

Many steps forward for the **EFP** despite challenge of pandemic's second year

By Lior Shapira
(EFP PRESIDENT, 2021-2022)

When I took up the role of EFP president, I had hopes that the Covid-19 pandemic would soon be over. This was not the case, unfortunately. The last year has been dominated again by the new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Nonetheless, despite the difficult circumstances, we have opened some windows that show our desire to "return to normal". Most significantly, some in-person meetings were successfully carried out: the important Perio Workshop 2021 in Spain, involving more than 100 experts, which has drawn up the evidence-based S3-level clinical practice guideline for the treatment of stage IV periodontitis, which will be published soon. There were also meetings of the EuroPerio10 organising committee and the communications committee, and the year will conclude with our annual "get together" event – the EFP general assembly, with all our affiliated national societies of periodontology – in Vienna on March 26, after two years in which this meeting has had to be a virtual event. Four in-person meetings in a pandemic year – well, we can consider it a success.

Because the EFP's soul is about human relationships and personal interactions, despite the uncertain conditions, I strove to organize in-person

meetings – and we did it. It was not an easy decision because of the pandemic, but I was determined to do everything to make it happen. We are all waiting for our flagship event – EuroPerio10 in Copenhagen in June – which will be our primary "return to normal" event.

In parallel, the EFP and its affiliated national societies continue to respond to the challenge laid down by the pandemic by adopting new forms of communication. We adopted platforms for electronic communication and e-learning to benefit our members and the public. Those new skills will stay with us, and we will harness them to our goals as we seek to fulfill our strategic vision of "periodontal health for a better life." Using these tools, we kept the EFP as the influential driving force of periodontology globally, focusing on improving periodontal health as part of oral and general health.

This year was also the year of the EFP's 30th birthday, which we celebrated on 13 December 2021. The EFP initially comprised only 11 European national societies and it now one of the largest dental organisations in Europe, currently with 37 member societies from all over the world. Working together is

much more than the sum of the individual power of each society. Looking back on the federation's 30 years, we can see that the EFP founders established a strong organisation with the backbone of science and research, of which we can all be proud.

There were two noteworthy achievements for the EFP during my presidency. The first is our collaboration with family physicians. The EFP had worked with other medical professionals – such as diabetologists and cardiologists – to emphasise the connection between periodontal health and systemic conditions. But those experts see only severe and hard-to-treat patients and do not focus on milder cases or on prevention. The best target group for the EFP is family physicians, who see most patients and who have disease prevention as their primary target.

I initiated a collaboration between the EFP and European family physicians (WONCA Europe), which will promote oral health as part of general health, and which will include a workshop in July.

The second achievement was implementing my motto that "good leadership means listening to the member societies." I consulted the



 Lior Shapira

national societies on many important – and sometimes controversial issues – and brought their opinions to the EFP management. My message to the national societies was always: 'your voice matters!' I advise all future EFP presidents to act in the same way.

And today, I can not ignore the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. Although non-political, the EFP condemns any attack against a free and democratic independent nation. The European Federation of Periodontology has always stood for and will always stand for peace and democracy. We pray for the wellbeing of the Ukrainian people and hope that peace will come back to Europe soon.

Month-by-month guide to EFP actions in 30th anniversary year

March 2021: At the EFP **general assembly**, held online on March 20, the Society of Periodontology (Singapore) was welcomed as the federation's 37th member and seventh international associate member, Xavier Struillou (France) handed over the presidency to Lior Shapira (Israel), and Moritz Kebschull (Germany) was elected to the executive committee. The EFP's Eminence in Periodontology Award was given to Mariano Sanz (Spain), its Distinguished Scientist Award to Tord Berglundh (Sweden), and its Distinguished Service Award to Gernot Wimmer (Austria).

An **online workshop on sustainability** was held with the national societies, led by EFP secretary general Nicola West and head of operations Sharon Legendre.

The EFP published the first issue of **Perio Life**, the EFP Alumni magazine.

April: Panos Papananou became editor-in-chief of the **Journal of Clinical Periodontology (JCP)**, succeeding Maurizio Tonetti who had edited the EFP's flagship publication since 2005. The team of associate editors was refreshed with women scientists

featuring for the first time.

The **scientific programme for EuroPerio10** (Copenhagen, 15-18 June 2022) was announced, offering a wide variety of formats and sessions tailored for different audiences, from academics and specialists to clinicians and hygienists.

The EFP released a video animation on associations between **periodontitis and Covid-19 complications**, while a paper co-authored by former EFP secretary general Iain Chapple suggested that the gums may play a key role in the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus from the mouth to the lungs.

May: **Gum Health Day 2021**, on 12 May, focused on a simple message (gum diseases are preventable) and a clear call to action (visit your dentist), communicated via short animations that used humour to highlight causes and symptoms of gum disease.

June: The report **Time to take gum disease seriously: The societal and economic impact of periodontitis**, commissioned by the EFP and published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), provided the first comprehensive



↑ EFP general assembly, March 2021, held in online format

analysis of the financial and human cost of gum disease in six Western European countries.

