



# 30 YEARS

**1996–2026**

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## **HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

Commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of the EADPH

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# FOREWORD

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## **Stephanie Tubert Jeannin**

*President, EADPH*

This document has been written to celebrate but also help us reflect on the 30-year history of the European Association of Dental Public Health (EADPH). When reading it, we can collectively be filled with both pride and humility. Pride, because EADPH has grown from a bold vision in 1996 into a vibrant, influential community of 360 members across Europe and beyond. Humility, because this journey has been shaped by the dedication, passion, and collective efforts of so many—from our founding members to the current generation of academics, researchers, professionals, students, who continue to push the boundaries of oral public health.



When I first attended the EADPH Congress in Cittadella, Italy, in 1997, Dental Public Health was still emerging and that experience ignited my commitment to advancing Dental Public Health. I guess that this is what happened with many other EADPH members, encouraging them to contribute to Dental Public Health evolution in Europe, transforming it into a leading force for education, research, health promotion, advocacy and equity search in oral health.

Over the past three decades, EADPH has achieved remarkable milestones. Networking and collaboration have been fostered through annual congresses, webinars, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs), enabling members to share their research, best practices, and innovative solutions. EADPH's voice has been amplified, by engaging with global and European organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe (PBOHE). We have also strengthened our scientific foundation through the partnership with the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD) for managing the journal Community Dental Health and by supporting early-career researchers through mentorship programmes, travel grants, and undergraduate prizes. Yet, through it all, EADPH has remained resilient, thanks to the unwavering support of our sponsors, members, and partners. We all have participated in adapting to challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic, the growing skepticism toward science and to today's uncertainty due to war context in many areas worldwide.

## FOREWORD - CONTINUED

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Today, as we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we also look to the future. The Timișoara Congress (2026), co-hosted with Professor Roxana Oancea. It focuses on the structural and political determinants of oral health—a testament to our ongoing mission to act upstream on determinants of health and to address inequalities and promote health for all. But our work does not stop here. The WHO Global Oral Health Action Plan, the Cyprus Declaration, and our collaborations with other organisations remind us that oral health is inseparable from general health and well-being. It is a human right, and it is our responsibility to ensure that no one is left behind. The need for stronger advocacy, and the integration of oral health into broader public health policies are priorities we must address together.

I am confident that, with the continued dedication of our members, the generosity of our sponsors, and the strength of our partnerships, EADPH will not only endure but thrive in the decades to come. This anniversary is more than a celebration of our past; it is a call to action for the future.

This document was planned and edited by Keneth Eaton and Eeva Widström, who I thank warmly, with the valuable participation of our past presidents and others. It honours the legacy of our founders. Now we must inspire the next generation to carry forward our mission: to improve oral health, reduce inequalities, and ensure that every person, regardless of where they live or their socioeconomic status, has access to oral health care they need, where and when they need it. Here's to 30 years of progress—and to the many more ahead.

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# BACKGROUND

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## Eeva Widström

In dentistry public health became an important issue in the 1970s when the aetiology of caries and the possibilities to prevent this disease gained recognition among professionals and to some extent, in some countries among politicians and lay people. Poor oral health among populations called for actions others than the traditional individual and costly treatment by dentists. Complementary actions and community participation were needed.

In the USA, an association of dental public health had been established as early as in 1937. Initially, the association served as a forum for state dental directors to address public health challenges such as community water fluoridation. Later, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) was established for interested professionals. Its focus was enlarged to include education and research. In the USA, Dental Public Health became a dental specialty in 1950. In the UK, the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD) was established in 1973 in order to improve population oral health and reduce oral health inequalities.

Since the 1970s and 1980s, dental schools and dental associations in other European countries recognised that public health related questions were important and that preventive programmes, especially for the young, were needed. Due to differences in population oral health, oral health care provision systems and education of dental professionals, the approaches varied greatly between countries. Against this background, EADPH was founded in 1996 as an international science-based forum for professionals having special interest in Dental Public Health and Community Dentistry.

A few years before the foundation of the EADPH, in 1993, a single market, the European Union (EU) was established between 12 European countries, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom. In 1995, Austria, Finland and Sweden joined the European Union. The member countries removed internal barriers to allow free movement of goods, services and people. Although health care was considered as the responsibility of each Member State it was obvious that free movement of certain professions would require harmonization. As a result, a training directive which specified a common training curriculum for seven professions including dentists, doctors, veterinarians, pharmacists, midwives, nurses and architects was introduced in 1997. It was revised in 2005 as the EU Directive 2005/36/EEC recognising professional qualifications, and minimum training standards. This allowed registered professionals in these professions to work in all EU countries without having to take extra examinations. Other dental professions such as dental hygienists and dental technicians were not included in the training directive.

