Raising awareness of the importance of keeping gingivae healthy throughout a whole lifetime, particularly among people aged over 60, is one of the priorities of the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP), the leading global organisation on periodontal science and practice. Other aims include strengthening the leadership of the EFP around the world and promoting the status of periodontology among dentists and other health professionals. More than 75 experts and officers from 30 national scientific societies specialising in periodontal health and implant dentistry gathered in Vienna in Austria on 17 March to celebrate the EFP’s annual general assembly and to discuss future projects. Highlights of the meeting included the appointment of Prof. Anton Sculean as new EFP President, the launch of the EFP mobile app, the international dissemination of the Perio and Caries project, and reports on the final preparations for European Gum Health Day 2018 in May and the EuroPerio9 congress.

Sculean, chair of the department of periodontology and executive director of the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Bern in Switzerland, has taken over the helm as EFP President from Prof. Gernot Wimmer, Senior Scientist and Privatdozent at the Medical University of Graz in Austria. Other major appointments by the assembly included Prof. Lior Shapira (Israel) as new executive committee officer and coordinator of European Gum Health Day 2019, and Prof. Filippo Graziani (Italy) as President-elect. In addition, Prof. Nicola West (UK) and Dr Monique Danser (the Netherlands) will join the EFP’s executive committee in 2019 as secretary general and treasurer, respectively.

The EFP’s general assembly included the official announcement of European Gum Health Day 2018, which was celebrated on 12 May to raise public awareness across Europe of the importance of keeping gingivae healthy throughout life. “Health begins with healthy gums” is the slogan chosen by the EFP to remind authorities and the public that gingival health is an achievable and cost-effective way to improve general health, public health and quality of life.

By joining European Gum Health Day 2018, more than 39 national societies of periodontology organised at the national level a wide range of public events, conferences, communication projects, periodontal check-ups and other activities, under the coordination of Dr Xavier Struillou.

EuroPerio9—The world-leading congress
Participants of the Vienna general assembly were informed of the latest preparations for EuroPerio9, which will take place in Amsterdam in the Netherlands between 20 and 23 June and is widely regarded as the world’s leading congress in periodontology and implant dentistry. The scientific programme features innovative session formats, and more than 100 presentations will be deliv-
ered by world-class speakers, supported by a record number of more than 1,700 abstracts, which will be presented via oral presentations, poster discussions and e-posters. Furthermore, the EFP officially launched the phase of international dissemination of its Perio and Caries project, supported by Colgate, which allows all EFP-affiliated societies to take advantage of a wide array of scientific and educational content, including brochures, reports, infographics, videos and other material.

The Perio and Caries awareness project builds on the knowledge extracted from Perio Workshop 2016, the top-level scientific conference organised by the EFP jointly with the European Organisation for Caries Research in November 2016 in La Granja in Spain. EFP-affiliated societies are offered all Perio and Caries publications free and encouraged to disseminate, edit or translate them if they wish. This process has proved successful with a similar initiative previously developed by the EFP, the Oral Health and Pregnancy project, supported by Oral-B, which is now being disseminated by 20 national member societies in their respective languages and countries.

**EFP Graduate Research Prizes in Periodontology**

The first prize of the EFP Graduate Research Prizes in Periodontology, which is given to the best research from EFP-accredited graduate perio programmes, was awarded to the study “At least three phenotypes exist among periodontitis patients”, authored by Dr Chryssa Delatola, Prof. Bruno Loos, Dr Evgeni Levin and Dr Marja Laine from the Netherlands. The second prize was given to research titled “Reduced platelet hyper-reactivity and platelet-leukocyte aggregation after periodontal therapy”, a paper written by Dr Efthymios Arvanitidis, Dr Sergio Bizzarro, Dr Elena Álvarez Rodríguez, Prof. Bruno Loos and Dr Elena Nicu, also from the Netherlands. The third prize went to the study “Oral health in relation to all-cause mortality: The IPC cohort study”, authored by Dr Nicolas Danchin from France, Prof. David Batty from the UK and Prof. Philippe Bouchard from France. Concerning personal recognition, Prof. Jan Wennström received the EFP Distinguished Scientist Award, and Prof. Stefan Renvert the EFP Distinguished Service Award.

**Strengthening the message**

“As the EFP reinforces its leadership and its role as the world benchmark in gingival health and periodontal disease, it is time for us to strengthen the message that gingival health brings not only oral health but also overall health, well-being and quality of life throughout a whole lifetime, and particularly among the population aged over 60,” highlighted Sculean. “I am deeply happy and honoured to lead this exciting time for the EFP and for periodontology in Europe, as we will keep working on promoting its acknowledgement as a recognised dental specialty in all EFP countries, and on turning it into an area of interest for dentists, dental students and patients across Europe.”

Wimmer said, “I am proud that this 2018 general assembly has brought together here in Vienna many of the most brilliant periodontal scientists, clinicians and teachers in the world, to review progress made over the last year and to prepare future action with the aim of tackling the hidden epidemic of periodontal disease. Now I’m ready to continue to contribute to the success of exciting forthcoming EFP projects, starting with EuroPerio9 next June.”

