EuroPerio8: a great success with almost 10,000 attendees

The EFP-organised EuroPerio8 congress, which took place in London between June 3 and 6, was the world’s biggest-ever periodontology event, attracting 9,700 attendees from 115 different countries. Highlights of the event included the world premiere of the documentary film The Sound of Periodontitis (see p3), which brought patients onto the EuroPerio stage for the first time. The organising committee’s approach of attracting the whole dental team, including hygienists and dental nurses, proved very successful. The scientific programme, which dedicated substantial attention to the links between gum disease and systemic illnesses, brought delegates up to date on the latest periodontal research and innovations in clinical practice.

“Apart from the high numbers of delegates, it was the positive responses we had that confirmed our belief that this was a huge success,” said organising committee chairman Francis Hughes.

EFP delegation takes gum-health message to European Parliament

A top-level EFP delegation, led by president Søren Jepsen, visited the European Parliament in Brussels on June 17 to highlight the importance of gum health to improving the health and wellbeing of European citizens and to public health across the European Union. The delegation included EFP president-elect Juan Blanco, immediate past president Phoebus Madianos, editor of the Journal of Clinical Periodontology Maurizio Tonetti, and strategic officer Nairn Wilson.

In a packed agenda of meetings and networking events, the EFP delegation met MEPs, former MEPs, and policy advisors from four different political groups and eight nationalities, as well as senior European Parliament officers, parliamentary assistants, networkers, and experts.

The EFP has launched a website dedicated to disseminating the conclusions of the XI European Workshop in Periodontology (the “Prevention Workshop”) which was held in Spain in November last year. The new site, prevention.efp.org, is sponsored by Procter & Gamble and Johnson & Johnson, which also sponsored the workshop and are among the EFP’s partners. This special site provides a wealth of information from the Prevention Workshop, including its conclusions, the full guidelines that were set out by the researchers who took part in the event, video interviews with the chairmen of the four working groups, and a link to the EFP Manifesto.

EFP-funded film shows patient perspective

Graziani receives Clinical Research Prize

‘EFP Interviews’ offers insights from Van der Velden and other pioneers

The EFP website has launched a video archive of interviews with perio pioneers showing how they shaped and developed this branch of dentistry. The section ‘EFP Interviews’ shows how perio science used to be and how it has evolved as leading figures explain what drove them to do what they did. Tiernan O’Brien, the promoter of this initiative, has interviewed Ubele van der Velden in three instalments, as well as Niklaus Lang and Jan Lindhe. The next interview will feature Thorkild Karring.
The EFP has been accepted as a collaborating partner in the Chrodis joint action, an European Union initiative on chronic diseases and promotion of healthy ageing across the life cycle. The EFP will be able to liaise with more than 60 partners from 26 countries which are involved in four specific programmes: knowledge platform, health promotion, multi-morbidity and type 2 diabetes. 

JA-Chrodis is the largest joint action co-financed under the EU Health Programme to date. Joint actions are designed and financed by member-state authorities and the EU to address specific priorities under the EU Health Programme.

Wealth of knowledge

As the www.chrodis.eu website notes: “There is a wealth of knowledge within EU member states on effective and efficient ways to prevent and manage cardiovascular disease, stroke and diabetes type-2. There is great potential to reduce the burden of chronic disease by making better use of this knowledge.”

The EFP Manifesto - Perio and General Health - has now been signed by nearly 200 institutions and individuals, from 40 countries. Signatories include not only European practitioners, researchers, companies, and organisations, but also from Brazil, USA and other countries around the world.

The Manifesto calls upon all dental and health professionals to act in the prevention, early diagnosis, and effective treatment of perio disease in order to combat the devastating oral and general-health effects for the individual and society. It is based on the rigorous scientific analysis of the evidence base for reported links between periodontal and systemic diseases carried out at the 9th European Workshop in Periodontology, which declared that periodontal disease should be acknowledged as a major public-health issue. The workshop was organised by the EFP and the American Academy of Periodontology, and held at La Granja, Spain, in November 2012. The Manifesto can be read and signed by you, your practice and your university at both the EFP main website and the new EFP Prevention Workshop special site, prevention.efp.org.

The two programmes, which explored the stories of several people with dental problems, offered much advice on oral health.

BBC series featuring Iain Chapple shows how to tackle gum disease

A two-part BBC series investigating poorly dental hygiene has boosted efforts to raise public awareness of perio disease. The second part of The Truth About Your Teeth, broadcast on BBC One on June 11, showed presenter Chris van Tulleken allowing himself to develop periodontal disease by not cleaning the teeth in part of his mouth for several weeks. The journalist was then given treatment, with the whole process supervised by EFP secretary general-elect Professor Iain Chapple of the University of Birmingham’s School of Dentistry. The two programmes, which explored the stories of several people with dental problems, offered much advice on oral health.

