1. Title of Special Interest Group
Gerodontology

2. Chair of SIWG
Professor Dr Jacques Vanobbergen – Dr Barbara Janssens

3. Date, Location and Number of Meeting
18 October 2018, Palma de Mallorca, Spain. 11th Meeting of the SIWG Gerodontology.

4. Participants
A group of 13 attended the meeting, 4 of them have attended previous meetings.
- 5 participants from Belgium
- 3 participants from Norway
- 2 participants from Poland
- 1 participant from Israel
- 1 participant from Scotland
- 1 participant from UK/Lithuania

5. Program
The chairs welcomed the participants of the SIG and all members introduced themselves in the beginning of the meeting.

The topic of the meeting was introduced by a short PowerPoint presentation: ‘strategies for age-related dental caries and periodontal disease management.’

The burden of caries and periodontal disease over lifetime was reported and the presentation assessed the evidence for age-appropriate effective strategies to prevent and treat caries and periodontal disease. In particular the importance of the extension of prevention and management of both diseases over lifetime was emphasised. To implement this evidence it is important to integrate oral health care in daily health care for frail institutionalised people. Since the oral health status in older individuals is influenced by their level of dependence, rather than by their chronological age, an individualised approach is recommended.

After this introduction the members were invited to discuss in small groups the level of implementation of preventive programmes in their respective countries and the barriers observed hampering the implementation.

During the discussion several barriers were mentioned on different levels:
- Barriers on patient level:
  - Oral health is experienced as a low-priority item
  - Dental mindedness
  - Insufficient demand-driven care
- Barriers on the level of dental professionals:
  - Lack of interest in prevention
  - Workload
  - Lack of co-operation within the dental team
- Organisational barriers in health care provision:
Poor insurance system for oral health care in elderly people
- Policies in transition
- The availability of preventive products
- Work force planning
- Lack of preventive programmes and evidence based guidelines
- Lack of integration of oral health care in general health care
- Workload (nursing homes and domiciliary care)
- Lack of dental education for non-dental professionals
- If there is some regulation, lack of follow-up and control
- Lack of advanced oral health care planning
- Imbalance between preventive and curative care
- Poor transition from evidence to education and to practice

6. Next Meeting of the SIWG
The next meeting of the SIWG Gerodontology will take place on the occasion of the next EADPH congress which will be held in Ghent-Belgium on 12th September 2019.

Participants:
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