EADPH Newsletter

March 2015

2015 EADPH Conference

EADPH warmly invites you to join the 20th Annual Congress of the Association, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey 17 - 19 September 2015. The theme of this meeting is “Ageing and oral health related quality of life”

The congress programme is varied with the following main topics: oral epidemiology, oral health promotion, oral health services research, tobacco and oral health, oral health related quality of life.

Reduced rates for registration are available for applications received by 15th of April although registration and hotel booking will remain open until the 15th of July.

Booking forms and full details of the meeting are available at http://www.eadph.org/congresses/current.html.

The congress will include poster presentations for which abstracts will be accepted under the following topic areas relevant to the conference theme: oral epidemiology, oral health promotion, oral health services research, evidence-based dentistry, work force planning, tobacco and oral health.

Travel grant for Abstracts

Note that delegates who wish to apply for a travel grant award must submit their abstracts by the closing date (15 March 2015). Remember to click the box for a travel grant when submitting your abstract.

The award of a travel grant carries with it the obligation to register and to present your research during the conference. For further details see the section on the website http://www.eadph.org/abstract_submission/Travel_Grant_details.pdf

The deadline for receipt of all other abstracts is the 15th of April 2015 (read the guidelines).
http://www.eadph.org/abstract_submission/abstract_submission.html

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Dates for Your Diary-
meetings in 2015

- 8th European Public Health Association (EUPHA) Conference (14-17 October 2015)
http://www.eupha.org/

- 62nd Congress of the European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA), (1st–4th July 2015)
http://www.orca2015.org/

- 41st Meeting of Association of Dental Education In Europe (ADEE)(26th-29th August 2015)
http://www.adee.org/news.php
EADPH Activities in 2014

Since the announced launch of a new European Chapter on July 22nd, 2013, the Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future has brought together experts in dentistry and public health to create a collaborative focus for the implementation of key changes in dental health practices across Europe. During 2014, the activity of Alliance for a Cavity Free Future around Europe included:

- “Central and Eastern European Chapter Declaration to Elevate News Way of Looking at Caries”, that was held in Warsaw, on June 25th
- “European chapter: ACFF plans commissioned a survey on the impact of dental caries on quality of life in Europe”
- Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future calls for significant shift in sugar intake.

For more information, please visit website http://www.allianceforacavityfreefuture.eu/en/eu/whats-new

Report of the European Association of Dental Public Health Research Workshop in Constanta on 22nd May 2014
Oral Health of Children in the Central and Eastern European Countries in the Context of the Current Economic Crisis

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the impact of the current economic crisis on the oral health of children in Central and East European Countries. It was sponsored through the generosity of the Borrow Foundation.

The sessions were moderated by Dr Paula Vassallo, President of Council of European Chief Dental Officers, Dr Georgios Tsakos President of the EADPH and Professor Kenneth Eaton. There were 18 invited participants from Dental Faculties, Dental Associations and Ministries of Health in Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey and Ukraine.

In January 2014 a questionnaire on specific topics as Epidemiology - The Need for Oral Health Care, Prevention, Treatment and Payment, Dental Personnel, Uptake of Oral Health Care was prepared and sent to all delegates in order to collect available data from these counties. Their responses were published in the workshop program.

Report of the European Association of Dental Public Health Research Workshop in Prague on 31st October / 1st November 2014
New Developments in Oral Epidemiology

There were 21 delegates who attended the workshop from 13 European countries including: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Norway, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, in addition two Colgate representatives: Irina Laura Chivu-Garip and Sandra Almeida. Four speakers, Professor Kenneth Eaton, Colwyn Jones, Dr. George Tsakos (UK) and Paula Vassallo from (Malta) lead on the conference presentations. The success of the workshop was due to the important contributions of Professor Zdenek Broukal who hosted the workshop and to Colgate for kindly sponsoring the workshop.

The educational objectives on how to design oral epidemiological studies; assessment of dental erosion and dentinal hypersensitivity, the assessment of dental caries (ICDAS, WHO 5th Edition of Basic Methods) and periodontal diseases (new CPI, NHANES & WHO 5th Edition of Basic Methods) were all met.
Platform for better Oral Health reaffirms its vision for 2020 and work-plan for 2016-17

With the Platform welcoming a new Chair in 2015, it held two strategy workshops in November 2014 and January 2015, with the dual aims of taking stock of progress achieved since its foundation, and agreeing on specific actions to take place in the coming years. During the Platform’s meeting on 19th January in Brussels, the new Chair Dr. Paula Vassallo thanked heartily past-Chair Prof. Kenneth Eaton for his dedication and hard work since the Platform’s foundation. Prof. Eaton will continue to bring his passion and expertise to the Platform’s discussions in his new role as past-Chair.