Chrodis co-ordinator Teresa Chavarria attended a course on perio health held by Complutense University where she met (from left) EFP president Søren Jepsen, SEPA president David Herrera, and EFP junior officer Filippo Graziani.

Dentaid, adapting interproximal care to you

Dentaid Research Center has developed a new interproximal brush with an ergonomic and flexible design, which together with the Interprox Plus brush line, will help to cover all patient needs for different interproximal space sizes, thereby supporting professionals and their patients in the improvement of oral health.
The prize-winning paper assessed differences in host response following conventional versus full-mouth non-surgical periodontal therapy, finding that a single session of full-mouth debridement produced a one-week moderate acute-phase response compared to conventional (quadrant scaling) treatment.

The paper suggested that clinicians practitioners choose conventional treatment for patients with complicated medical histories.

Italian researcher Filippo Graziani receives the 2015 EFP Clinical Research Prize

The 2015 EFP Clinical Research Prize in Periodontology, also known as the Jaccard Prize, was presented to Italian researcher Filippo Graziani at EuroPerio8 periodontal conference last June in London for his paper ‘Acute phase response following full mouth versus quadrant non-surgical periodontal treatment: a randomised clinical trial’.

The paper was written by Graziani with fellow University of Pisa researchers Silvia Cei, Stefano Gennai, Mario Gabriele, Natalia Filice, and Marco Nisi, together with Francesco D’Aiuto and Marco Orlandi from London’s UCL Eastman Dental Institute.

The prize-winning paper assessed differences in host response following conventional versus full-mouth non-surgical periodontal therapy, finding that a single session of full-mouth debridement produced a one-week moderate acute-phase response compared to conventional (quadrant scaling) treatment.

The paper suggested that clinicians practitioners choose conventional treatment for patients with complicated medical histories.

Johnson & Johnson Consumer Services EAME LTD are proud to be an official partner of the EFP and sponsor for EFP Scientific communication and outreach campaign:

Effective Prevention of Periodontal and Peri-implant Diseases

The EFP-funded film The Sound of Periodontitis: The patient’s view of gum disease received its world premiere on June 3 at EuroPerio8, giving centre stage to the perspective of patients.

This 10-minute documentary follows four British patients who talk about their experiences of periodontitis, peri-implantitis and periodontal treatment.

“The film explores the experience of what it is like to live with the condition and the treatment journey”, said Ian Needleman, who chaired the project’s working group. “The aim of the film is to deliver fresh insights into the substantial negative effects of periodontal disease and the beneficial, life-changing effects of treatment.”

Prof. Needleman (pictured below) added that these insights will help enhance more effective communication with patients and lobbying to promote the prioritisation of periodontal health.

The film tells the patients’ stories and covers three areas: the effect of the condition and diagnosis, the experience of treatment, and the beneficial impact of treatment on health and well-being.

Produced by the Media Trust with funding from the EFP, the project was led by the UCL Eastman Dental Institute, the British Society of Periodontology, and the British Society for Dental Hygienists and Therapists, with support from the UCL Public Engagement Unit.

Both The Sound of Periodontitis and its trailer can be seen on the EFP’s YouTube channel and the EFP main website, where viewers are warmly invited to complete a survey about the film. So far, nine out of ten viewers found the film interesting, and two out of three said that they had learnt new insights and ideas from the film.

The prize jury comprised Journal of Clinical Periodontology editor Maurizio Tonetti, associate editors Mariano Sanz and Søren Jepsen, Iain Chapple (EFP executive committee), and Francis Hughes (EuroPerio8).
The EuroPerio8 congress, held at ExCeL London from June 3 to 6, provided the record figure of almost 10,000 attendees with a packed scientific programme that will stay in the memory for many years to come.

Three years in the making, the organising committee chaired by Francis Hughes put together an impressive scientific programme which offered lively sessions that explored in depth the latest research in periodontology and the most up-to-date clinical practices. The scientific programme included the Master Clinician Forum on perio-mucogingival surgery and implants, and a series of sessions which explored contemporary practical periodontics. Other sessions were devoted to critical factors in implant dentistry, the current base knowledge about periodontitis, the links between periodontitis and systemic diseases, and the prospects for using stem cells.

