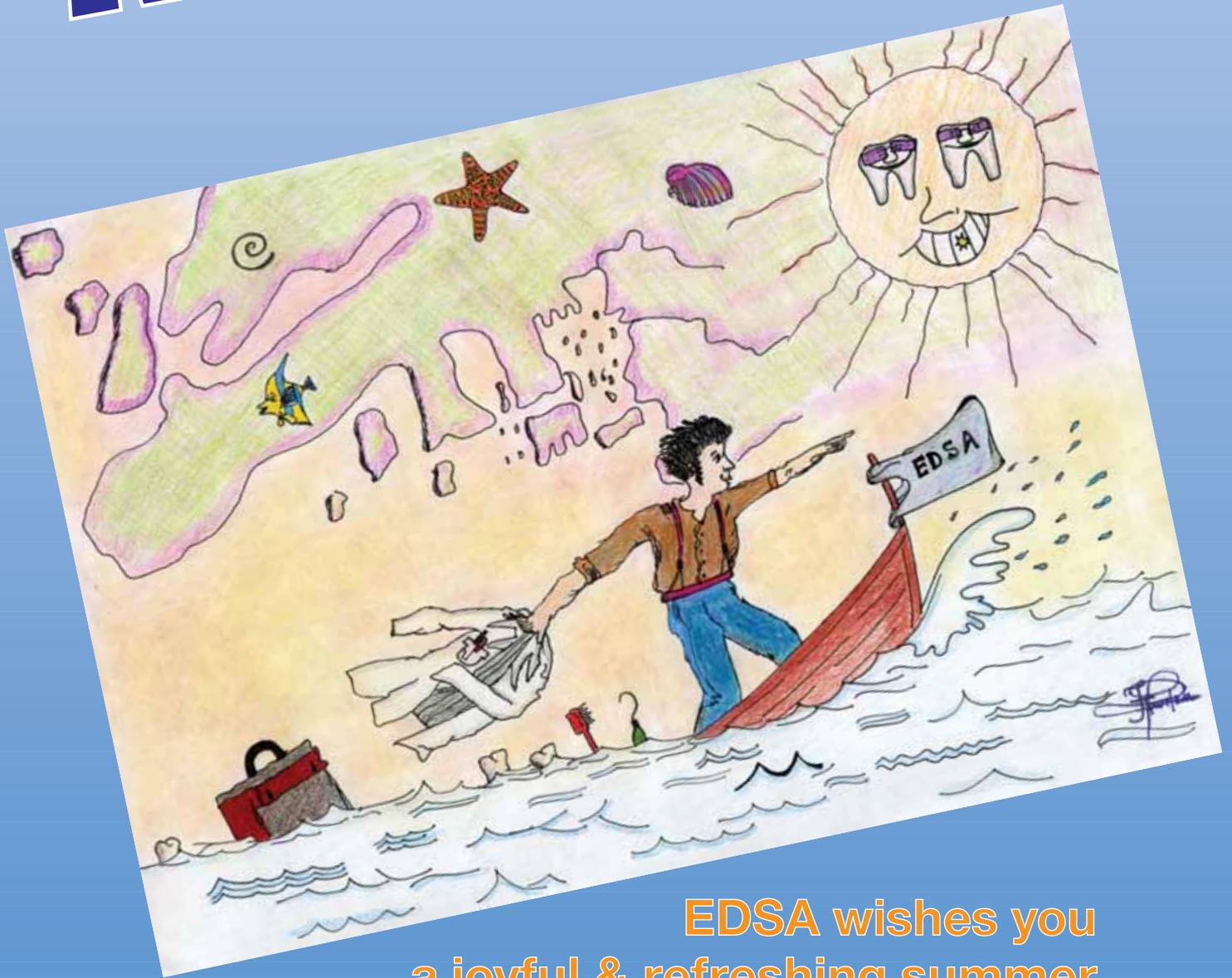


EDSA
MAGAZINE
SUMMER 2002



EDSA wishes you
a joyful & refreshing summer
and a fruitful new academic year!



LET'S OPEN UP NEW HORIZONS, LET'S BLAZE A TRAIL, LET'S OPEN OUR WINGS TO FLY...

Dear EDSA Friends and Fellow Colleagues,
Welcome to the new issue of the EDSA magazine!
I hope that you had a wonderful, relaxing and unforgettable summer and that now you are full of energy for the new academic year!

My name is Maria Protopapadaki and I am a 4th year student in the Dental faculty of Athens, Hellas. I am the new EDSA editor and promise to make this means of communication even more interesting and attractive. Therefore, I would like to ask you all to contribute to this effort by sending your articles and sharing your thoughts, opinions, news and experiences.

One of the most important events during 2002 was the XXIX EDSA meeting which was held in Athens from the 20th to the 24th of February. We evaluated the steady progress of EDSA and reinforced our ambitions for information and dental students' actual involvement in education and dental life.

Coupled with that, we were more than glad to guide our European colleagues through the historical sights of Athens and encourage them to taste the nightlife and the more traditional aspects of Hellas. After the meeting, an excursion took place in Kalavryta, a mountainous region in the Peloponnese. The delegates had the chance to relax in the Hellenic surroundings, get closer to each other and sense the feeling of being a family; the EDSA family...

In April, an additional meeting took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in order to discuss some crucial subjects that had come up and as well as to coordinate our work for the coming months. We also had the chance to meet Professor Scaleric, who gave us a very warm welcome. Our Slovenian colleagues offered us hospitality and showed us around to the picturesque city of Ljubljana.

The XXX EDSA meeting is taking place in Ljubljana,

in September 2002, along with the XXVIII Annual Meeting of the ADEE. A large number of participants are awaited and we hope to see you all there to savor the EDSA spirit!

Moreover, please take a look at our renewed website (<http://edsa.globaldent.com>), which we hope will provide you with some useful and versatile information, and give you the opportunity to subscribe to the EDSA e-group, if you haven't already done so! In this way, you will be able to actively take part in EDSA discussions and be aware of EDSA announcements.

Finally, I wish you a profitable, prosperous and, mainly, pleasant "travel" through the pages of this EDSA magazine! I leave you to enjoy it in the hope that it will trigger off your desire to become actively involved in the diverse activities of such a promising and successful association...

Best regards...

Maria Protopapadaki
EDSA editor
Athens, HELLAS



Special thanks to Ioana Protopapadaki for sketching the cover page.

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EDSA MAGAZINE, Journal of the E.C. Dental Students Committee; Publisher: H. W. Haase; Editors: see “EDSA Committee” below.
Editorial Office: Quintessenz Verlags-GmbH, Ifenpfad 2-4, D-12107 Berlin, phone: +4930 761 80-5, fax: +4930 761 80-680

Managing Editor: C. Klose; Production Manager: T. Pricker; Subscription Manager: A. Köthe; Advertising Sales Manager: S. Kwiatkowski
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THE CIRCLE OF EDSA's LIFE

Dear European Friends & Colleagues,
During the last 3 years that I have been the editor of the EDSA magazine, I have greatly enjoyed reading your articles. Through your articles, I managed to "visit" several Dental faculties of Europe, to appreciate the scientific and research work being done by you, and to learn about your ideas, proposals and worries concerning the dental profession, just as it is being reformed within the European region.

Together, we shared fantastic memories from congresses, EDSA meetings and several other dental events that were held all over Europe on a frequent basis. We exchanged our scientific points of view as well as our cultural elements, and all that always led to the unique feeling that we are "one", a solid powerful unit, which by taking its strength from its heterogeneous nature can perform a leading role in the European dental community of the new century.

This belief of mine has been based on my 5-year experience whilst belonging to the EDSA. During these many years, I have met a lot of people, made several real friends and my life has been greatly enriched both by those who I got along with as well as by those whose character was, maybe, not quite that "compatible" with mine. In EDSA all the basic social rules apply, but the main issue here is that those "unwritten rules" clearly characterize a well-structured and highly civilized organization, the "EDSA society". This is the element that makes EDSA so unique and positively distinguished.

