online meeting within which we discussed, what topics we would like to focus on. Due to myself being apart of numerous expert groups, primarily the expert group CED e-HEALTH, I think, we should clearly distinguish ourselves, form groups, that focus on the virtualization of the administrative aspect of stomatology. Otherwise, we will duplicate them only. On the other hand, it would be useless to create similar documents as created by the CED groups, which focuses mainly on politics and political proposals. Their values are probably precious even for non-EU countries, but it would make no sense to duplicate such documents. We can send them information, may be questioning and some targeted proposals.

My, and I hope, Group opinion is that our expert group should work as a link that connects various informational sources in this scientific and industrial field. To create a space, where members of the ERO can find legislative, scientific or formative information with regards to nonscientific aspects in their area. Our vision is to create a foundation via a website, which could belong under the ERO system. We would then share and update all information regularly regarding digital stomatology and artificial intelligence in stomatology. In Czechia, we would create an app; we will do the maintenance here with all costs and actualizations.

Therefore, the aim is to create a platform, which will function as a medium for sharing essential information about current possibilities in diagnostics, therapy proposals (including their presentation) and the therapy itself with the use of digital and robotized dentistry. All countries that are members of the ERO and possibly all stomatologists (sorry for eastern terminology- dentists and maxillofacial surgeons) would have the opportunity to find positional documents and necessary information. The ERO could approve some of the advertisement of companies if they wish to ensure feasibility (it is not a condition). In-person meetings are absolutely necessary; however, it would be best to gradually incorporate a more extensive audience from fellow countries. The key is to organize at least twice a year, ideally annually, a congress which would unite experts on this issue within the ERO. Congress would include both legislative and scientific meetings. Individual groups should cover all known applications. The goal is not only to present the hot topics from this field, but our aim is also to introduce that information to countries, which are less advanced in such matters. We can try to find scientific conclusions and recommendations. Those will be presented to the ERO, can be taken home and incorporated by each countries delegates according to the local situation. If the ERO management decides, our group can immediately begin with creating a platform for gathering information; publishing said reports and organizing specific groups and a wider variety of our practitioners in general. We will be working closely with the CED on documents regarding positional and political statements, which are finalized and it would therefore make no sense to copy and duplicate such records. Conversely, we can form expert questions, which can then be solved by the CED on an EU level and simultaneously inspire non-fellow countries, which would consequently receive documents, which would enable them to work within their own countries legislative.

Assoc Prof. Dr. Roman Smucler, CSc
Prague 27th October 2020