At the beginning of June, dental professionals from all over Europe gathered at the Reed Exhibitions Congress Center in Vienna for the Europerio 7 congress. The scientific event, organised by the Austrian Society of Periodontology on behalf of the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP), presented the latest research and technology in the fields of periodontology and dental implantology over the course of three days.

The congress was opened in the presence of representatives of 26 member associations of the EFP, who presented on stage with their respective flags during the welcome ceremony. Among others, the delegates were addressed by EFP General Secretary Stefan Renvert (Sweden) and Chairman of the Europerio 7 Organising Committee Dr Gernot Wimmer (Austria), who also paid tribute to several members of the Vienna School and pioneers in oral biology, including Rudolf Kronfeld and Bernhard Gottlieb, after whom the Medical University of Vienna’s dental school was named.

“Thanks to the work of many, we have a fantastic congress ahead of us,” Renvert said in the lead up to the conference.

According to the organiser, Europerio 7 was aimed at both general practitioners and specialists. Over 100 speakers from Europe and overseas presented the latest insights into the management and treatment of periodontal disease, as well as aspects of dental implant therapy, in over 60 lectures and workshops. A large number of sessions were dedicated to pre-existing medical conditions. In two of the main sessions (periodontal medicine, and risk factors and their management), reference were made to important associations with diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease, the organiser said.
The scientific programme started with presentations on periodontal plastic surgery and new insights into the host response in periodontitis, alongside sessions on computer-guided treatment in dental implantology and dental hygiene. In addition, posters were presented throughout the day. According to the organiser, over 1,300 abstracts were submitted for Europerio 7, a 60 per cent increase compared with the last congress.

The event received support by a number of major industry players, including Straumann, Philips, Acteon, MIS and Nobel Biocare, which sponsored a number of seminars and corporate workshops during Europerio 7. New products and technologies were on display during the trade exhibition, which was joined by over 100 companies from around the globe.

"With its particular emphasis on research that will address the global scientific community and give them a forum, my expectations for this conference and its reception are especially high," Dr Gernot Wimmer told Dental Tribune Austrian Edition. "From a professional viewpoint, I am eager to see the results of the attendance at our different events, as these evaluations will be vital for the planning of future congresses."

This year was the seventh time that the EFP had organised the congress in collaboration with one of its member periodontal societies. The federation, which is based in Madrid, was founded in 1981 in order to facilitate research in periodontology and dental implantology. Its main congress is held every three years in different host cities in Europe. The last congress in Stockholm in 2009 saw the attendance of over 6,600 visitors from 82 countries.

The next Europerio congress will be held in 2015 in London.