Thus, just like any other living society or living organism, the EDSA has its own circle of life. "Old" faces give way to new and to those who have the

zest to fight for the dental students' rights and needs. This is the only way for any successful association, just like the EDSA, to preserve its fresh and dynamic character.

With great pleasure I present you the new magazine editor, Ms Maria Protopapadaki from Hellas, and the new magazine co-editor, Mr Johnny Kåldstrom, from Sweden. Both of them are hard working, reliable and willing to give their best to the EDSA, that means to you all!

As far as the "oldies" are concerned, it's time for them to move on to their dental careers, keeping in mind all the memories and the ideals they adopted during their active involvement in EDSA. You see, no matter how much you love your family, there comes a time when you should leave it and fly with your own wings. When the family is a healthy and balanced one, then one has nothing to be afraid of and can face the future with optimism. This is precisely how my "EDSA family" brought me up...

GOOD LUCK & ALL THE BEST!

Dr Vasiliki Karathanasi, DDS
EDSA president,
Athens, HELLAS



ACQUAINTANCE WITH EDSA

Dear EDSA Friends!

My name is Johnny Kåldström. I am a 25 year old, 5th year dental student at the Dental faculty of Umeå, Sweden. I am the new EDSA treasurer, as well as the new co-editor of the EDSA magazine.

EDSA Goals are to:

- Inform students about the E.C. organisation and politics in relation to dentistry;
- Promote, inquire and describe the standardization of dental curricula within Europe;
- Promote exchange programmes and encourage students to take part in these programmes;
- Encourage national dental students' associations to co-operate on a national level;
- Create possibilities to encourage students to meet each other on an individual level.

In order to achieve these goals, EDSA is constantly on the move. Twice a year, all the delegates of the European Dental Students Association come together to brainstorm for new projects and keep improving on existing ones. Furthermore, we discuss dental politics, social and domestic affairs. Representatives of the national members (full, affiliate and prospective) attend these general assemblies.

It would take too long to name all the activities and projects of EDSA. Therefore, we would like to summarise the most important ones, so as to give you an impression of what the committee does to achieve its goals.

- EDSA magazine: Editorial staff take care of the production of the magazine which is distributed to each dental student in Europe free of charge.

- Congress for European Dental Students: This congress takes place every second year. Students from around Europe can attend the lectures, exchange ideas and socialize.

- EDSA website: Here you can get useful information at <http://edsa.globaldent.com>. Additionally, you can subscribe to the EDSA e-group (edsafriends@yahoo.com).

- Participation in the DentEd Thematic Network Project: The project's purpose is to converge towards higher standards of dental education within Europe.

- European Dental Guide (EDG): Contains information about addresses and curriculum of the European Dental faculties, further helps in the

comparison and the convergence of dental studies around Europe and promotes exchanges.

- E-library: Through internet you can be provided with projects carried out by students. And, if you wish, you can have yours published as well!

- Anti-tobacco campaign, other surveys and joint-workshops.

- External relations: The EDSA has relations with a lot of associations, such as IADS (International Association of Dental Students), ADEE (Association for Dental Education in Europe), EPSA and EMSA (European Pharmaceutical and Medical Students Association), Comité de liaison (gathering of the national associations of the dental profession of the European Community), FDI-EURO (Fédération Dentaire Internationale – European Region).

The enormous steps, which the EDSA has achieved, have only been possible due to the invaluable and enthusiastic efforts of the EDSA participants and the financial support of companies, organisations, Dental schools and official committees within Europe. The continuing work of the EDSA needs, however, constant support of all of you. It is therefore of utmost importance that every country-member pays the annual membership fee in order to enable the continued running of the activities. Support does, however, not mean money alone. Ideas, commitment, encouragement and participation are indeed all highly and always welcome.

Best regards,
Johnny Kåldström
EDSA treasurer & co-editor
Umeå, SWEDEN



EDSA delegation at the IADS Mid-Year Meeting in Prague
From left to right: Jure Poglajen (Slovenia), Kristin Nielsen (Norway), Maria Protopapadaki (Hellas), Mark Flynn (Ireland) and 2 IADS delegates.

29th EDSA MEETING ATHENS, HELLAS February 20th to 24th, 2002

One of the most important events of the EDSA in 2002 was the 29th meeting which took place in the 3.500-year-old city of Athens, Hellas.

The meeting was flawlessly organized by the EDSA president, Vasia Karathanasi, and the other Hellenic delegates, Maria Protopapadaki and Kimon Divaris. EDSA delegates from many other countries – Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Romania, Spain, Slovenia, Serbia & Montenegro (previously known as Yugoslavia), Turkey, Poland and Bosnia & Herzegovina – were fortunate enough to learn more about Athens, the city, where the past meets the present and the East meets the West.



The EDSA delegates after the meeting at the Dental Faculty of Athens

We had a very fruitful meeting, at which a variety of issues were discussed and crucial decisions were made. All of the delegates took active part in the discussions and seemed to be very willing to work hard for the interests of dental students all over Europe.

The delegates had the chance to visit the clinics and the laboratories of the faculty of dentistry of Athens and talk to the professors, assistants and fellow students about many aspects of dental education in Hellas.

The actual meetings were held at different loca-



The laboratory with the phantoms

tions. The 29th meeting was opened in the Room of the General Assembly at the faculty. We then proceeded to the Central University (where the final meeting took place as well). The next day, a visit to the Old University was planned. This building was the first home of the University of Athens, which was turned into a museum later on. We saw a rich collection of old medical and dental instruments and books and the apparatus for chemistry, physics and pharmacology. Some of us even tried starting the old dental chair mechanism, but it turned out to be very difficult to operate. After visiting the museum, we held another meeting at the old university.

In between meetings we managed to do a bit of sightseeing. We took a journey back into the past by visiting the famous Acropolis. We also saw Herodion – the ancient Theatre –, the Parliament – where we watched the changing of the National Guard (evzones) in front of the tomb of the unknown soldier, then the Mitropoli (central church for the whole of Hellas) and many other old Christian churches. We walked a lot through the picturesque areas of Athens, like Monastiraki, Plaka, Kolonaki, etc. What one realizes after visiting Athens is that the whole city is a museum in which you can find lots and lots of fascinating exhibits. Each building, each stone, each

destroyed or remaining wall has its own amazing story to tell. We had the chance to experience the Hellenic nights out as well. We visited authentic Hellenic taverns in Plaka, where tasty Hellenic food and special Hellenic Wine, Retsina and Ouzo, were served and where everyone danced to the sounds of traditional Hellenic music. This was quite an experience for those who never had the chance to visit Hellas before. After one of the dinners in Hellenic taverns, our hosts gave us a present – an atlas of stomatology named “Oral Lesions In The Oncology Patients”, written by Prof. Dr Ourania Nicolatou-Galatis. Besides the “Hellenic nights”, we also visited clubs which were very similar to clubs in other European countries, though some of them had a slight Hellenic influence regarding the music, and this made them very interesting, especially for foreigners.

Speaking of music, during an hour-long ride on the coach, we started something that we hope will become the EDSA tradition – EDSAvision. A few of us on the bus asked Mark and David (delegates from Ireland) to sing a few Irish songs, and after that other delegates spontaneously started singing songs from their own countries. In the end everyone voted, and the winner of the first unofficial EDSAvision was Taha from Turkey (most of the EDSA delegates were obviously bewitched by the sounds of oriental music originally sung by Tarkan – a well-known music star in Turkey). Our colleagues from Slovenia have announced that the first official EDSAvision competition will take place during the 30th EDSA meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Unfortunately, time passed rather quickly and before I knew it, I was on the plane back to Belgrade, feeling a bit tired, but satisfied, and trying to gather my impressions about the EDSA and Athens. This was the first EDSA meeting I have attended, and the first time that I actually met the people from the EDSA with whom I had exchanged numerous e-mails before. I was very lucky to get the opportunity to meet the EDSA family and become a part of it. I thank you all very much!