The **EuroPerio Series** – interactive online educational sessions with world leaders in periodontology and implant dentistry related to the EuroPerio10 scientific programme – was presented at a free “kick-off event” on mucogingival surgery around teeth and implants.

EFP president-elect Andreas Stavropoulos performed live peri-implantitis surgery in a **live**



↑ EIU report on impact of periodontitis, June 2021

Perio review

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EFP Virtual

EFP Virtual is an EFP initiative that provides high-value scientific knowledge about periodontology and implant dentistry. It includes the *EFP Perio Sessions* webinars, the *Perio Talks* live conversations between clinicians, and the *EuroPerio Series* of interactive sessions related to the EuroPerio10 scientific programme.

EFP Perio Sessions

22 April 2021: Matteo Basso, *role of oral antiseptics in periodontal therapy and implant dentistry.*

20 May: Maurizio Tonetti, *Step 3, EFP clinical practice guideline.*

EuroPerio Series

5 June: “Kick-off event” on mucogingival surgery.

13 September: *Bone regeneration – the present faces the future.*

11 October: *Orthodontic treatment in stage IV periodontitis patients.*

15 November: *Can we improve systemic health with periodontal therapy?*

13 December: *Innovation in step 2 of periodontal therapy. Selecting the best adjunctives.*

10 January: *What is new in the surgical management of peri-implantitis?*

EFPVirtual EuroPerioSeries

An EFP initiative

14 February: *How will personalised medicine help our patients?*

14 March: *New concepts and approaches in periodontal regeneration.*

Perio Talks

12 May: *Gum Health Day 2021 initiatives around the world.*

1 July: *Perio for a more beautiful smile.*

27 October: *EuroPerio10.*

7 December: *Journal of Clinical Periodontology.*

24 February: *The EFP's work in communications.*

surgery day on 17 June organised by the EFP in collaboration with the Osteology Foundation.

July: The *Journal of Clinical Periodontology* became the leading dental journal, with an impact factor for 2020 of 8.728, up from the previous record level of 5.241.

August: Registration opened for EuroPerio10.

September: Submissions opened for the **Jaccard-EFP Prize for Periodontal Research**, which will be awarded at EuroPerio10 in Copenhagen in June 2022. This prize is open to all members of the 37 national societies of periodontology affiliated to the EFP.

October: A new series of **Perio Talks** on the EFP's Instagram page started, focusing on EuroPerio10 with chair Phoebus Madianos and scientific chair David Herrera.

November: Around 80 experts from 20 different countries gathered at **Perio Workshop 2021** to consider 13 systematic reviews and draw up a clinical practice guideline for the treatment of stage IV periodontitis.

The EFP announced the **EFP Innovation Award for Digital Solutions for Gum Health**, sponsored by GSK, to reward innovations that will contribute to gum health.

December: The EFP celebrated its 30th birthday on 13 December: **30 years of promoting periodontal science and clinical practice, 30 years of periodontal health for a better**

life.

The EFP was named **European Association of the Year** in the International & European Association Awards Competition 2021.

January 2022: Former EFP secretary general **Iain Chapple** was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the UK's New Year Honours for services to oral and dental health.

February: The EFP revealed the slogan for **Gum Health Day 2022** on May 12: "Treat Your Gums". Event co-ordinator Moritz Kepschull said: "We will focus more than before on intervention." The EFP invited members of its affiliated national societies of periodontology to participate in the federation's **second photo contest**, organised around EuroPerio10, at which participants will vote for the winners.

March: The EFP launched a new edition of its **undergraduate**



Perio Workshop 2021 draw up new clinical practice guideline

essay competition, offering two prizes of free registration for the EuroPerio10 congress in Copenhagen on June 15-18 plus €500 for travel expenses.

The EFP published the booklet **30 years promoting periodontal health for a better life**, written by Joanna Kamma and providing a history of the federation since its beginnings in 1991.

The 2022 **general assembly**

was scheduled to take place in Vienna on 26 March.

"While online meetings have their place in our sustainability strategy, face-to-face meetings are essential for the operation of our federation, creating energy, warmth, and friendship," said EFP secretary general Nicola West. "From surviving to thriving and reimagining the post-COVID-19 return – at last a face-to-face meeting!"



Meeting of the EuroPerio10 organising committee, November 2021

EFP publications

At the end of March 2021, the EFP published the first issue of *Perio Life*, a magazine that reflects the work of the periodontists who are alumni of the EFP-accredited postgraduate programmes of periodontology. It is written by members of EFP Alumni. The second issue of *Perio Life* was published in November, with a focus on EuroPerio: six members of EFP Alumni explained what the event

means to them personally and professionally, with perspectives on memorable moments from different EuroPerio congresses.

One issue of *Perio Insight* was published during the year, focusing on the "adoption" process and how three EFP-affiliated national societies of periodontology have implemented the EFP's S3-level clinical practice guideline for the treatment of stages

I-III periodontitis in their countries.