On the final day of EuroPerio8, there were keynote lectures from a trio of top speakers: Jan Lindhe, Niklaus Lang, and Paul Sharpe. At the EuroPerio8 press conference, leading EFP figures called for greater awareness of the prevalence and personal impact of periodontal and peri-implant diseases.

As well as the packed scientific programme, the organising committee also put together an attractive social programme, including a well-attended and much-enjoyed congress party. Success of EuroPerio8 was completed by the all-important contribution and support of the industry, which showcased the best and most advanced dental-related products at the exhibition, and developed an interesting programme of conferences and activities. Diamond, Platinum and Gold sponsors made EuroPerio8 look better than ever before!

Mobile app helps visitors navigate EuroPerio8

EuroPerio8 delegates were able to get the most out of the event thanks to an innovative mobile app which allowed users to browse through the congress programme and create their own personal schedules, view abstracts for all the scientific sessions, and access information on the speakers. Interactive maps via the app enabled users to find their way around the massive complex with ease, and there was also an overview of all the exhibitors and their location within the exhibition hall.
Next stop, Amsterdam for EuroPerio9 in 2018

At the end of the closing ceremony of EuroPerio8, Francis Hughes handed over the baton to the organising committee for the next congress, in Amsterdam in 2018, whose members took to the stage in typically Dutch fashion by riding bicycles. Michèle Reners, who chairs the EuroPerio9 organising committee, then invited delegates – who had been given special orange-coloured sunglasses – to the event, which will take place at the RAI Exhibition and Convention Centre on June 20-23, 2018. The scientific chairman is Søren Jepsen, the current EFP president, and Gernot Wimmer is the treasurer. The team’s candidacy, approved by the EFP General Assembly in Athens in May, strongly supported the participation of EFP national societies and the younger generation of periodontists.

EFP Village, meeting point for 29 societies

A key location within EuroPerio8 was the EFP Village, designed as the meeting point for the 29 national societies which make up the EFP and a place for delegates to relax and find information. It featured an information desk where details of the activities of the EFP.

A thumbs-up for the Fantastic Four

From left to right: Nikolaos Donos, representative of the BSP to EuroPerio8; Francis Hughes, EuroPerio8 chairman; Mariano Sanz, EuroPerio8 scientific chairman; and Korkud Demirel, EuroPerio8 treasurer.

Behind the desk was the EFP Wall, which screened videos and presentations from all the national societies and offered images of all the previous EuroPerio congresses and an invitation to EuroPerio9 in Amsterdam in 2018. All EuroPerio attendees were also warmly invited to attend the 2nd Master Clinic, which will take place in Istambul in 2017.
The EFP Prevention Workshop took place in November 2014 in La Granja de San Ildefonso, near Segovia, in Spain. Its focus was the prevention of periodontal and peri-implant diseases and more than 75 participants – international experts in oral-health science, research, protocols and products – systematically reviewed recent studies to produce conclusions relevant to professionals in the dental and medical communities. The conclusions signed off by the chairmen of the working groups called for the findings to be included in public-health campaigns to highlight the risk of conditions such as peri-implantitis which has grown alarmingly in recent years. The Workshop’s conclusions were published in April in a special supplement of the EFP’s scientific publication the Journal of Clinical Periodontology.

“It is important to understand that periodontitis can be prevented very easily, but if it develops and becomes severe it really poses a risk for the health of the patient,” said Mariano Sanz, chairman of the Prevention Workshop. The new website, which is still a work-in-progress with additional content to be added in the coming weeks, is available at prevention.efp.org. It is sponsored by Procter & Gamble and Johnson & Johnson.

In the 20 years since the first European Workshop in Periodontology was held, 11 editions have taken place, with subjects including periodontal infections, periodontal and systemic diseases, and periodontal plastic surgery and soft-tissue regeneration. This year’s Workshop, to be held in Madrid, will focus on communications and how the EFP can maximise the impact of its key messages about periodontal health.
Within the one-day visit to Brussels which took place on June 17, Søren Jepsen and the rest of the EFP delegation hosted a working lunch at the European Parliament’s “MEPs Restaurant” with a selection of policymakers, policy advisors, networkers, journalists and Brussels officers, where discussion focused on the relevance of gum health to public health. One area of particular interest to MEPs (members of the European Parliament) was the demonstration of the value of periodontal prevention to improving both quality of life and the cost-effectiveness of European public-health systems.

The EFP representatives emphasised how prevention and treatment of periodontal disease can prevent, control, or detect diabetes and other systemic conditions. That message was warmly welcomed by their counterparts in Brussels. The EFP officers made the case for the relevance of gum health to oral health, general health and public health, and also presented the EFP Manifesto ‘Perio and General Health’ – which readers of the EFP News quarterly bulletin may sign via the EFP website – to the MEPs and policy advisors.