Well, my dear colleagues, I tried to picture the meeting and the city of Athens to those of you who were not able to attend it, but I simply can't express everything through words and in such limited space. Hopefully, the pictures which accompany this text will help a bit.



The EDSA delegates in front of the Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



The EDSA delegates in Acropolis, in front of the Kariatides

Hope to see you all soon in Ljubljana!

Neda Stefanovic
EDSA delegate
Faculty of Stomatology
University of Belgrade
SERBIA & MONTENEGRO



FORTHCOMING MEETING... USEFUL TIPS

Dear Colleagues!

It is my pleasure to announce to you that the 30th EDSA meeting will be held from the 4th to the 9th September 2002 in the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana. In this article I would like to put forward some useful advice on how to properly organize such an important event for EDSA.

First of all, this is not an one-man type of work. One should "recruit" a solid group of trustful and capable people and be only the leader of that team. I would strongly suggest that your local students' organization elects this group so as to avoid any possible future misunderstandings. The elected organizing committee should be more or less independent in all its activities in order to complete its mission. The president of the group should divide the tasks to each member. My personal experience shows, these tasks should be:

- raising money from donators;
- communication–web master;
- designing (posters, application form, leaflets...);
- providing accommodation and meals;
- presidency–communication with the local students organization and co-ordination of all other activities

SPONSORSHIP

In order to find financial sponsor-

ship, one should use all of his/her personal contacts and connections, as well as the possibility of school funding. For the September EDSA meeting, we managed to raise money mainly from private doctors and small companies, but on the other hand, we failed to get sponsorship from big pharmaceutical companies. Nevertheless we succeeded in raising enough money to cover all planned expenses for the meeting.

Some advice before you start: collecting money is that you should make sure that all the money raised will be used only for EDSA purposes and not for other activities of your local organization.

The organizing committee should make a financial plan in order to show all the incomes and expenses. One should set the application fees in advance, even before all the planned money is raised. Most of the expenses should be covered by the fees and the rest by the sponsors. The committee should set the deadline, or better two dead lines (the second one with a higher price) for applying to the meeting. For the Ljubljana meeting, the deadlines were the 31st May and the 31st July 2002.

COMMUNICATION

One of the committee members should be responsible for inform-



The poster for the 30th EDSA Meeting

ing the EDSA members in Europe and providing them with all the necessary data (invitation letter – usually written by the president – application form, programme...). He /She should act as a kind of spokesman/woman, who also manages the computer and the internet communication (EDSAfriends@yahoo.com).

DESIGN

This kind of job requires an individual who has artistic ambitions/creative abilities. His/ her job would be to design posters, letters, leaflets...

PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

The committee should try its best to take appropriate accommodation bookings during the meeting, as far as the price and the location are concerned. For

the Ljubljana meeting, we picked a small hotel 10 minutes away from the conference hall by bus. Most of the meals are being sponsored and that should help reduce the fees.

THE PRESIDENT

has an essential role in organizing the meeting. He/She is the one responsible for co-ordinating and supervising the work of all the other members. His/Her task is also to raise money from the faculty and local students' association, as well.

On the 29th EDSA meeting in Athens, the european organizing committee for the next EDSA meeting was founded. The countries elected for the european committee were: Slovenia, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro, Spain, Norway and Bosnia & Herzegovina. This committee should be in close relations and assistance to the Slovenian national organizing committee

and its most important task should be to provide all the necessary information to their local neighbouring countries. This has proved to be a brilliant idea and I propose the same should be done for every future EDSA meeting or congress.

From the 19th till the 21st of April 2002, we organized the Ljubljana EDSA pre-meeting. The idea was to get the international organizing committee, as well as EDSA ex-co-members, familiar with the sight of the future meeting and also to discuss other important topics. Seven EDSA delegates came to Ljubljana, and the Slovenian hosts presented Slovenia in its best light. We visited Piran and Potroroz, two of the resorts on Slovenian coast, and the mountain region of Slovenia as well (Bohinj and Bled). The meeting was held in the Ljubljana dental clinic, where we also met with Professor Skaleric, who is the President of the local

organizing committee for the ADEE meeting in September 2002. The discussion with Professor Skaleric was of major importance to us, because it is planned to have a joint workshop with the ADEE in September.

As the pre-meeting in April was so successful I strongly believe that the September Ljubljana meeting will continue this trend and I really look forward to welcoming you there.

For further information please do not hesitate to call me or send me an e-mail:

Jure Poglajen
Rojceva 26
1000 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA
Phone: +386 41 71 78 75
E-mail: dens@dr.com

Best wishes,
Jure Poglajen
President of the organizing committee for the 30th EDSA Ljubljana meeting



Bled

E-LIBRARY: A new opportunity for student research



A new facility has been added to the EDSA website, making student research much more accessible on the internet than has ever been possible. The idea for the project was conceived by Marius Bud from Romania and co-ordinated by Marius and myself. We realised that so much valuable research is carried out by dental students and yet most of this is never published or made accessible to students outside of where the research took place. Therefore, we decided that, in accordance with the educational goals of EDSA, we could provide a database where students could have their research made available to students

throughout Europe and beyond. Currently, the e-library contains the titles and abstracts from projects carried out and the e-mail addresses of the authors so that if someone is interested in reading more about a particular area of study or would like to challenge the ideas put forward, they can get in contact directly with the author.

There is also a forum, so that ideas can be discussed publicly as well as personally. This facility can be used to discuss ideas and concepts in the database, but also to discover if students from different countries share the same ideas and to propose joint projects between countries,

which would be a new departure for students. The projects are currently classified as literature reviews or personal research, but anything is welcome.

With the growing tendency towards distance learning in Europe, this facility could prove to be an invaluable source of knowledge for students everywhere. This will only happen if the e-library becomes a vibrant, up-to-the-minute database with constant input from all over Europe. Therefore, I urge you to start using this facility. Send us your work, past and present, and get the acknowledgement you deserve!

If you would like to visit the e-library, please visit the EDSA website (edsa.globaldent.com) and follow the link to the library.

Mark Flynn
Vice-president EDSA
Co-ordinator of EDS e-library
Dublin, IRELAND

A FLOURISHING CO-OPERATION

Dear Friends,
As the new president of the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association, it is my pleasure to introduce our organization to you.

What is EPSA?

EPSA is the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association. We represent pharmacy students in 33 countries in Europe and have over 120.000 members.

What are our aims?

"To develop the interests and opinions of European pharmacy students and encourage the contact and co-operation between them."

- Permanent contact and exchange of information for and between pharmacy students. (For instance via our newsletter and internet; www2.pharmweb.net/epsa)
- Development of a consensus of opinion on the pharmaceutical education and other relevant issues and present them to the professional organisations. (We do this within our activities, like our congress and present our statements of opinion in report booklets.)
- Organisation of activities to increase the profile of pharmacy students and the profession. (We offer activities like our

mobility project to increase students' profile on pharmacy.)

A quick look at some of the activities we have organized:

Summer University

(13th–19th July)

greeksu2002@hotmail.com

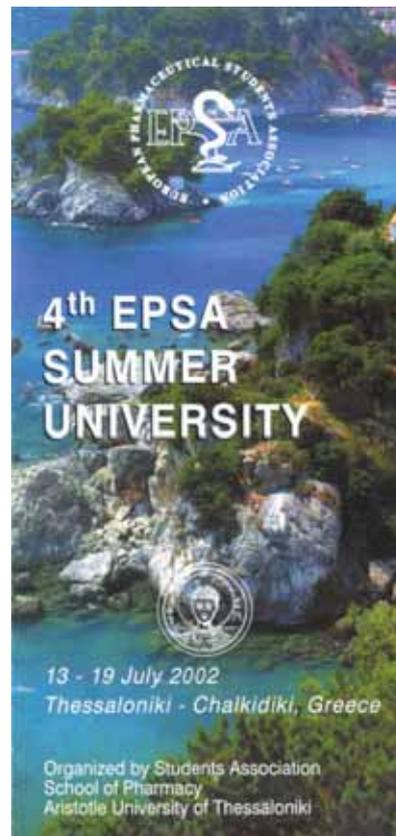
In July, a very sunny event has been organized, the summer university, well known for its sports events, sun, sea and beach parties. In the morning, there are workshops, panels and lectures on various interesting topics in the pharmaceutical health care system.

