

Foreword

THE NEED OF A COLLABORATION NETWORK REGARDING ORAL HEALTH IN THE EUROPEAN AREA OF THE BLACK SEA

It is known the fact that the public oral health isn't recognized as speciality in many countries.

In a recent report of the European Community, published by Eeva Widstrom and Kenneth A. Eaton it can be seen that the public oral health (the dental public health as it is called in some countries) is recognized only in six countries: Finland, Germany, Island, Malta, Poland, Portugal, the United Kingdom. Surprisingly, these are countries which cover practically the whole area of Europe with different health care systems, are developed and developing countries and even a former comunist country .

It comes a natural question: how did the oral health field specialists managed to impose themselves in these countries and why doesn't their number increase? The fact that the number of those countries in which this specialty is recognized is lower than half of the number of European Community membership countries is used by the Romanian Health Minister and representatives of dental associations as a reason to stop the development of this specialty in Romania.

As we mentioned in the previous article of the journal, we try to create in Romania a platform for commune actions of oral public health specialists in a research grant.

After the meeting which took place in Cluj-Napoca between 26th – 28th October 2006, this Romanian platform has become a certin thing. It is obviously an important step but it is not enough. Considering the disparity between the developed and the new arrived countries it is necessary for latter ones to make sustained efforts to integrate in the European Union structures.

In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary that the specialists in the developed countries to find the time to communicate more with eastern specialists eager for speciality progress.

This way we are making a call for collaboration in the best interest of population which needs to see in the European Union real and lasting models and not the fact that it is treated like a poor relative.

Personally, I started to send e-mails to all public oral health researchers that I know and I am happy that many of them have answered promptly and open to collaboration. In 2007, between 31st May and 2nd June, in the frame of the Vth International Congress of Oral Health and Dental Management a section regarding the oral health promotion will be settled and also a section concerning the Oro-Dental health as an essential characteristic of the quality of life for which the specialists in the field have answered favourably. A very important thing is that we will organize a meeting of specialists from the European countries and other countries, concerning the recognition of this speciality in each country in order to find solutions for its acknowledgement as a speciality.

Because we don't want to repeat every time the problems that the countries new in th European Union had to deal with I consider it right to make more serious preparations long time before the event.

That is why I suggest that at the Congress at the end of May 2007 specialists from all of the Black Sea Coast countries should participate and present the oro-dental public health situation in their countries, being able to learn both from successes and from failures.

Who has benefits from “the isolation” of each specialist? Our specialty approaches collectivities not individuals. The material gains of these specialists are much lower than of those who approach individuals. Usually people who support noble causes have good heart, are solidary, hard working and fighters.

We, the specialists from the Faculty of Dental Medicine of “Ovidius” University Constanta can’t do more than to invite you and offer you all free of charge in Romania, including a trip in the Danube Delta, a real paradise of UNESCO protected birds.

You will find details about the Congress and the actions sustained for developing “Oro-dental public health” speciality on the web site www.oralhealth.ro.

I hope not to disturb anybody if I put in discussion a problem which can be easily resolved: if we want not to be forced to talk about oral public health and about dental public health let’s unify the two terms and name it “oro-dental public health”.

In Romania the term has been used for several years and easily took over and it is considered that it can replace in a certain way the term of Dentistry which from the point of view of European Community represents the speciality obtained after post-university training programs.

This way, those who were named dental doctors won’t feel discriminated because the term of dentist has in many countries the meaning of “handicraftsman without university degree”.

It is only a proposal. I would be very happy if this field specialists would analyse this problem, in order to result the truth.

This being the last journal number in 2006, please accept from the board of directors and from myself the greetings of Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

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