

The following newsletter was published in '**Community Dental Health**' in June 2001

5th EADPH Congress - Marburg, Germany 21-22nd September 2001

Full details of the 5th EADPH Congress in Marburg, Germany 21-22nd September, together with registration forms, travel arrangements, accommodation etc. are to be found at the following web site - www.eadph.com

News from Finland

Subsidized dental care for adults expanded in Finland

Dr Eva Widstrom reports that basic dental care in the Public Dental Service run by local municipalities and financed by local and national taxation and fixed patient fees will be gradually expanded to include the whole population. From April 1st, 2001 all people born in 1956 and later shall have access to the Public Dental Service, people born in 1946 to 1955 will have access from January 1st, 2002 and the remaining population from December 1st, 2002.

As an alternative, people born in 1946 and later can from April 2001, use subsidized private services and older age groups will also have such access from December 2002. However, prosthetic and orthodontic treatments are not included. The aim of the reform is to improve adults' oral health and access to dental care.

To cope with the new demands most larger municipalities will need to employ new staff, but provision has also been made to purchase services from the private sector. Improvements in adult dental care were planned 10 years ago, but at that time economic constraints prevented implementation of the current reforms.

News from Bulgaria

A two day symposium on Dental Education and practice development was held in Sofia, Bulgaria on 10-11th February 2001. A joint venture between the Department of Public Health, Faculty of Stomatology, Medical University, Sofia. and the Dental Public Health Unit, Dental School, University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff this meeting was sponsored by the British Council and concluded a successful three year academic links project, between the Dental Public Health Departments in Cardiff and Sofia.

This programme has helped develop the undergraduate curriculum in Sofia and in particular the Dental Public Health component of the course. Other initiatives arising from the link have included the development of ethical guidelines by the Association of Dentists in Bulgaria, and clarification of the role of Dental Public Health as a discipline and its value in education, research and service development.

News from Poland

Dr Thomas Kulczyk has reported that in the academic year commencing October 2001, Community Dentistry will be added as a new subject in the undergraduate curriculum of the Dental Institute at the University of Medical Sciences in Pozna.

News from Germany

Dr Annerose Borutta reports that Germany has for the past ten years seen a decline in caries prevalence. However, this trend is more apparent in the permanent than primary dentition. The national goal of 60 % caries free 5- to 6-year olds has not been reached in all Federal States of Germany and approximately 22 % of 12-year-old children have DMFT values higher than 3. As a result, community prevention programmes for high risk children in nurseries, kindergartens and schools which previously only involved children up to the age of 12 years, has been expanded to include adolescents up to 16 years old. In addition, from 1st July 1999 private practitioners have been paid by sick funds for individual preventive measures including health education in children from 3 to 6 years of age. Previously, this option was available only for children aged 6 and over.

In 1992/93 fluoridated table salt became available in Germany and in 2000 about 40 % of the population currently use fluoridated table salt.

News on dental education in Europe

The following report on the recent DENTED conference in Prague has been provided by Dr Ken Eaton.

The three-year DentEd project was completed in October 2000. DentEd was a thematic network project, funded in part by the European Union Directorate for Education and Culture and in part by the participating dental schools. The project sought to improve dental education in Europe by encouraging convergence towards higher standards in dental education in the European Union and included those "Associate Countries" seeking membership of an expanding EU. To achieve this, 29 European dental schools volunteered to be Peer Reviewed each by a team of 5 or 6 peer dental educators. Each school visit lasted for five days and prior to the visit each school completed a comprehensive self-assessment document which covered all the activities that take place in dental schools, including teaching, research, clinical work, and administration. After each visit a comprehensive report was produced based on the self-assessment document and agreed by the host school. Following agreement, these reports were placed on the DentEd web site (www.dented.org). The reports stressed the strengths and weaknesses of each school and highlighted innovative approaches which could be transferred to other schools. Schools in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK were visited.

During a plenary meeting in Stockholm in September 2000, a report(1) which summarised the findings of the 29 visits in 19 areas and made recommendations for each area, was finalised. The areas were : Facilities, Organisational Structure, Staff, Educational Methods, The Biological Sciences, Human Diseases, Orthodontics and Child Dental Health, Public Health and Prevention, Restorative Dentistry, Periodontology, Oral Surgery (including Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Dental Radiography and Radiology), Integrated Patient Care (with Dental Emergencies and Special Needs Patients), Behavioural Sciences, Assessment Methods, Other Influences and Student Affairs, Quality Assurance, Research, Dissemination and the Net, Stomatology and Odontology.

The European Directorate for Education and Culture agreed to part fund a second three-year project, which will build on the work of DentEd. The Project is called DentEdEvolves. The programme of visits to European dental schools will continue within DentEdEvolves. However, the project also seeks to promote convergence of standards in dental education globally. The Prague congress marked the beginning of this global initiative. Over 200 delegates attended and 46 countries from all continents were represented. The majority of delegates came from European dental schools and organisations. However, 30 USA and six Canadian dental schools were represented.

The expenses of the European delegates were funded in part or totally from EU funds. Various commercial companies also contributed to costs of the congress. The congress was jointly organised and co-ordinated by Professor Derry Shanley (the DentEdEvolves project co-ordinator) and Dr Richard Valachovic (the Executive Director of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA)).

Delegates had previously communicated on an interactive web site (<http://www.dented.org/dentedevolves.php3>) to produce position papers on 18 topics within five themes. These themes were : Cognition and the Dental Student, Assessment and Continuous Quality Improvement, Recruitment and Maintenance of an Effective Faculty, The Virtual Potential and Future Challenges. During the congress delegates met in 18 sub-groups to develop the papers which will be published later on this year. The sub-groups will continue to work, communicating via the Internet. A follow up global congresses is planned for 2002 hoping to expand participation and in 2003 a final congress will be held in Washington D.C..

1. *Dental Education in Europe - towards convergence*. Report of the DENTED Project. (2001). Dental Press Kft.

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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