This year is the first time that EDSA students are welcome to attend this event. Since we are going to work together in the health care system eventually, we should already use our allied organizations to learn from each other. In this way, we can start at student level to learn to work together as healthcare professionals, improving individual pharmaceutical care. Hopefully this will lead to more future collaboration.

This year, the Summer University has been organized in Hellas under the heading: "The Development of Pharmaceutical Science". Since this event is already past you should be there next year!

Congress (April)

This is our annual event, where our annual General Assembly is



held. This year's annual topic and 26th congress topic is innovative drugs and generics. The 26th congress will be held in Slovenia. Our 25th congress was recently held in Zagreb, Croatia, on Pharmaco-economics.

If you would like to view one of the press releases, please visit <http://www.pharmj.com/Editorial/20020413/forum/forum.html>

4th EPSA/ESCP Symposium

(29th and 30th October)

www.escp.nl

Every year our students' symposium is organized. We do this in co-operation with the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy (ESCP). This year's event will be an innovation in drug therapy.

From this year on, during this event, our second annual meeting will take place in order to remain in more regular contact with our active members, to focus more on our local membership needs and to take some of the workload off of our annual congress.

Mobility

The most important part of mobility are the databases on the internet. These contain general information about our member-countries and their pharmacy curricula. EPSA will be hosting an online-database on available research-projects and job-vacancies. We are currently finishing off this project.

Along with this, we stimulate exchanges between member-countries and promote activities that our member-countries organize, in order to create awareness of what is being organised in Europe and to let our mem-

bers profit from our organization's structure.

Newsletter, Internet, Publications

We publish a newsletter three times a year. In co-operation with the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Sciences, EUFEPS, we are currently busy with the introduction of scientific topics into the newsletter.

It is possible for students to publish articles on their research internationally. For this we have a scientific sub-committee working together with EUFEPS. More information about activities and programmes we organize can be

found on our website:
www2.pharmweb.net/epsa

I look forward to meeting you at one of our events or at one of the EDSA activities we will be participating in. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. For further information on EPSA (including details about individual membership) visit our website.

Yours in pharmacy,

Jorrit Neumann
EPSA president
The Netherlands

AISO and EDSA: A FUTURE PARTNERSHIP

AISO is the first and eldest dental student association in Italy. It was founded in 1983 and includes hundreds of associated students.

The aim of this association is to gather together mostly Italian dental students in order to create conscious health professionals in every dental field, competent in solving all related problems. In this way the association guarantees the dissemination and the discussion of the various aspects of dentistry, using the internet (www.aiso.it) and a quarterly magazine: The GO (Giovane Odontoiatria).

This association is directed by an executive committee composed of 5 members, who co-ordinate the local student representatives in every Italian Dental school.

In the international arena, AISO would like to establish a formal and active relationship with other associations in Europe. For this reason in Ljubljana, Slovenia in September, the AISO and EDSA partnership will



be determined, during the 28th International Meeting of ADEE.

The previous two ADEE meetings, which took place in Stockholm (Sweden) and Bern (Switzerland), were attended by an Italian students' delegation from the University of Brescia, where the Italian NEO is based. There the EDSA demonstrated a positive and efficient participation as an official ADEE partner, organizing very interesting workshops regarding the Evidence Based Dentistry, and the Problem Based Learning. The Italian delegation participated in these workshops and realized the high scientific and cultural results reached by EDSA. These workshops permitted the various student

delegations from the most parts of Europe to make a comparison between their specific situation regarding the learning process.

Not only the scientific and cultural aspects were flawlessly organized, allowing the participation at wonderful parties (dancing all night long) and cultural activities in the meeting location.

These are some of the reasons why AISO wants to formalize a positive partnership with EDSA, which has shown itself to be a very professional and functional association. AISO are honoured to be working with EDSA in order to create future projects in dentistry and exchange student programmes at every European Dental school.

Giovanni Pisoni
EDSA delegate
Italian National Exchange Officer
Brescia, ITALY

TRENDS & PROSPECTS OF DENTAL EDUCATION

Dentistry, similarly to all fields of science, is based on two fundamental areas: Research and education. Research is conducted by a specifically dedicated part of the academic society, producing innovations on techniques and materials and enhancing the underlying biological background. The conclusions of the influx of research data after being thoroughly assessed and discussed, are gradually introduced to general dental practice; a procedure which lasts several years, in some cases exceeding a decade.

The link between research and applied dentistry is far from clear and direct, as in most cases, researchers are not involved in private practice and vice versa. It is apparent at this point, that life-long learning is necessary if the practitioner is willing to serve his patients with the best treatment modalities available. Therefore, the question remains as to who decides upon the innovations or evolvments that will become part of the dentist's "weaponry". Especially nowadays, views such as "time will decide" and "we are taught by our mistakes" are incompatible with the high demands and standards society has set for health services; a holistic approach is demanded. There is no doubt, that education serves as the vital crossroad between research and dental practice. Students are provided

with the necessary physio-biological background and thus, are able to study the applied science in depth. Studying is definitely one of the most misinterpreted or misunderstood aspects of education; primarily because studying is often replaced by "accumulating written knowledge" or, even worse "passing exams". Responsibility cannot be attached solely to either students or educators. In most educational systems applied in Europe, students still retain a passive role in the process, not allowing them to assess the output, neither have an influential role in the evolvement of the curricula. Equally, the vast majority

of educators lack the ability or the experience of applying interactivity and modern teaching methods, resulting in reduced interest from both sides.

During the last decade, the actual role of education has been discussed thoroughly from various points of view. Above all, it is emphasized that the leading role of education is that students, future dentists, learn how to learn. In a rapidly changing reality, acquiring standardized knowledge cannot be enough; textbooks become outdated sooner or later and indisputable "golden" rules sometimes change. Therefore, it is compulsory that the dentist, as every sci-



entist, is able to choose his sources and acquire the latest knowledge himself, even at undergraduate level.

It is indeed impressive that educational variability is based not on the content but on the educational model that is applied. One procedure can be read by students from textbooks, presented to them including audiovisual features, shown on instructive video lessons or applied on simulation models. In different fields, either of these approaches or another one may be the most effective; in fact, some students may deviate from the majority and show better results using a less popular method. At this point, it is obvious that there is no universally successful “modern” educational model, as students’ needs vary nationally, regionally and individually. There can only be general, yet effective principles and guidelines that guarantee the best result from the educational process.

Above all, as aforementioned, students must be actively involved in this process. Assessment and self-assessment serve as the best consignment that there is enough feedback for the educators, a bilateral involvement; combined with interactivity and “attractive” teaching modalities that new technologies offer, ensure that students are motivated to learn and participate more actively. This involvement is essential for the actual formation of the curriculum, which should

ideally be under development on a permanent basis.

The latter is quintessential for any approach of undergraduate dental education. But still, even a modernized and updated curriculum does not guarantee a successful transmission of knowledge and skills. The newest and most efficient educational strategy at the moment seems to be the division of students into study-groups of 6 to 8, led by a tutor. The implementation of this scheme seems to facilitate the development of self-assessment, good judgement, cooperation and elaboration of knowledge, regardless of the nature of the applied curriculum, Problem Based Learning (PBL) or not. It is worth mentioning that although PBL has proved to be a superior educational approach, the enrichment of traditional lecture-based schemes seems to be a viable alternative, especially in cases where the large number of students per year undermines the formation of flexible work-groups.

