The EFP and Oral-B have launched an educational project on oral health during pregnancy.

The Oral Health and Pregnancy web subsite (housed within the main EFP website) provides a wealth of material about the links between periodontal disease and adverse pregnancy outcomes. It also explains how teeth and gums should be cared for during pregnancy and the actions to be taken by women and health professionals. The subsite (oralhealthandpregnancy.efp.org) includes guidelines for oral-health professionals, other health professionals, and women, along with news, features, videos, infographics, and brochures.

It also includes the four fully-referenced scientific reports on which the guidelines were based, which were written by experts including the EFP’s Mariano Sanz (chair, workshop committee), Phoebus Madianos (chair, scientific affairs committee), and Filippo Graziani (elected member, executive committee).

A toolkit is being created for the 30 EFP-affiliated national societies of periodontology to use in their own campaigns.

The Oral Health and Pregnancy project is the first of several projects the EFP is launching with its partners.

The global mission of the EFP

Secretary general Iain Chapple outlines his vision

Half-way through his three-year mandate as secretary general, Iain Chapple reflects on the increasingly international nature of the EFP, which he sees as “the global opinion leader on all issues relating to periodontal health and dental implants.” He talks about plans to create a new form of international associate membership for countries beyond Europe and the new “branch” projects with partners. Full interview, page 3
EFP postgraduate symposium in Ireland shows high quality of accredited programmes

The EFP’s 7th Postgraduate Symposium took place on September 7 to 9, bringing together well over a hundred students and university lecturers for an intensive programme of clinical and research presentations.

The symposium took place at the Slieve Russell Hotel in Ballycastle, in Co. Cavan, about 100 miles from Dublin. It was organised by Ioannis Polyzois, director of the postgraduate programme in periodontology at the Dublin Dental University Hospital, Trinity College, Dublin, and his faculty.

It was attended by 116 participants: 82 students at EFP-accredited postgraduate programmes in periodontology, 29 directors and teachers of these programmes, plus EFP president Gerriet Wimmer, postgraduate education committee member Ida van der Velden, EFP staff, and a representative of sponsor Procter & Gamble.

The EFP Postgraduate Symposium takes place every two years and is organised by one of the 15 universities and hospitals that run EFP-accredited programmes in 10 different countries. Second- and third-year postgraduate students are invited as well as the programme directors and co-ordinators.

Call for global action on periodontal disease

A call for global action to reduce the impact of the burden of periodontal diseases on health and well-being has been issued in a health-policy paper, published in May by the Journal of Clinical Periodontology (JCP), the EFP’s scientific journal.

The paper – “Impact of the global burden of periodontal diseases on health, nutrition and wellbeing of mankind: A call for global action” – was written by four international experts including PD Dr Maurizio Tonetti and EFP past president Søren Jepsen.

The symposium featured 15 sessions, moderated by teachers of the accredited postgraduate programmes. Each session included a clinical presentation and a research presentation given by postgraduate students from the programmes.

The symposium provides a special opportunity to bring these students together to benefit from a high-level, EFP-developed scientific discourse. The event also enables the directors of the accredited courses to meet and agree on updates to the EFP programmes.

“These were two very intense and busy days. The research projects were diverse, covering numerous aspects of periodontal science, and the level of the studies and the quality of the reports were very high,” said Moshe Goldstein, chair of the EFP’s postgraduate education committee.

“The clinical cases covered all aspects of modern periodontology and implant dentistry and it was really impressive to see the level of knowledge and the clinical performance of the students.”

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EFP Alumni – a new network based on accredited postgraduate programmes

The EFP has launched the EFP Alumni project to create a network based around the federation’s accredited postgraduate programmes in periodontology at 15 universities in 10 countries.

The EFP is encouraging all those who meet the requirements for membership to register. Membership is open to people who have graduated from an EFP-accredited programme, to past and present teachers and professors at these programmes, and to members of the current EFP executive committee.

There will be special activities for members at EFP events such as the EuroPerio congresses and the Perio in Milan, including a special session for EFP Alumni on the opening day of EuroPerio9 in Amsterdam in June 2018.

EFP secretary general Iain Chapple outlines his global vision

“I see the EFP as the global opinion leader on all issues relating to periodontal health and dental implants.”