Finding solutions to better oral health in Europe: identify best practices

As the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe will shortly be finalising its European Oral Health Report Card detailing the status of oral disease prevention policies throughout Europe, members agreed that the focus of the Platform’s debates should now move finding solutions to work towards better oral health. The Platform will therefore focus on finding and highlighting the best practices and best policies that have been implemented in Europe to enhance oral hygiene and disease prevention. These will then be packaged in an updateable web-based format and communicated to decision makers.

A comprehensive approach to oral health advocacy: four target audiences

The Platform agreed on the four dimensions of engaging for better oral health in Europe: although they have been focusing on interacting with the EU institutions as a priority, the Platform’s members discussed the need to increase their advocacy actions and engagement with national governments, citizens and healthcare professionals. To achieve this goal, the Platform intends to make better use of its existing network, continue its work to build new groups of supporters, and strengthen its communications, particularly digital and social media. Platform members agreed that the Platform’s longer term goal should be securing EU co-funding and support for an EU Joint-Action on Oral Health which would bring together stakeholders from the EU’s 28 Member States in a formal structure to identify, validate, exchange and disseminate good practice on oral health across EU Member States and to facilitate its uptake across local, regional and national borders.

Key dates in 2015

The Platform will hold its annual associate members meeting on 23rd March. This will allow EADPH to continue to use the Platform to broaden its contact network across Europe. In addition to the four Platform members (EADPH plus ADEE, CECDO and DHF), the associate members meeting will see 12 additional associations covering all areas of oral health in Europe join the Platform’s discussions. The focus of the meeting will be on gathering input for the Platform’s forthcoming best-practices. The Platform’s handbook of best practices will be presented at the Second European Oral Health Summit, which will be hosted by the Platform at the European Parliament in Brussels in October 2015. You will receive an invite to the Summit once the date is confirmed.

As a founding member of the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe, EADPH will continue to play an active role in 2015 and beyond in the Platform and its ongoing quest to raise oral health higher on the European health policy agenda.

For more information, visit the Platform’s website www.oralhealthplatform.eu.

follow the Platform on Twitter @EUOralHealth

or contact the Secretariat at email secretariat@oralhealthplatform.eu
Thank you to Professor Magnus Hakeberg for arranging a successful 19th Scientific Congress of the European Association of Dental Public Health (EADPH), at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. A conference resolution calling for control on the availability of e-cigarettes (and other unlicensed nicotine-containing products) was drafted. This resolution was subsequently ratified by the EADPH Executive Board and is posted on the EADPH website.

Conference resolution

“Delegates at the EADPH 19th Annual Scientific Congress note the uncertainties surrounding electronic cigarettes in their manufacture, safety, marketing, advertising, regulation and long term general health and oral health outcomes. The conference called on national governments to regulate electronic cigarettes and other unlicensed nicotine-containing products in the same way as existing tobacco products. This is to support rather than undermine current tobacco restrictions to maintain and improve the oral health of their national populations, especially younger citizens.”

The December edition of the Journal Community Dental Health had an editorial covering the resolution.

Jones, C. Moore F. (2014) : The European Association of Dental Public Health conference resolution on the control of e-cigarettes; Or “You have to be a bit crazy to carry on smoking conventional cigarettes when there are e-cigarettes available”. Community Dental Health, 31, 194–195.

The EADPH oral cancer prevention special interest group, who initiated the conference resolution, believe it is essential that nothing undermines current action on the prevention and cessation of tobacco use.

Tobacco use is not only harmful to oral health but also to general health and EADPH has adopted the common risk factor approach to chronic smoking diseases. We do know that no level of cigarette usage or tobacco products is safe, and complete cessation through abrupt quitting using a combination of behavioural support and licensed pharmacotherapy will give the best health outcomes.

Health professionals and dentists can only prescribe licensed medicines based on evidence of quality, safety and effectiveness. ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) and NRT (Nicotine Replacement Therapy) differ in several ways. NRT has undergone rigorous tests and clinical trials, is designed, and manufactured as medicinal products to exacting pharmaceutical standards, specifically to address nicotine addiction, and has longstanding safety and effectiveness profiles. ENDS and their contents vary enormously and may be manufactured from non-pharmacological grade ingredients.