Numerous studies on educational approaches clearly indicate the importance of the psychological factor as a parameter of the success of any applied scheme. According to Schmidt, three conditions play a significant role in learning:

- activation of prior knowledge,
- encoding specificity and
- elaboration of knowledge.

The implementation of self-

assessment procedures as described by Ericson, may give an important impetus even to non-PBL systems. Supplementary, the integration of continuous evaluation according to Rohlin, stresses the students’ responsibility for improvement of the educational environment.

Undoubtedly, evolvments and innovations in dental education are equally important to any new steps of clinical success. The present rapidly changing environment sets high standards for all potential health scientists and demands dentists to be adaptable to a learning society. The promotion of lifelong learning, which is critical, presupposes the cultivation of analogous attitude in undergraduate level. An attitude that motivates students to be part of the educational process and search for the knowledge that contemporary dentistry requires. A knowledge that functions as a “qualitative change of the eyes through which we interpret the surrounding world”.

Kimon Divaris
EDSA general
secretary
Athens, HELLAS



DENTISTRY IN THE ERA OF THE RENAISSANCE

The first testimonies we have concerning the dental action in the Renaissance takes us back to 1300.

The first known person who practised dentistry was the Professor of medicine *Giovanni d'Arcoli*, at the University of Bologna and Padova. Prof. Giovanni d'Arcoli used, for the first time – after the Egyptians and the ancient Greeks – an ad hoc type of pliers, which were formed in such a way that they could enter the oral cavity more easily. Moreover, he made great strides in the field of dental surgery. In one of his researches in 1400, he mentioned that in order to perform a tooth extraction, a specific powder should be placed on the gingiva. In this way, anaesthesia was achieved and then it was possible to extract the tooth responsible for the inflammation.

Let us not forget that until that period of time anaesthesia was just rudimentary in dentistry. Since the Roman era certain herbs were boiled so as to anaesthetize the patient and make tooth extraction less painful.

After Prof. Giovanni d'Arcoli, we have several testimonies that dental science flourished in Florence. Generally, during that period (1350–1500), all the sciences thrived in Florence, which was the cultural and spiritual centre not only for Italy but also



Dental examination

for the whole of Europe. What proved to be instrumental in this spiritual development is the Medici family, since they sponsored every scientist who showed signs of great development potential.

Among them, *Pietro Savonarola* proved to be an eminent scientist. Savonarola came from a small town near Florence, Prato, and stayed in the Medici Court for 30 years, as great *Lorenzo de Medici's* (*Lorenzo the Magnificent*) personal doctor. Basically, he was a doctor, but he also served as a dentist. In 1420, he wrote a treatise about oral and dental surgery. His treatise caused an actual revolution, because until then, all these who practiced dental surgery used painful means; in some cases,

they even injured the patient instead of healing him. Savonarola wrote that the filling should be made with a good quality metal and that it should be placed at the decayed tooth after the drilling with a tool called the *Pulicanum*. The *Pulicanum* is the ancestor of today's dental drill. Furthermore, Savonarola settled down to orthodontics. He wrote that the lingual inclination of the teeth does not only disfig-



Dressing after a tooth extraction

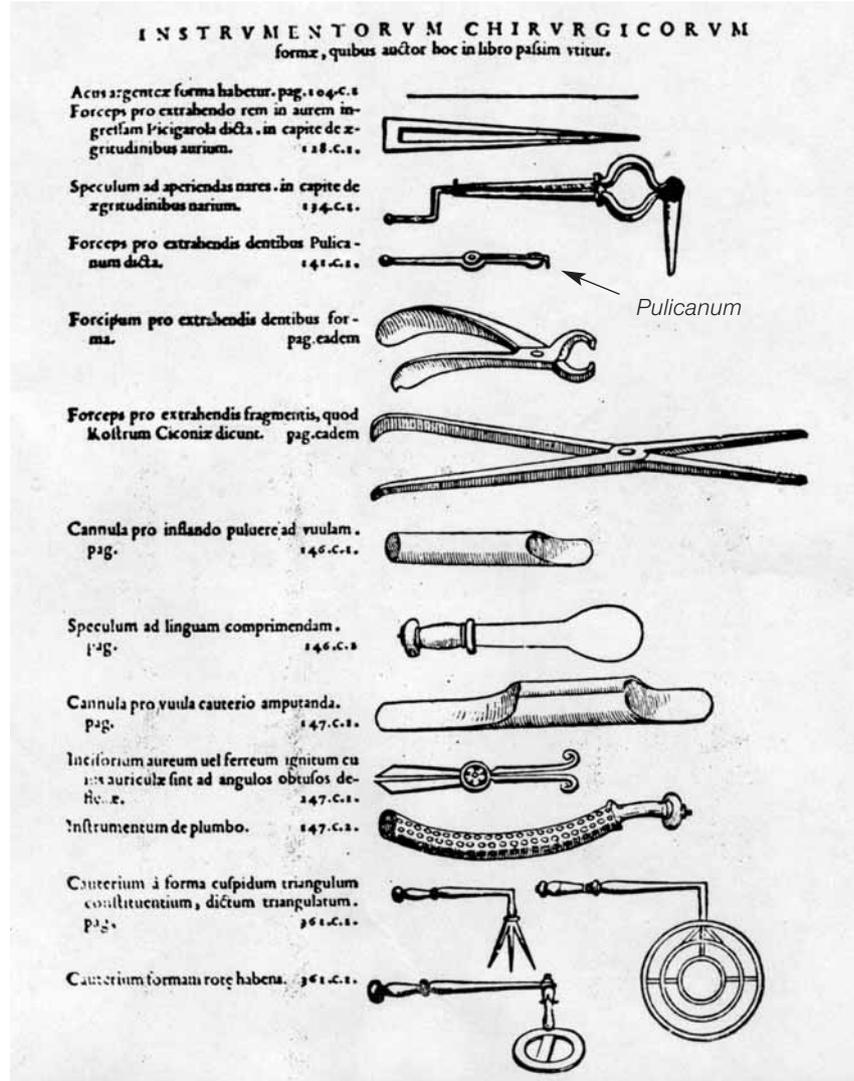
ure the face, but that it also impedes the breath, especially during sleep. He also mentioned that the teeth which don't have good occlusion, abrade to such an extent that they have to be filled afterwards.

Finally, it is essential to quote the great *Leonardo da Vinci* who dealt not only with the anatomy,



Anaesthesia

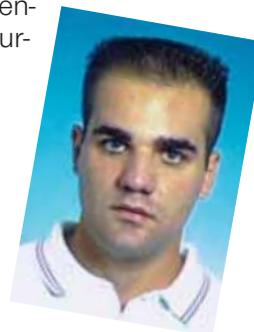
but with dentistry as well. Leonardo da Vinci overhauled the oral cavity, added to which he constructed extraordinary dental tools like the straight and the triangular pincers. He was an expert mainly in practical dentistry. He knew about the unpleasant consequences of dental caries and the necessity for their prevention, as well as the infection of the gingiva and periodontitis. Leonardo da Vinci was opposed to the monks who mainly practised dentistry before Saverio Tomacelli and claimed that anaesthesia should be done from the arm and not in the mouth in order to extract a tooth. Leonardo da Vinci proved that by administering the anaesthesia in that way, it had no effect and the patient suffered considerably during the extraction. Finally, it is also remarkable that he examined the teeth extracted from dead people and observed the erosion caused by the different chemical substances he placed on them.



Dental tools

The Era of the Renaissance proved to be decisive for dentistry and paved the way for further progress.

Marios Tsertos
5th year student
Florence, ITALY



PRESENTATION OF DENTAL FACULTIES

Hello from Banjaluka!

We are Milica Ivic and Jelena Radic from the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia. We come from Banjaluka, where we study stomatology.