Half-way through his three-year term as EFP secretary general, Prof Iain Chapple talks to EFP News about the federation’s plans for international expansion, its strategic plan, and its new projects with partners.

What is your vision of the EFP?

I see the EFP as being the global opinion leader on all issues relating to periodontal health and dental implants. And that vision involves being the authoritative body – based on our research, our communications, our networks, our workshops. We also have a far-reaching network of like-minded societies, like-minded individuals, and industry partners with common goals about improving oral health and general health.

How is the EFP doing in terms of embodying that vision?

I think we are making good progress. There is no doubt that the Journal of Clinical Periodontology really is the top periodontal journal in the world for original research and the workshops have established themselves as internationally influential.

I think that our success now brings organisational challenges because a lot of countries from beyond Europe – such as India, Japan, and Iran – are interested in becoming international associations. We have established a totally new category of membership that we are currently discussing. We have to find a mechanism for the periodontal societies of those countries to become part of the broader EFP family but without having huge general assembly gatherings with every country in the world represented, which would be too challenging financially and logistically.

If we can share our science and share our communications and our outputs with these non-European countries, we can spread our European message globally – so the creation of international associate members fits into our strategic objectives.

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Part of our globalisation agenda is the creation of international associate members. It is a committee that shares those projects with the national societies to improve communications and to get feedback from the national societies on how they would like to see those projects working. All the branch projects, for instance, are relevant to the national societies. We can provide the care material from these projects, but what we can’t do is disseminate it through the national societies – they have to do that.

How important has been the role of head of operations Sharon Legendre?

How important has been the role of head of operations Sharon Legendre? Her role was created, because we needed it. She’s brought new ideas, she’s brought independent work involved in the EFP’s internationalisation agenda, and she has been able to co-ordinate our key players in terms of our professional support services. I can honestly say she has been a breath of fresh air.”

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Activities organised for European Gum Health Day 2017 by EFP-affiliated national societies of periodontology included:

**Austria:** EFP president Gernot Wimmer presented European Gum Health Day 2017 at Vienna press conference. Azerbaijan: University seminars plus free periodontal screenings. Belgium: Free periodontal screenings and press and media campaign. Croatia: Free periodontal examinations and interview on national television. Denmark: Students handed out leaflets at Aarhus Central Station. Finland: Oral-health professionals encouraged to sign the EFP Manifesto. France: Multidisciplinary day in Montpellier. Germany: Poster campaign and promotion of periodontal screening index. Greece: Information stalls in public squares and shopping malls. Hungary: Lecture about importance of oral hygiene for diabetes patients, and participation in television and radio programmes. Ireland: Press campaign which led to feature on gum health in country’s biggest daily newspaper. Israel: Facebook campaign to create humorous slogan about periodontal health and its relationship to general health to millions of people. Using the slogan “Fighting periodontal disease together”, events and media activities were organised by 27 of the EFP’s 30 affiliated national societies of periodontology. Activities included free periodontal screenings, the handing out of leaflets in towns and shopping centres, television and radio interviews, and conferences and university courses about the relationship between periodontal and systemic health. There was also a considerable impact in the media through press, radio, and television coverage. Participating national societies sent press releases to thousands of media outlets to spread the message about the impact of periodontal diseases, their relationship with systemic diseases, the importance of periodontal health, and its contribution to general and public health. In addition, the social-media coverage of European Gum Health Day – organised under the hashtag “#periododay” – had a big impact on Facebook and Twitter. “We have to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of 27 national societies in making the very same day a massive campaign for the good of the population,” said EFP president, Gernot Wimmer. “Recognition of the importance of healthy gums for oral and general health is only part of the EFP’s mission – the next challenge is to get this information into circulation so that all the citizens of Europe can share in the benefits of oral health and well-being,” added Tiernan O’Brien, chair of the EFP communications committee. This is a massive undertaking and is only possible with the hard work of our member national periodontal societies across Europe. Every year this project gets better and this is a testament to the dedication of our national societies to this public-health issue. Europe needs to know that gum health is important and achievable – this is what European Gum Health Day is all about.”

