Foreword

I have heard that this month (July) the temperature in some parts of Romania has reached over 40° Centigrade. Only six months ago, the Black Sea near Constanta was frozen and there were three-metre snowdrifts on the road to Bucharest. In this part of Europe, it has clearly been a year for extremes of weather. Are these extremes reflected in politics in general, and in dental politics in particular? I cannot answer this question as far as the Black Sea countries are concerned. However, I can for the North Sea countries. They consist of Norway, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom. In the parts of these countries that border the North Sea, this summer has been very wet and generally mild, a true reflection on politics in these countries!

It is a paradox that politicians and Health Ministries in many countries urge all health workers, including oral health workers, to practise evidence-based health care, when they do not practise evidence-based policy-making. Good-quality evidence for health care comes from excellent quality research. Assessing the quality of research is therefore a key skill for all dentists and for dental academics, in particular Prague. To help improve this skill, the European Association for Dental Public Health (EADPH), in collaboration with GABA International, is running a workshop in Prague on 2 and 3 November 2012. There is no charge for attending this workshop for members of the EADPH. Others may attend if they pay their own travel and accommodation costs. The workshop will cover reviewing abstracts for scientific conferences, papers and reports submitted to peer-reviewed scientific journals, and grant applications submitted to Government bodies and commercial companies.

Two weeks later, from 15-17 November 2012, the EADPH will be holding its annual conference in London. The conference is combined with the autumn conference of the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry. Apart from sessions devoted to the presentation of research via posters and for the EADPH's seven Special Interest Groups, presentations will be given by world leaders in the field of Public and Dental Public Health. They include Professor Sir Michael Marmot (a world expert of health inequalities), Professor Helen Whelton (President-Elect of the International Association for Dental Research), Professor Poul-Erik Petersen (Director of the Oral Health Group of the World Health Organization) and Professor Bettina Borisch (Past-President of the World Federation of Public Health Associations).

During the last four months, there has been a very considerable increase in the number of papers submitted to *Oral Health and Dental Management*. The journal's policy is to publish a maximum of one case report per edition and sometimes no case reports. For the time being, until further notice, no new case reports will be considered for publication. One case report (from Brazil), on oral complications in a patient with sickle cell anaemia, appears in this edition of the journal. The other papers are from a wide range of countries (India, Romania, The Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Vietnam). They report research into oral pantomographs, dental trauma in children, intra-osseous local anaesthesia, edentulism and quality of life, gingival recession and its predisposing factors, and a description of the importance of governance in improving the delivery of oral health care.

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