University of Banjaluka

In Banjaluka, stomatology is a part of the Medical Faculty and this is our main problem. We have many difficulties with our dental programme. It is

very general and varied. We have to learn too much theory, and at the same time, we don't have enough practice. Because of that, we would like to change many things and we hope that EDSA can help us.

Our first contact with EDSA was at the 29th meeting in Athens. We attended all the meetings and liked it very much. The EDSA president, Vasia Karathanasi, offered us the opportunity of becoming full EDSA members at the following meeting in Slovenia. Of course we are going to accept this offer! Why? Because we believe that EDSA is a great opportunity to exchange our dental knowledge with other students, represent our country and meet a lot of people from different parts of Europe.

We would like to invite dental students from other European countries to join the EDSA, as

well. Both of us think that this is the best way to achieve students' ideas and safeguard equal rights for students all over Europe.

Milica Ivic & Jelena Radic
Banjaluka
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Hello from Cyprus...!

I come from Cyprus, the beautiful island in the Mediterranean, which has been divided for 28 years now. Unfortunately, at the University of Cyprus, there is no dental education. Therefore, we – the Cypriots – have to go to



Hellas or to other countries, in order to study dentistry.

Through my studies in Hellas, I had the opportunity to become familiar with EDSA and the work that is done through it. After helping with the anti-tobacco campaign, I realized that knowledge and work is combined with fun and this is what makes it even more interesting. Keep up the good work!

Stacey Papapostolou
4th year student
CYPRUS

Santiago de Compostela

The first thing that you imagine when somebody talks about Spain is: Sun, Toros and Fiesta. But Spain is much more...

A USA travel guide says, that the North and South of Spain are as different as England and France, and this is utterly true.

On the north-west coast, the region of Galicia is situated. This land is a mixture of green forests, Celt legends, huge granite-stones, bagpipes and brave fishers who risk their lives, everyday, on the dangerous cliffs of the coast, where you still can hear the echoes of lost lighthouses. This is a magical and mysterious place, where people still believe in witches, ghosts, spells... and where the most popular drink is "Queimada"; a drink prepared by wizards to purify the soul...

The capital of Galicia is Santiago de Compostela. It is an important place due to the University and the Cathedral (if you get hold of some Spanish Euros, you can see it on the coins of the one, two and five cent pieces). The Cathedral is one of the most famous places of pilgrimage for Catholicism and tourists visit from everywhere. The University is the lung,



Top view of the University of Santiago de Compostela



Famous cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

thanks to which, Santiago can breathe. You can feel “university life” in each road, in each building, in each garden... and, of course, in each pub (Galicia is the place in Spain with the most pubs per inhabitant).

The Faculty of Dentistry is situated next to the Cathedral, in the middle of the Old Town. This faculty is the smallest in Spain. Each year, only about 45 students are admitted. This means that we are a big family!

So, if you want to check it, you are invited to our big home... Come along!

David Puente
EDSA delegate
Santiago de Compostela, SPAIN

Dentistry in Turkey

The history of dental schools in Turkey goes back to 1909's. The year in which the first dental school was established in Istanbul in 1909. But modern dental education in Turkey started in 1934 with the great efforts of Prof. Dr Alfred Kantrowicz. He was the first one to bring the Central European dental education system from Germany to Turkey during the years of World War II.

At the beginning, the Dental School was a department of the Medical School. In 1964, the School became a Faculty and gained independence in the University. Until 1962, the School in Istanbul continued its education alone. From 1962 on, the new faculties have established postgraduate programmes in prosthodontics, endodontics, conservative dentistry, oral surgery, pediatric dentistry and periodontology. The duration of these programmes is 4 years.

There is not any academic programme for dental assistants and dental hygienists in Turkey. Dental assistants learn everything from the dentists they are working with. The nurses working in the dental profession are originally from clinical medical sciences. It is expected that there will be some new programmes



for these specialities in the near future.

There are many foreign dental students in the colleges. There are approximately 20 000 dentists in the country. The larger part of dental treatment is given by private dental offices; this is around 70 %. Every year, nearly 800 young dentists graduate from all the faculties.

The Turkish Dental Association was founded in 1986. For the dentists in private practice, it is essential to become a member of the dental association. All the patients pay the fee for their dental treatments according to a minimum fee table, which is distributed by Turkish Dental Association, but the fee increases relative to quality of care provided.

Taha Özkan
EDSA delegate
Konya, TURKEY

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME – A NEW INITIATIVE FOR EDSA

An exciting new project is currently underway in EDSA: The implementation of an exchange programme, allowing students throughout Europe to visit other faculties for short periods, without having to go through the formalities of programmes such as Erasmus or Leonardo da Vinci, which tend to discourage a lot of students and in some cases severely restrict the number of students who can take part in an exchange.

There are numerous possibilities for this new programme and we are currently investigating all our options in order to make the most efficient, most accessible programme for all students throughout Europe.

The following is a report from the first unofficial exchange, which took place between Dublin and Warsaw earlier this year.

DUBLIN-WARSAW EXCHANGE, FEBRUARY AND APRIL 2002

Dublin, February 2002

This exchange came about quite unexpectedly. A delegation of EDSA members was invited to attend a core meeting of DentEdevelves in Dublin in January 2002. We gave a presentation at this meeting, concerning students' input into cur-

riculum development and about EDSA. Following this, a lovely lady, Professor Maria Wierzbicka from the Medical University of Warsaw, approached us and told us that she would be very interested in getting her students involved in EDSA, so we exchanged details. Several days later I received an e-mail from Dr Adam Okon from the department of conservative dentistry in Warsaw, informing me that he and several of his students would like to visit Dublin as soon as possible. So we made arrangements and the following week, Adam and five of his students arrived. I made arrangements for them to attend whichever clinics they wished in the dental hospital for the ten days they were in Ireland. As part of this, they were given several tutorials from surgeons in the dental hospital. They also were able to observe PBL in action, which they had been very curious about and which they found fascinating, as PBL can often be a mysterious concept to students who hear about it, but whose schools have not adopted it.

There was also a hectic social timetable, trying to fit as many of the famous Irish pubs and night-clubs as possible into the schedule (ten days is only enough to catch a glimpse!). They visited Navan in the Irish countryside for the weekend to take a break from the ferocious pace of

Dublin life. They visited Killiney, one of the most beautiful parts of Ireland, in the south of Dublin, and on their last night, they were taken out for dinner by several of the hospital staffs and students to bid them farewell. I hope I am right when I say that I think they had a very enjoyable time in Dublin and made a lot of new friends out of the experience.

Warsaw, April 2002

Following the visit to Dublin, the Polish students invited some students from Dublin to visit Warsaw in April. So, seven of us decided to sample the Polish way of life and join our friends in Warsaw for a week during our Easter holidays. The programme they had arranged for us was superb. The students very generously offered to let us stay in their houses, which we were very grateful for – and which ultimately led to a certain amount of intimacy between the Irish and



Irish students at the dental clinic of the faculty in Warsaw



Relaxing in Krakow

Polish dental students, to greater and lesser degrees!

On the first morning, we went to meet Professor Wierzbicka again and had a very warm welcome to Poland and to the faculty. Throughout the week we were shown around all the departments and introduced to most of the prominent members of staff, including the Dean and the heads of department. One of the most interesting moments was when we visited the General Surgery department and observed a mastectomy being performed. In Dublin, we do not have an opportunity to observe general surgery being performed, so this was something new to us and, although some of the more faint-hearted Irish looked as though they might require hospitalisation afterwards themselves, everyone appreciated the experience. On another day, the Dean of the school, a maxillofacial surgeon, gave one of our students the opportunity to assist in a surgical procedure. Also on the academic programme were two impressive presentations from dental students on research projects they were carrying out.

