

Letter to EAPD Members



Dear colleagues, dear friends

When somebody is entrusted to take over the office of the President of EAPD might initially feel very proud but trust me in second thought he feels full of responsibilities. This is because EAPD is the organization that represents the highest body of our specialty in Europe and has gain its reputation through years of hard work by a lot of highly respectable colleagues in our field. This work needs a continuation by all of us in the present Board.

18 years ago, following the inspiration of Prof Martin Curzon, few Paediatric dentists from all over Europe received a letter by him and we agreed to be the founding members of a new organization aimed to represent the colleagues of a specialty that was trying to find its gait in Europe. I feel very proud to be one of those colleagues, being optimistic for the future of such an Academy of Specialists right from the beginning.

And we were right.

Nowadays we all feel really very privileged to have an Academy that covers all Europe, has more than 620 members from almost all European countries, and many more, and activities that cover all scientific, educational and professional requirements of contemporary Paediatric Dentistry. A quick look at the site of the Academy reveals the wide range of activities that the Academy provides to our members. Congresses, Seminars covering specific areas, guidelines, educational help for the organization of training programs, accreditation procedures and many others.

Finally the Academy is proud to have a highly respected and continuously upcoming worldwide Journal, the European Archives of Paediatric Dentistry, so well received that is going to get an impact factor just 3-4 years after moving to the Academy's hands, compared with other Journals with history of many decades.

All previous did not happen by themselves or accidentally. A group of inspired and hard working colleagues, worked the last 18 years in the Board to bring the Academy to its present highly standing position.

It is my privilege to mention them. From England Martin Curzon the founder and driving mind of the Academy, who served and still does the Academy as President, Secretary and now as Editor in Chief of our Journal. The past Presidents of the Academy, Goran Koch from Sweden, Constantine Oulis from Greece, Luc Martens from Belgium, Magne Raadal

from Norway, Sven Poulsen from Denmark, Jaap Veerkamp from Netherlands and Richard Welbury from Scotland. These are the so called old elephants of the Academy, although as you saw during the last Congress, there are not old neither elephants. Additionally John Roberts from England, Luc Marks from Belgium, Jack Toumba from England and Paddy Fleming from Ireland, served and the last two still serve the Academy as Executive Board members making tremendous efforts and doing all great job for the benefit of all our members. I give my sincere respect to them. Finally I would like to thank Elias Berduses our Website Editor and Cheryl Butz our membership Secretary for their important and continuous help to the Board and to all our members.

Let's plan the future now. The following two years of my term the tasks that we will try to accomplish regarding scientific events are:

- 1) The organization of a symposium in Athens in 7-8th of November this year in order to revise the fluoride guidelines in Europe. The symposium will be run by two colleagues very experienced in these matters. Jack Toumba from Leeds an internationally respected and leading scientist in Fluoride and Constantine Oulis from Athens who has the experience of organizing such a symposium, since he was the one that during his Presidency had the idea to first organize such an event in Athens in 1996. These two colleagues will be supported by the clinical affairs committee of the Academy, lead by Ivar Espelid. The Symposium will be financially supported by P@G.
- 2) The organization of an Interim seminar in Helsinki, Finland, May next year, which will deal with the developmental enamel defects, a matter regularly engaging our every day clinical practice the recent years, since dental decay is decreasing in the average European child population and other clinical matters of importance are coming up. We will try to develop guidelines for the treatment of such disorders and thorough reviews for etiology and diagnosis.
- 3) Finally the organization of the 10th Congress of the Academy in Harrogate, Leeds, in 2010, near the birth place of EAPD. This is going to be a widely attended event since it will coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Academy. We trust that the driven force of the leading triplet of Professors Curzon, Duggal and Toumba, together with their colleagues, will give us an unforgettable Anniversary Congress, in order to persuade everybody that the Academy became an adult.

Additionally some other tasks that the Board of EAPD and the various committees will undertake the next two years are:

- 1) The formation of a separate section in our Website dealing with the status of Paediatric Dentistry in each European country. It would be a Booklet describing the training, the number of specialists, the

rendering and organization of services in the country, and other useful details.

- 2) In conjunction with the Clinical affairs committee we are planning to revise all existing guidelines, following the contemporary view of SIGN methodology. We do respect the work done already by the Clinical affairs committee. We started last year in Switzerland following the inspiration of the previous Board and particularly the former President Richard Welbury and we are now working to plan the revision of two more old guidelines in addition to the fluoride that was mentioned before.
- 3) In conjunction with the Education committee we will continue the accreditation procedure for more European training programs, together with the re-accreditation procedure of others already accredited. We have formed a list of 'qualified' senior examiners from all already accredited Departments that will undertake this important task of examining the programs. We do also respect the work already done by the education committee.
- 4) Finally with the financial support of our sponsors, we will start to explore a professional and educational program named '*Hermes Project*', to further support the teaching in both undergraduate and postgraduate level in addition to the recognition of Paediatric Dentistry in all European countries and particularly in those recently joining the European Union. Groups of senior leading experts in our field supported by Board members will visit these countries and organize educational sessions covering contemporary Paediatric Dentistry. Our postgraduate and undergraduate training guidelines developed by leading Academics and experts, will be our tool to help them. Additionally, following contact with the local professional organizations will support the continuous development of our specialty all over Europe. We are the leading organization in Europe and our members demand our help. It is time to give them our scientific, educational and administrative support.

Dear colleagues

Such a prestigious organization like EAPD, can not survive without the active support of its members. I am delighted to say that the number of EAPD members participating in the various events of the Academy is steadily increasing all these years, giving us, the elected by you officials, the strength to further develop and work for our organization

On behalf of the Board I do thank you all for your continuous support.

Nick Lygidakis
President EAPD

