Raising awareness of the importance of keeping gingivae healthy throughout a whole lifetime, particularly among people aged over 60, is one of the new 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 in June.

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, to be 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 25 national societies of periodontology are organising 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, who is making sure that their messages are aligned.

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. Registration for EuroPerio9 is open and attracting numerous attendees, journalists and companies. The recently finalised 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 Bizarro, 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’ll 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.