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EADPH Congress, Cork 14th -15th September 2000

The fourth congress of the European Association of Dental Public Health was held in Cork, Ireland, in conjunction with the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry. The formal surroundings of University College Cork provided an imposing setting for the meeting. The local organising committee was lead by Professor Dennis O'Mullane, President of BASCD, who jointly hosted the meeting with EADPH President, Professor Roberto Ferro.

The meeting was attended by 338 delegates from 35 countries. "Reducing inequalities in oral health in Europe: the role of fluoride" was the theme for the meeting and in an packed programme, delegates were addressed by eminent speakers from across Europe and beyond. A total of 52 posters were displayed, describing on-going work in many aspects of community dental practice and dental public health in Europe. In addition, 28 young researchers from E.U. member and associated states were, thanks to an E.U. 5th Framework Research Programme grant, afforded the opportunity to present posters describing the system for delivery of oral health care in their countries. This provided an excellent opportunity for those at the start of their careers, to experience an international meeting and to present a paper to a sympathetic and responsive audience.

(The [abstracts](#) from this meeting have been publish in [Community Dental Health](#) Volume 17.)

Progress reports from the EADPH working groups

During the meeting the EADPH working groups met in plenary on the morning of Thursday, 14 September and as individual groups over lunch on Friday, 15 September. Ken Eaton, Executive Officer (Working Groups) has reported the activities of the groups as follows:

Oral Health Promotion

The draft report produced and presented by Dr Lars Petersson at the 1999 conference in Strasbourg was discussed in detail and reviews suggested to account for the many regional and national variations in arrangements for oral health promotion. As a "working document" further revisions are on-going.

A group lead by Professor Sonia Williams had carried out a project to collect data on current policies and activity in oral health promotion in European countries to establish a baseline for the future. The findings of this survey had been reported at the oral health promotion conference, which immediately preceded the EADPH/BASCD meeting. Work in this area over the next 12 months will involve gathering further information and developing the role of the group in raising the profile of oral health promotion in Europe.

Epidemiology

Dr Cynthia Pine reported that a very successful training session had taken place in Dundee in the spring of 2000 during which dentists from several countries had undergone calibration and training in the use of indices for the assessment of dental caries. The group were very much aware of the need for international standardisation, consistency and reproducibility in methodologies and techniques during epidemiological studies and hoped that it would be possible to agree relevant protocols with NIDCR, WHO, the American Association for Dental Public Health and other organisations.

Dental Public Health in Undergraduate Education

Professor Guiliano Falcolini reported that a sub-group within the DentEd project had investigated the teaching of Dental Public Health in the undergraduate curriculum in over 20 European Dental Schools during visits which had taken place in 1999/2000. The sub-group had found considerable variation from school to school and country to country and had produced a report which had been discussed during the DentEd meeting in Stockholm on 6 September 2000. Both he and the EADPH Working Group Co-ordinator had been present during the discussion.

Professor Falcolini concluded that it would be sensible to work with the DentEd Evolves sub-group (phase 2 of DentEd) to agree curricula guidelines. During the lunchtime session on 15 September the leader of the DentEd Dental Public Health sub-group Dr Jacinta McLoughlin met with members of the EADPH undergraduate and specialist education groups. It was agreed that the final report of the DentEd DPH Work Group would be considered by the EADPH group. The sections on aims, objectives and competencies were thought of particular relevance. Given that one of the aims of the DentEd project was to move towards harmonisation of dental undergraduate education in Europe, EADPH could play an important role in achieving this aim.

Specialist Training in Dental Public Health

On behalf of Mr John Langford, Professor David Gibbons reported that enquiries were being made, initially via Chief Dental Officers, to establish which European countries had a specialty of Dental Public Health and what specialist training took place. It appeared that several European Universities had Departments of Dental Public Health but that only the United Kingdom, Bulgaria and Finland actually recognised the specialty and had specific specialty training. The content of specialist training in Dental Public Health differs between the UK and Finland. Further information would be sought about the situation in Bulgaria.

Over the next year, the group will continue to gather information about the curriculum for specialist training in Dental Public Health in those countries where it takes place. It will also work to establish an agreed definition of dental public health across Europe and to formulate suggested guidelines for discussion at the 2001 EADPH Congress.

Future meetings of the Association

The 2001 meeting of EADPH will be held in Marburg, Germany on 21st-22nd September. The Philipps University will host the conference, the local organising committee being chaired by Prof. Dr. Klaus Pieper. Marburg, located on the river Lhan, is at the very centre of Germany, about 100 kilometers north of Frankfurt. The decision to hold the conference on a Friday and Saturday is aimed at facilitating cheaper air travel by incorporation of a Saturday night stopover.

The venue for the meeting in 2002 has been agreed as Athens, Greece, the local organising committee being led by Professor Athanassouli. The Executive Board accepted an invitation to hold the 2003 meeting in Jyvaskyla, Finland, hosted by Dr Eeva Widstrom.

News for the newspaper!

This newspaper is designed as a forum whereby members of the Association can share information which may be of interest to those in other states. However a newspaper is dependant on news! If you have a contribution which you feel would be of interest please send it to:

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