European Gum Health Day 2017 brought message on fighting periodontal disease to millions

European Gum Health Day 2017, held on May 12, proved to be a major success for the EFP and its affiliated national societies, bringing a clear message about the importance of gum health and its relationship to general health to millions of people. Using the slogan “Fighting periodontal disease together”, events and media activities were organised by 27 of the EFP’s 30 affiliated national societies of periodontology. Activities included free periodontal screenings, the handing out of leaflets in towns and shopping centres, television and radio interviews, and conferences and university courses about the relationship between periodontal and systemic health. There was also a considerable impact in the media through press, radio, and television coverage. Participating national societies sent press releases to thousands of media outlets to spread the message about the impact of periodontal diseases, their relationship with systemic diseases, the importance of periodontal health, and its contribution to general and public health. In addition, the social-media coverage of European Gum Health Day – organised under the hashtag “#periododay” – had a big impact on Facebook and Twitter. “We have to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of 27 national societies in making the very same day a massive campaign for the good of the population,” said EFP president, Gernot Wimmer. “Recognition of the importance of healthy gums for oral and general health is only part of the EFP’s mission – the next challenge is to get this information into circulation so that all the citizens of Europe can share in the benefits of oral health and well-being,” added Tiernan O’Brien, chair of the EFP communications committee. This is a massive undertaking and is only possible with the hard work of our member national periodontal societies across Europe. Every year this project gets better and this is a testament to the dedication of our national societies to this public-health issue. Europe needs to know that gum health is important and achievable – this is what European Gum Health Day is all about.”

**Next year: ‘Healthy gums, healthy life’**

Plans for European Gum Health Day 2018 are now being developed and design work on materials has already started. The 2018 awareness day will be co-ordinated by Xavier Struillou, elected member of the EFP executive committee, with support from EFP communications co-ordinator Santu Durahones and the rest of the communications team. The slogan chosen for May 12, 2018 is “Healthy gums, healthy life” – a concise expression of the EFP’s strategic vision of “periodontal health for a better life.” “Let the 2018 European Gum Health Day be a great success, promoting the prevention and treatment of periodontal diseases to patients and to the authorities,” said Dr Struillou.
Innovation, expertise, and an exciting city: Michèle Renens gives her vision of EuroPerio9

Michèle Renens, chair of the organising committee for EuroPerio9, says that the Amsterdam 2018 congress will be more interactive than previous EuroPerios, with a greater participation from women and younger periodontal professionals, and with many innovations in the schedule.

Geming more prominence to women and younger professionals has been a key aim of the EuroPerio9 organising committee. “EuroPerio is the ‘lobby’ of periodontology and everybody must have a chance to express their views and to exchange their experience,” says Dr Renens. “For the young generations, it is a unique opportunity to create a network with peers coming from all over the world – and we want to stimulate this!”

There will also be more interactivity than in the past, as the organisers seek to take advantage of new technology. There will be a sophisticated EuroPerio9 mobile application that will enable participants to feedback and take part in voting.

Other innovations include – for the first time – for the congress’s research sessions may be co-ordinated work to spread the word about the congress, its astronomers and other potential delegates.

“Identifying major national meetings in periodontology and dentistry in their own countries and organising promotional activities at these events.

“Establishing and cultivating contacts with opinion leaders, institutions (dental chambers, for instance), related societies, and other bodies that might help promote EuroPerio9.

“Sharing EuroPerio9’s social media posts.

By the end of May 2018, says Vassilopoulos, the ambassadors will have visited more than 80 congresses where more than 70,000 delegates have participated. The RAI Amsterdam centre is a large venue and it is very well located, close to Schiphol Airport, one of the biggest hubs in Europe. Amsterdam is easy to reach by plane and train and, as Reners points out, “it is also a cheaper city compared to London.”

Summing it all up, Michèle Renens says: “I think that the combination of the location, the scientific programme, and our communications plans will create a very interesting meeting. Even if there are many people, everybody can have the benefit and experience EuroPerio in a good way.”

Bulletin
EFP Manifesto now has 780 signatories...

A total of 780 individuals and institutions from 65 countries have now signed the EFP Manifesto “Perio and General Health” – an increase of more than 60% since the end of January.

The EFP Manifesto is a call to action in terms of prevention, early detection and treatment of periodontal diseases.

Based on the conclusions of the 9th European Workshop in Periodontology, it is the first formal declaration in international dentistry to condense years of research into the links between periodontal disease and systemic illnesses into an acknowledgement of periodontitis as a major public-health issue.

The EFP invites individuals together with companies and institutions involved in health care to sign the manifesto and join a growing community of professionals and experts who want a fundamental shift in the perception of dental professionals’ responsibilities.