The social programme certainly gave us a run for our money. On the second night we went go-karting, which none of us had

ever tried before and, although there were a few accidents and injuries sustained, and heated debates over whether or not the score sheet was correct, it was the experience of a lifetime. On one of the other nights we went to a French ballet, which was, again, a first for us. I don't know if it has converted any of us to ballet enthusiasts (our group consisted of six boys and one girl), but everyone appreciated it. On our last day in the school, the staff and students organised a banquet for us in the dental hospital, where we got to sample authentic Polish food. Professor Wierzbicka wasn't going to let us leave until we had tasted everything, although she didn't need to convince us too much—it was delicious! The Polish spent the other nights convincing us that the Polish pubs and clubs are every bit as good as the Irish ones, and they did a very good job, although we still managed to drag them to an Irish pub on the last night. For the last two days we visited Krakow, and one of the Polish came along to act as our interpreter and tour guide. Krakow is a beautiful city and well worth visiting. We ate like kings at a very reasonable price and saw as much as we could of the city in the limited time we had.

On our last night, we took a very late train back to Warsaw and all the Polish students turned up to meet us at 2 a.m. at the train station. They weren't going to let us off that easily! They took us to a club and then everyone went back to one of the girls' apartments for a last party – just to make sure we got no sleep. So, needless to say, none of us looked too healthy at 7 a.m.

when we arrived at the airport to fly back to Dublin. There were very emotional goodbyes (some more than others!), and for a while we thought we might have to stay in Poland a bit longer, judging by the look we got from the girl at the check-in desk, when she saw the condition we were in.



Old Quarter, Warsaw

Overall, it was the trip of a lifetime. We saw how different studying dentistry can be in a different country, but also how many things are exactly the same as in Ireland. We saw how similar the people are to us. Most importantly, we made very close friends with whom we are still in close contact and we intend to stay that way.

This is an example of how good an exchange can be. While we were possibly very lucky to have had such a fantastic time in Poland, the options are endless, and in EDSA, we want to make this wonderful opportunity available to every dental student in Europe.

Mark Flynn
EDSA Vice-president
Dublin, IRELAND

HAVE I DISCOVERED THE UNKNOWN?

As you can already guess, the answer to this question may be “Yes” or “No”.

Why “Yes”?

Yes, because EDSA gave me the opportunity to participate at the EDSA congress 2000, which was held at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm! Then I had the possibility of establishing a number of

relationships. And the beauty of the city, which is rightly considered as the Venice of the North, made me say: “I want to return!!!”. And here I am, at the Karolinska Institutet again, for a period of three months, with a scholarship offered by the Romanian government.

Yes, because I discovered an admirable professor-student relationship: you can ask any ques-

tion! It is answered with a lot of kindness and patience! But you have to be careful not to sound ridiculous; every word needs to be well chosen. Here, at the Karolinska Institutet I learned that you should never express an opinion in order to animate a conversation.

Yes, because I discovered modesty and true worth! The speech that was given by the 3 Nobel Prize winners in Aula Magna at the University of Stockholm was a simple yet direct speech. The demonstrations that were made and the natural behaviour of the 3 award winners made me see, past the words, the man not the award winner, and get to know the creator instead of the creation.

Yes, because I discovered timid yet profound, modest and shy Swedes, who avoid topics of conversation that diverge from the subject. Their punctuality and respect for an already established meeting show organisation and efficiency.

Yes, because I discovered a modern country, where rationality and justice reign, where the economy is good and the standard of living is high. Where people feel the need for independence, solitude and relaxation in the nature, but at the same time, they know how to move in the rhythm of the music at Roxette’s concert at the Globe in Stockholm, where over 15,000 spectators were present, including me. It was fantastic!

Why “No”?

It’s difficult for me to say why “No”. Maybe, I didn’t stay long enough!

I invite all of you, my dear European colleagues, to visit Sweden, to discover its beauties, to study at the Karolinska Institutet, and why not, perhaps, to continue this article...

Bogdan Vigdorovici-Popa
5th year student
Sibiu, ROMANIA



Bogdan in Stockholm

relationships. And the beauty of the city, which is rightly considered as the Venice of the North, made me say: “I want to return!!!”. And here I am, at the Karolinska Institutet again, for a period of three months, with a scholarship offered by the Romanian government.

Yes, because I discovered an admirable professor-student relationship: you can ask any ques-

DENTISTRY CAUGHT BETWEEN EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST

A visit to Israel is a journey into one of the world's most intriguing countries, where East meets West, ancient meets modern and the present blends with the past in a unique harmony. Entering the cities and walking in the streets and alleyways, a traveler can feel the pulse of the ancient history of that wonderful country in which Israeli forefathers lived 3000 years ago. Israel is a vibrant, cultural and cosmopolitan center offering an extensive list of museums, art galleries, alongside modern hotels and shopping centers, late-night entertainment, fine restaurants, sidewalk cafes and pubs. In order to catch some of this oriental spirit, the best way is to travel to Israel.

For the first time after ten years of Yugoslav isolation, students from the Dental School in Belgrade, found the way to stay in touch with the world. I am a fifth year student at the Faculty of Stomatology, University of Belgrade and this was the first time that I had participated in an international exchange programme. In summer 2002, I visited the Dental Medicine School at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. During the three-week programme, I was present at the oral, maxillofacial and periodontal clinics, where I observed the standard dental procedures.

I spent every working day, from Sunday to Thursday (which are



Nemanja in Israel

regular working days in Israel), at the Hadassah hospitals, doing rounds with the local doctors in the morning. I was also offered the chance to be present while doctors were discussing various medical cases. Thanks to the teaching staff at the Hadassah hospitals, I was able to watch residents perform many surgical operations. I was acquainted with diagnostics and therapy, which were applied to treatments of different oral pathology. After a busy day, I searched for some cultural and spiritual experience, discovering Jerusalem's famous landmarks and its antiquities, as well as alleyways and colorful markets. When I got

back to Belgrade I shared the professional and cultural experience from Israel with my fellow colleagues.

Nemanja Longinovic
5th year student
Faculty of
Stomatology
University of
Belgrade,
SERBIA &
MONTENEGRO



SPANISH ARCHITECTURE THROUGH “DENTAL EYES”

Barcelona and Modernism: 2002, Gaudí’s International Year

Throughout its history, Barcelona has been an open and welcoming city. Thanks to the economic momentum and the social progress, between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, it experienced a dynamic process of modernisation, which influenced town



Sagrada Família: The construction of this church began on 1882 and was his main project. The church is still not finished because one of the conditions of its construction was that the money used to build it would come from people’s donations.



Milà House: Pere Milà had seen the Batlló house and was enthralled by its beauty, so he asked Gaudí to construct a large building of rental flats on his newly acquired land. Its façade, made of stone, gave the house the contemptuous nickname of La Pedrera (the stone quarry) since stones needed were cut in front of the building, occupying the street. (Not a very nice view...). The roof is peculiar, because it is replete with strangely shaped chimneys and ventilators and from it you can make out all the sights of Barcelona.

development and all the artistic expressions. The style of that period was called Modernism and it coincided with the European formulation of Art Nouveau. It was deeply rooted in all areas of society which adopted it as one of the most representative styles. This is why Barcelona is called one of the world capitals of Modernism. Modernism has given the city a unique style which extends far beyond the purely aesthetic. The streets of

Barcelona are like a huge museum, in which windows, the mosaics and other elements make even the most basic objects seem art.

The main representative of that movement is, without any doubt, Antoni Gaudí (1852-1926). Known around the world as Gaudí, this year (2002) Barcelona is commemorating the 150th anniversary of his birth. Gaudí is considered as one of the most original, creative and

innovating architects in history. This is why Barcelona, the city that concentrates the major part of his buildings, has propelled "Gaudí's International Year" as an opportunity for rediscovering one of the most attractive personalities during times. Popular parties, expositions, visits to buildings (some of which have never opened their doors before!), conferences, spectacles, etc. make up the programme of Gaudí 2002.

