

Foreword

The cooperation among the Black Sea countries is being carried on several planes and is constantly expanding.

The most representative bodies involved rank at the level of the presidents of the countries, parliaments, Euroregions, twinned cities and the Black Sea Universities network.

Even though there are fields marked by good cooperation (economy, transportation, industrial parks, etc) no relevant steps have been taken in the area of health.

The attempt at institutionalizing the Faculties of Medicine Network in 2001 lead to no concrete results.

As a developing country, the target of which is the adherence to the European Union, Romania has to consider the real facts of the historic area where it has belonged for thousands of years.

We are not to reiterate here the reasons put forth with the first issue of the magazine which motivate the initiative of setting up a cooperation among the Black Sea Dental Schools since facts are self evident.

We will go on being active in strengthening the ties among the staffs of the Dental Schools of this area in order to scientifically and not subjectively identify those developing plans for dental education which are to lead us to improving the oral condition of the peoples of our countries.

We are aware that in all our countries public dental health is not recognized as a specialization, that the governments fail to sustain financially relevant epidemiological studies, that

preventive programs are most often made for form's sake, that poverty renders high quality dental assistance impossible.

It is precisely the above mentioned issues, which evidently are not exhaustive, that prompt us into action, considering that only by joining our forces tangible results might come up and thus the stage of lamenting would be transgressed.

The fact is encouraging that since the second edition of the congress on "Oral Health and Dental Management in the Black Sea Countries" the number of representatives of Dental Schools has increased and our magazine board has been joined by outstanding names. This makes us hope that, by this end of this year, there will be representatives in each country to back up one another in detecting and applying solutions meant to assert our profession so as to upgrade our people's oral health.

We express our hopes that the second congress on "Oral Health and Dental Management in the Black Sea Countries" to be held at Constanta on 5-8 June 2003 will give occasion to new preliminary debates on the proposed subjects which may turn into a launching platform for common action.

We are open and welcome any suggestion or cooperation, free debates on oral health and dental management or proposals to improve dental education in the Black Sea countries.

As a conclusion, I am conveying my friendly greetings to all those concerned by the points under discussion.

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Founding Editor