As of October 18, the manifesto had attracted 780 signatories – 581 individuals and 199 companies and institutions. That represents a rise of 324 signatures since the end of January when the total stood at 456 – an increase of 71 per cent.

... as Twitter page gains more than 1,000 followers

The EFP’s page on the Twitter social-media platform now has well over a thousand followers and during the last year its tweets have been seen by more than 2.5 million people.

As of October 10, a total of 2,482 tweets had been published on the EFP’s Twitter page (@PerioEurope), 916 of these during the previous 12 months. The page – https://twitter.com/PerioEurope – has 1,133 followers (split equally between men and women) – an increase of 326 followers (39%) over the previous year.

By October 10, the page had received a total of just over 2.5 million “tweet impressions” (the number of times a tweet has been seen online). So far this year, EFP tweets have received 8,195 “likes”, 41% more than during the same period of 2016.

As well as Twitter, the EFP provides news and information about its activities via the social-media platforms of Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

Round-up of events held across Europe by EFP-affiliated national societies

Recent activities by the 30 national societies of periodontology affiliated to the EFP include:

- The annual conference of the British Society of Periodontology (BSP), held in London on June 22 and 23, put the focus on optimising performance in periodontology and implant therapy.
- The Czech Society of Periodontology held its biannual Perio Days on May 19 and 20 in the village of Smí in South Bohemia, at which the keynote lecture was given by Moshe Goldstein, chair of the EFP postgraduate education committee.
- The French Society of Periodontology (SFPIO) held its annual meeting on June 8 to 10 devoted to the subject of soft tissues (“The Pink Matter”), with a strong line-up of speakers and more than 400 attendees.
- A lively “Young Professionals” meeting was held by the German Society of Periodontology (DG PARO) in Düsseldorf on July 8 at which speakers addressed a range of topics under the heading “Periodontology versus implantology: duel of disciplines.”
- The 51st annual congress of the Spanish Society of Periodontology and Osseointegration (SEPA), held in Malaga on May 25 to 27 brought together around 4,500 periodontists and other oral-health professionals in one of the biggest gatherings of its kind outside the EFP’s triennial EuroPerio congresses.
- The Ukrainian Society of Periodontists held a conference in Kyiv on April 6 and 7 devoted to modern approaches to diagnostics and treatment of patients with both periodontal and systemic diseases.

EFP full member societies

- Austria Österreichische Gesellschaft für Parodontologie
- Belgium Société Belge de Parodontologie / Belgische Vereniging voor Parodontologie
- Croatia Hrvatsko Parodontološko društvo
- Czech Republic Česká parodontologická společnost
- Denmark Dansk Parodontologisk Selskab
- Finland Suomen Hammaslääkäritseura
- Apollonia
- France Société Française de Parodontologie et d’Implantologie ORA Le
- Germany Deutsche Gesellschaft für Parodontologie
- Greece Ελληνική Περιοδοντολογική Εταιρεία
- Hungary Magyar Parodontológiai Társaság
- Ireland Irish Society of Periodontology
- Israel Israeli Society of Periodontology and Osseointegration
- Italy Società Italiana di Parodontologia e Implantologia
- Netherlands Nederlandse Vereniging voor Parodontologie
- Norway Norsk periodontist forening
- Poland Polskie Towarzystwo Periodontologiczne
- Portugal Sociedade Portuguesa de Periodontologia e Implantologia
- Romania Societatea de Parodontologie din Romania
- Serbia Udruzenje Parodontologa Srbije
- Slovenia Združenje za ustne bolezni, parodontologijo in stomatološko implantologijo
- Spain Sociedad Espanola de Periodoncia y Osteointegracion
- Sweden Svenska Parodontologföreningen
- Switzerland Société Suisse de Parodontologie / Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Parodontologie / Società Svizzera di Parodontologia
- Turkey Türk Periodontoloji Derneği
- United Kingdom British Society of Periodontology

EFP associate member societies

- Azerbaijan Azərbaycan Parodontologistiya Cəmiyyəti
- Lithuania Lietuvių Periodontologų draugija
- Morocco Société Marocaine de Parodontologie et d’Implantologie
- Russia Российская Пародонтологическая Ассоциация
- Ukraine Асоціація лікарів-пародонтологів України