This Brussels visit, under the supervision of external affairs committee chairman Edwin Winkel, was the first event of its kind that the EFP has organised. It paves the way towards a fruitful partnership with European policymakers, laying the foundations for building a strategic relationship with key actors in the EU decision-making process. EFP delegates, policymakers and officers all considered this pioneering visit to the European Parliament to have been a success in its own right. Future networking and co-operation provide a potentially rewarding opportunity for advancing the priorities of the EFP and the interests of periodontal and other oral-healthcare professionals across Europe.

The freshly-rebranded section ‘EFP Interviews’ includes a three-part video featuring Dutch periodontal researcher Ubele van der Velden (above) interviewed by Tiernan O’Brien (below), the future chairman of the EFP’s external affairs committee. “By listening to these ‘fathers of periodontology’ explain things from their own perspectives, you will be able to fill in the gaps between their core publications and see something of the person behind the writing,” said O’Brien.

The most recent videos added to the library (available at the members-only section of the main website) are the three-part interview with Van de Velden.

In the ‘The early years’ video, Prof. Van der Velden explains how he came to periodontology and in ‘Genesis of the EFP’, he recalls how European periodontology began to evolve more than 40 years ago, when periodontology enjoyed none of the respect it has today as a science and a practice.

In the third video, ‘The Java studies’, Van der Velden talks about a pioneering research study whose fieldwork took place over 15 years in a village in the former Dutch colony of Indonesia. The research identified risk factors and predictors, and showed that male gender was a risk determinant.

It concluded that screening for relevant parameters early in life could help prevent periodontal diseases.
Edwin Winkel chairs new association for halitosis research

The International Association for Halitosis Research (IAFHR) was officially formed on June 5 at a meeting of leading halitosis researchers during the EuroPerio8 congress in London. "Halitosis research has a huge impact," said the president of this group, Dutch specialist Edwin Winkel, who chairs the EFP's external affairs committee. "Halitosis has always been a problem but we are responding to a huge increase in research activity and these findings translate into guidelines for dental professionals and medical practitioners.

JCP gains highest-ever impact factor: 4.01

The Journal of Clinical Periodontology (JCP), the EFP's monthly scientific publication, achieved its best-ever impact factor in 2014 - an impressive value of 4.01 - and is now ranked second among the dental journals worldwide. This represents a great achievement for European periodontology and the EFP and, in particular, for the team of authors, reviewers and editors, led by JCP editor Maurizio Tonetti (below).

During 2014, articles published in the JCP during the previous two years were cited in other scientific publications a total of 1,223 times. The JCP published a total of 305 articles in 2012 and 2013.

JCP Digest is now available in French too

All 12 editions of JCP Digest are now available in French from the EFP main website thanks to the EFP’s translation project, which means that each issue is now published first in English and then translated into five other European languages. The French version, translated by Alexandre Sarfati, joins the German version (translated by Alexandra Stähl), the Italian (Filippo Graziani), the Portuguese (Ricardo Faria Almeida) and the Spanish (Ana Molina Villar). The translation project aims to make the content of JCP Digest more easily available to all oral-healthcare professionals whose mother tongue is not English, thereby spreading the scientific knowledge of the Journal of Clinical Periodontology (JCP) to a wider audience. The publication is co-ordinated by Iain Chapple with the co-operation of Maurizio Tonetti, JCP editor-in-chief.

Download JCP Digest 12 - and all previous 2014 issues

EFP’s publication JCP Digest 12, the latest issue of the 2014 collection’s research summaries, is available for reading, printing or download in PDF format from the EFP website, www.efp.org, offering a summary of a study of whether there are sex-specific genetic effects that increase the risk of severe periodontitis in men. The study, “Genome-wide exploration identifies sex-specific genetic effects of alleles upstream NPY to increase the risk of severe periodontitis in men”, tested the hypothesis that, in cases of aggressive periodontitis, gender interacts with specific single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and alters disease risk. The study’s authors concluded that an associated intergenic region of 140-kb, situated upstream of the gene neuropeptide Y (NPY), conferred an increased risk for aggressive periodontitis in men but a decreased risk in women.

Not only do we need to create awareness among the public but also enhance the information and treatment advice for professionals,” continued Dr. Winkel. The IAFHR aims to promote research in all aspects of halitosis and related issues and to spread and publicise research. The IAFHR board has Marc Quirynen as its president-elect, and Silvia Roldán as its general secretary. To receive information about the IAFHR visit www.iafhr.org.