Other major outcomes of the Vienna general assembly were the launch of the EFP app for accessing key EFP content via smartphones and tablets, recognition of the Lithuanian periodontology society as a full-member society and the decision to hold Perio Master Clinic 2019 in Hong Kong next year.

**EFP—The global benchmark in periodontology**

The EFP is the driving force behind EuroPerio—the world’s leading congress in periodontology and implant dentistry—and Perio Workshop, a globally leading meeting on periodontal science. It is an umbrella non-profit organisation that brings together 30 national scientific societies of periodontology in Europe, northern Africa and the Middle East, which together comprise about 14,000 specialist dentists, researchers and other members of the dental team focused on improving periodontal science and practice. The EFP also edits the Journal of Clinical Periodontology, one of the most authoritative scientific publications in this field.

More information can be obtained at www.efp.org.
This year’s EuroPerio, the world’s leading congress in periodontology and implant dentistry, is expected to attract up to 10,000 periodontists and members of the dental team to learn about the latest in periodontal research and clinical practice, in June in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. In this interview, Prof. Søren Jepsen, past President of the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) and Scientific Chair of EuroPerio9, outlines the event’s scientific programme, which features more than 100 top-level speakers and many innovations. The detailed programme is available at www.efp.org/europerio9/programme/scientific/index.html.

Why should a dentist or a hygienist consider attending EuroPerio9?
Because EuroPerio9 is their opportunity to obtain the best insight on periodontology and implant dentistry available in the world until 2021—when EuroPerio10 takes place. EuroPerio9 has gathered the best pool of talented speakers from Europe and around the world for an audience that is increasingly global too. We’ll enjoy a great venue in a city as attractive and well-connected as Amsterdam. And then there are the events of the networking programme, the fact that all happens in only four days and the choice between four parallel tracks of presentations according to the attendee’s interests. All in all, attending EuroPerio9 is the most enjoyable and cost-effective way to be fully updated on the best in periodontology and implant dentistry available today.

Will EuroPerio9 be similar to EuroPerio8 (London, UK, 2015) and EuroPerio7 (Vienna, Austria, 2012)?
It will be definitely unique! We have created the Team Session track, which is more inclusive than the previous separate track for dental hygienists. We have added more sessions on the afternoon of Wednesday, 20 June, to take better advantage of the time before the official opening ceremony. We have arranged sessions in such a way that many more dental professionals will be able to present their short oral presentations and posters for discussion. We have included the well-established stars in the specialty and have more women speakers and young speakers than ever before. We have built on the best of our successful experiences and we have added a number of new formats.

What are those new formats?
We have designed eight new formats. First, on the opening day, we will have a special double session with the Japanese Society of Periodontology, one on biofilm and anti-infective therapy, the other on regenerative periodontal and implant therapy. Second, the Perio Talks will offer fresh, TED Talk-style presentations given at the first EFP Alumni Symposium. Third is a lively debate about the use of antibiotics, led by Profs. Andrea Mombelli and David Herrera, in which attendees will be able to use their smartphones as voting devices. Fourth, for the first time, a live surgery session will take place at a EuroPerio congress. A new, rarely performed procedure with implants will be carried out by Prof. Giovanni Zucchelli and Dr Martina Stefanini at the Academisch Centrum Tandheelkunde Amsterdam dental school and broadcast in real time.

The fifth major innovation is the interdisciplinary treatment planning session, in which cases will be shown and the audience will choose between different options for treatment. Sixth is a 3-D session with Dr Pierpaolo Cortellini and Prof. Stefan Renvert on reconstructive surgery on teeth and implants, in a large auditorium. Seventh is the EFP Perio Contest, for which presentations are being judged not only by an expert panel but also by social media voting in the days before EuroPerio9. The three final contestants will be invited to present their work on stage on the last day of the congress. Eighth is the Nightmare Session, in which Drs Mario Roccuzzo, Giulio Rasperini, Jean-Louis Giovannoli and Caroline Fouque will explore treatments that went badly.

Being Scientific Chair of EuroPerio9 sounds like quite a challenge. How has the experience been?
It is, indeed, an incredible challenge, but also an opportunity to work with a wonderful team of periodontists and professional organisers. Together, we have worked hard to put together a high-quality programme with the latest research in the field, the best professionals and the new formats I mentioned. I hope that EuroPerio9 will provide attendees with a fruitful and unforgettable experience!
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International Events

EuroPerio9
20-23 June 2018
Amsterdam, Netherlands
www.efp.org/europerio9

HKIDEAS
24-26 August 2018
Hong Kong
www.hkideas.org

FDI World Dental Congress
5–8 September 2018
Buenos Aires, Argentina
www.world-dental-congress.org

67th AAID Annual Conference
26–29 September 2018
Dallas, USA
www.aaid.com

ICOCI WORLD CONGRESS XXXVI
27–29 September 2018
Las Vegas, USA
www.icoi.org

EAO Congress
11–13 October 2018
Vienna, Austria
www.eao-congress.com

AAP Annual Meeting
27–30 October 2018
Vancouver, Canada
www.perio.org

DenTech China – Exhibition & Symposium
31 October – 2 November 2018
Shanghai, China
http://www.dentech.com.cn

Expo-Dentária
8–10 November 2018
Porto, Portugal

GNYDM
25–28 November 2018
New York, USA
www.gnydm.com