More than 80 individual issues of the EFP's multilingual research summary *JCP Digest* were published over the year in English, Croatian, French, German Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. The EFP also launched the *JCP Digest* collections – all 12 issues of each annual series in a single pdf publication, in all seven languages.



ANDREAS STAVROPOULOS: 'Together we are stronger'

New EFP president Andreas Stavropoulos, professor of periodontology at Malmö University in Sweden, outlines the tasks facing the federation in the year ahead.

Going into 2022, many of us were optimistic that Europe would soon exit the crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic. But only a few of us imagined that Europe would soon face another type of major challenge – the armed conflict in Ukraine. Although the EFP is beyond politics, as a European academic organisation within health and medicine, it was only natural for us to react to this crisis with a *joint* humanitarian campaign and arrange a donation campaign – in partnership with the WHO Foundation – to help the people of Ukraine.

While we all hoped for a better start to the year, there is plenty of optimism ahead of us regarding periodontology. The EFP is about to publish the second of its two clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of periodontitis and is now working on the guidelines for the treatment of peri-implant biological complications. These guidelines – made possible by the hard work of a dedicated group of international experts – will have a positive impact on the health of patients across the globe.

In June, we have the tenth edition of *our* EuroPerio, the global congress of periodontology par excellence, which will take place in real life (not online) and in beautiful Copenhagen, my hometown.



Andreas
Stavropoulos





We can finally meet again, enjoy presentations and discussions, scientific confrontations and debates, laughs and anecdotes, and experience *together* everything that this large congress offers.

Over the years, voices have been raised within the EFP family about the disproportionate effort of some member societies. There are good arguments for and against the various concerns – it is a matter of perspective. I come from the south of Europe, I have lived almost half of my life in the north of Europe, and I have collaborated with colleagues from the east and west of Europe. I know very well that what we have in common is so much greater than what separates us. Let us work *together* on our common interests and not allow minor differences to divide us. Let us stay united and continue to work *jointly* for the pan-European recognition of periodontology as a dental speciality, for the benefit of patients. Together we are stronger and can achieve so much more.

EFP full-member societies

-  **Austria** Österreichische Gesellschaft für Parodontologie
-  **Belgium** Société Belge de Parodontologie / Belgische Vereniging voor Parodontologie
-  **Croatia** Hrvatsko Parodontološko Društvo
-  **Czech Republic** Česká Parodontologická Společnost
-  **Denmark** Dansk Parodontologisk Selskab
-  **Finland** Suomen Hammaslääkärisseura Apollonia
-  **France** Société Française de Parodontologie et d'Implantologie Orale
-  **Germany** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Parodontologie
-  **Greece** Ελληνική Εταιρεία Περιοδοντολογίας και Οδοντικών Εμφυτευμάτων
-  **Hungary** Magyar Parodontológiai Társaság
-  **Ireland** Irish Society of Periodontology
-  **Israel** Israeli Society of Periodontology and Osseointegration
-  **Italy** Società Italiana di Parodontologia e Implantologia
-  **Lithuania** Lietuvos Periodontolog Draugija
-  **Netherlands** Nederlandse Vereniging voor Parodontologie
-  **Norway** Norsk periodontist forening
-  **Poland** Polskie Towarzystwo Periodontologiczne
-  **Portugal** Sociedade Portuguesa de Periodontologia e Implantantes
-  **Romania** Societatea de Parodontologie din Romania
-  **Serbia** Udruzenje Parodontologa Srbije
-  **Slovenia** Združenje za ustne bolezni, parodontologijo in stomatološko implantologijo
-  **Spain** Sociedad Española de Periodoncia y Osteointegración
-  **Sweden** Svensk förening för Parodontologi och Implantologi
-  **Switzerland** Société Suisse de Parodontologie / Schweizerisch Gesellschaft für Parodontologie / Società Svizzera di Parodontologia
-  **Turkey** Türk Periodontoloji Derneği
-  **United Kingdom** British Society of Periodontology and Implant Dentistry

EFP associate-member societies

-  **Azerbaijan** Azərbaycan Parodontologiya Cəmiyyəti
-  **Georgia** Georgian Association of Periodontology
-  **Morocco** Société Marocaine de Parodontologie et d'Implantologie
-  **Russia** Российской Пародонтологической Ассоциации

EFP international associate members

-  **Argentina** Sociedad Argentina de Periodontología
-  **Australia** Australian Society of Periodontology
-  **Brazil** Sociedade Brasileira de Periodontologia
-  **Lebanon** Lebanese Society of Periodontology
-  **Mexico** Asociación Mexicana de Periodontología
-  **Taiwan** Taiwan Academy of Periodontology
-  **Singapore** Society of Periodontology (Singapore)

EFP executive committee 2022-23:

President:	Andreas Stavropoulos (Sweden)
President-elect:	Darko Božić (Croatia)
Past president:	Lior Shapira (Israel)
Secretary general:	Nicola West (UK)
Treasurer:	Monique Danser (Netherlands)
Elected officer:	Moritz Keschull (Germany)
Elected officer:	<i>to be elected at general assembly</i>