Many interpretations have been



Park Güell: This park was constructed using the idea of an English style city-park. Mr. Güell wanted a development for 60 families with all necessities for living, including a school, a market and sanitary services (hope he remembered dentists, too!). It was an innovating idea that shocked but was intended to lure Barcelona's bourgeoisie to move to the centre. Güell even paid to have a police station near the park, to mitigate frightened buyers, but only one family built a house...

made of Gaudí's work. Some consider it to be traditional and others believe that it is avant-gardistic. Some call Gaudí a



Batló House (above and right): Gaudí reformed this house in 1904. The whole building is inspired by nature; characterized for its gallery's fine columns with a skeletal structure, this house was given the nickname "Houses of Bonds". However, the most important part of the house is the façade. The façade is covered with multi-coloured ceramic scales. The scales, together with the sinuous shape of the roof, remind the viewer of a dragon's back. Other descriptions find similarities to Venetia's carnival (the balconies imitate masks) or the Mediterranean Sea (the balconies look like fish skeletons).

great artist and others, a great technician. Some people define him as a transgressor but some defend his mysticism. Everybody, however, coincides by affirming that his buildings are surprising, different, and therefore, difficult to classify. The funny thing is that inside are his forms that seem impossible to draw (based on nature), the colours he uses and the different materials he joins (stone, mosaic, iron...), every construction is unique and practical: he always takes advantage of the space and light, obtaining wonders that at the same time have a meaning.



The assignments were mostly from the ecclesiastic world and bourgeoisie, who were always his main clients. The beginning of the twentieth century was a time where wealthy people wanted to boast about their social and economic state by investing in art.

In this article I hope to I have shown you some of his masterpieces that will hopefully enchant you and make you decide to visit the wonderful and fascinating city of Barcelona. You're welcome, anytime!

Teresa Garcés McIntyre
EDSA delegate
Barcelona, SPAIN



Iter Dentis 2002, Cluj-Napoca

This spring (11th to 14th of April) another serial of 'Dentis' – International Congress of Dentistry for Students and Young Dentists – took place. It was held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Despite the high international profile, this year the congress was an "all Romanian business". No international student was here to witness how close we've got to the 29th EDSA meeting's organisation in Athens, which was, in my opinion, perfect. 220 dental students and young doctors met in Transylvania to share in each other's knowledge and information, to eat at the students' canteen, to drink and to have fun till late into the night.

The very intense scientific programme started at 8:30 each morning with oral presentations, then dental products presentation, scientific conferences, etc. The most meritorious researchers were awarded.



Organizers and participants: factors that concurred for Dentis' eruption.

Oral presentations competition

First prize:

*Toma Lucian Ciocan,
Oana Apostolescu*

'Pilot study of teeth eruption and root formation by digital morphing of serial orthopantomographies'

Second prize:

Adrian Dragomir

'The haemophilic patient in dentistry'

Third prize:

Bogdan Galbinasu

'Comparative estimation over the marginal adaptation of Composite resins and Ionomer cements in crowns' fillings'

Special prize:

Mihnea Nicolescu

'Point of view' – about dental education

Popularity prize:

Adrian Tandara

'A short history of dental prophylaxis'

Posters competition

First prize:

*Simona Humeniuc,
Cristina Boca*

'The connotation of teeth malpositions over the functionality of the dental-maxillary apparatus'

Second prize:

*Talida Chindris,
Ioana-Sofia Pop*

'The dental-periodontal care during pregnancy'

Third prize:

Bogdan Vigdorovici-Popa

'Comparison of manual and rotary techniques to prepare simulated root canal'

After 3 exciting long days, our 'Dentis' came to an end. Many of us got back home enriched, after enjoying the success, learning from mistakes. For next year we have promised a tour of our Dental Faculty, in Cluj-Napoca.

So, get your researches ready or just come and join the fun in the main city of Transylvania, Cluj-Napoca, at the next years' serial of 'Dentis'. We are trying to make this event one of the places for dental students in Europe to meet, to share the latest news in our field, to discuss our common problems, to make new friends, to visit different places, to party in students' style.

Dan Gruia

EDSA delegate

Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA

dangruia@email.ro

9th STUDENTS' SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS OF THE DENTAL FACULTY OF ATHENS

The students' congress at the Dental Faculty of Athens has become an institution, thus proving our high scientific level as well as our professors' unre-served help and support. As students, we are really proud that each year we have the honour and the will to organize our scientific congress with a lot of zeal and enthusiasm, to enrich our knowledge with new data and to make our professors happy by accomplishing this difficult task. The 9th dental students' congress took place from the 17th until the 19th of May 2002 and opened its doors to embrace all who desired to attend it and speculate on the students' high-level lectures. The audience also had the opportunity to get acquainted with the new developments in the field of dentistry. Simultaneously, exhibitors presented their dental products, so that both the students and the new dentists could be informed mainly about the modern equipment of a dental clinic.



An artistic exhibition was also held during our congress. Dental students with artistic tendencies and ideas organized a photography exhibition, which was magnificent! Furthermore, a competition was realised for the best poster announcing our scientific event and the creations were really remarkable!

On the last day, the show was stolen by the awarding of prizes for the best presentations. The judging committee, which consisted of our professors, awarded 8 prizes in total; 4 for the best oral presentations and 4 for the best posters. But perhaps the most important reward for these students is, that they will have the opportunity to make a presentation at the Pan-Hellenic Dentists' Congress in Kos, in October 2002.

The students' scientific congress concluded in the best way, as on the last night we reveled to traditional music and dances at a tavern in one of the most beautiful and picturesque Athenian sites, Plaka. Our professors were the ones who livened things up, since they were the first to dance! All of us – professors and students – danced together and enjoyed ourselves until the early hours of the morning...

All of us who belong to the organizing committee hope that this year's congress proved to be not only equal to the previous ones but also superior. And this is a



The organizing committee

testament to the constant progress as well as to the students' of the Dental Faculty of Athens high scientific education.

Finally, I would like to personally thank all who worked hard toward the "smooth" and successful organization of our congress, and especially the Professor of Oral Pathology & Medicine, Dr *Stavros Papanikolaou* for his guidelines and the invaluable experiences we gained from working alongside him.

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RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE PRACTICE OF ORAL HYGIENE AMONG HELLENIC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to evaluate both the knowledge and the practice of oral hygiene among Hellenic university students. Evaluation was based on data regarding particular subjects, such as:

- Knowledge and treatment of chronic gingivitis.
- Knowledge and practice of oral hygiene.
- Personal assessment on the knowledge of oral hygiene and the need for dental therapy.
- Frequency of visits to the dentist.

Materials and methods

A 15-part questionnaire was designed for and used in this study. Out of the 15 questions, 11 were based on general knowledge and the other 4 concerned students' personal information. There were two types of questions: a) yes/no and b) multiple choice.

Six hundred and fourteen (614) university students took part in this study, including 275 dental students (55 from each year of study) and 339 students from other universities that were broken down as follows:

- Civil engineering
- Mechanical engineering
- Applied sciences
- French language/literature
- Business administration/marketing
- International/ European studies

Analysis

In order to establish and compare the statistical significance of the differences between the quantitative measures, the t-test was used. Comparisons were made among different groups of students as follows:

- Between dental students and other students.
- Among dental students (per year of study).
- Between male and female students (in total).

Results

- ① Twenty-five percent (25%) of the students, except for those in Dental schools, think that bleeding of gingiva is normal.
- ② Six out of ten students are aware of the proper treatment of gingivitis.
- ③ Females tend to use dental floss whereas men use tooth-

picks, as supplementary oral cleaning devices.

- ④ University students exhibit a special concern for healthy teeth and gums and are willing to care for them.
- ⑤ Four out of ten university students, except for dental students, feel uncomfortable with the idea of visiting the dentist.

General conclusions

- All of the students appear to have some knowledge of oral hygiene.
- Dental students are the best informed on the subject of oral hygiene.
- Females spend more time on personal oral hygiene than males and are better informed on the subject.
- Dental students' understanding of gingivitis and oral hygiene doesn't seem to relate to their respective year of study.

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