

Foreword

In my foreword to the September edition of *Oral Health and Dental Management in the Black Sea Countries (OHDMBSC)*, I mentioned that one of my tasks would be to help authors who wished to publish in the journal by arranging suitable training programmes in the skills necessary to write scientific abstracts, papers and other communications in English. I am pleased to be able to report that this process has already started.

The September edition notified readers of the European Association for Dental Public Health (EADPH) abstract writing workshop, to be held in Prague on 6/7 November 2008. I am pleased to say that the workshop was a great success. Those who attended came from the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Romania, the Russian Federation and Slovakia, with over half from Romania. The workshop was generously sponsored by GABA International AG and was held at the Dental Clinic of the First Faculty of Medicine of the Charles University. All those who attended were most grateful to Professor Dr. Zdenek Broukal of the Charles University and his team who made all the local arrangements and ensured that the workshop was a great success both intellectually and socially. The speakers and teachers were: Professor Dr. Zdenek Broukal, Dr Roos Leroy (Secretary of the EADPH), Dr Robert Eichler of GABA International AG, Dr Erika Lencová of the Charles University and Professor Dr. Kenneth Eaton.

The workshop consisted of a series of short presentations on such topics as critical analysis of scientific papers and abstracts, the use of checklists when preparing abstracts, key points to include in an abstract, when describing the methods used in a study, and preparing posters to present at scientific meetings. Between the presentations, the participants worked in small groups to critically analyse abstracts that had been submitted to past EADPH conferences and then to write their own abstracts, either based on their own studies, or on previously

published ones. The groups then reported their work to all those present and discussed it with everyone, including the teachers.

Due to the continuing generosity of GABA International AG, a series of three half day workshops will be held during the VIIth International Congress of Oro-dental Public Health and Management in the Black Sea Area, in Constanta from 28 - 30 May 2009. Nearly all the teachers from the Prague workshop have agreed to teach during these Constanta workshops, which will cover the critical analysis of scientific papers, with emphasis on peer reviewing, data base searches and referencing, how authors can improve the structure and content of the papers that they write and proof reading. Those who attend may wish to bring papers and abstracts that they are currently writing to the workshops, so that they can discuss them with and obtain help from the teachers. Further details of these workshops will appear in the March edition of this journal, together with details of the programme for the congress.

Some members of the International Editorial Board of *OHDMBSC* have expressed their willingness to help authors, who do not have English as their first language. I am very grateful to them and can report that four of the six papers published in this December edition have benefited from this help. It seems likely that in the immediate future, after peer review, as part of the process of editing, the majority of those papers accepted for publication will go to International Board Members for revision of the English.

Professor Dr Corneliu Amariei and I wish all readers a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and hope to meet many of you during 2009.

Prof.Dr. Kenneth A. Eaton
Editor in Chief