## BACKGROUND - CONTINUED

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In 2004, ten new countries Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia joined the EU along with Cyprus and Malta. In 2007 Bulgaria and Romania joined. In 2020 the United Kingdom stepped out.

There was an apparent a need for a European forum to enable everyone involved in Dental Public Health to meet and share experiences and best practices. Thus, initially the objectives of EADPH were to promote effective oral health care and oral health strategies and research into oral health and health services within Europe. Application of research findings into practice was encouraged. Later liaising with other international organisations in the field of health and developing links with the European Commission in order to advocate on oral health issues became important. A more practical objective was work towards the development of a speciality in dental public health within Europe. Work with industry by providing a network and expertise in the evaluation of products and to harmonise advice on products impacting on oral health across Europe was also put on the agenda.

Initially, these objectives were largely addressed by key note and abstract presentations at annual congresses and later also through the EADPH website [www.eadph.org](http://www.eadph.org). Subsequently, Training events, Special Interest Groups, Pre-Congress Workshops, Webinars and a range of publications have complemented the annual congresses. A significant improvement occurred when BASCD agreed that the journal Community Dental Health could become the journal for both BASCD and EADPH. Finally, it must be noted that during a 30 year period advances in digital data processing and cloud computing have greatly reshaped the ways how working life and academia work and how the EADPH operates.

The venues for EADPH annual congresses are listed in Table 1 and the names of the Presidents of EADPH are in Table 2. A series of reports from EADPH Past Presidents and others, which detail how EADPH has progressed over the last 30 years then follow.

# EADPH - ITS STRATEGY FOR TODAY

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## Huda Yusuf, Paula Vassallo & Stephanie Tubert-Jeannin

EADPH is a network of dedicated researchers, academics, public health professionals, students and policy makers with around 360 members from European countries and beyond. The EADPH supports its members with contemporary dental public challenges to promote oral health improvements across Europe, in line with the recent WHO Global Action Plan on Oral Health.

It is committed to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion. One of its core ethical principles is to uphold and respect the diversity, dignity, value, and equality of all individual members and attendees.

Its three main aims for 2025-2030 are to support efforts to integrate oral health into the WHO's Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) agenda, to continue reducing oral health inequalities and to include oral health in Universal Health Care (UNC). EADPH hopes to achieve these aims, by working with WHO and other organisations following a holistic vision of health, using innovative approaches, following a strategy based on sustainable development goals, promoting health equity and promoting research into a range of topics relevant to dental public health, including use of dental services.

Realistically, EADPH and its members cannot achieve these aims independently. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, it must work in concert with a range of organisations. Topics to be addressed are as follows:

**Advocacy** on oral health within Europe and globally, supporting members in their efforts and collaborating with relevant stakeholders (civic society, European institutions, other international organisations to recognise the importance of placing oral health in all policies (health, education, social care, sustainability)

**Capacity building and education:** Embedding oral health into education for other health professionals, Supporting members to be skilled public health leaders, including dental public health in undergraduate and postgraduate dental curricula, promoting quality, competency-based education to support the oral health workforce to become true public health actors

## EADPH - ITS STRATEGY FOR TODAY - CONTINUED

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**Research:** supporting quality and multi-disciplinary research in the field of DPH; reflecting and evaluating the developments of artificial intelligence in DPH, promote the development and dissemination of evidence-based information to support population health improvements

**Health promotion and effective oral health care:** Addressing the determinants of health, Challenging misinformation and promoting evidence-based information and practices, Supporting members in the implementation and evaluation of health promotion interventions and prevention-oriented healthcare for all, supporting oral health promotion initiatives within countries

The EADPH website ([www.eadph.org](http://www.eadph.org)) displays up-to-date information about EADPH objectives and activities. Our objectives have changed with time in line with the European, WHO and global public health agenda. Moreover, initially EADPH objectives were largely addressed by solely organising the annual meeting with its keynotes and abstract presentations (Table 1). Subsequently new activities arose such as training events, Special Interest Groups, pre-congress workshops or online webinars. The Special Interest Groups that provided an opportunity for more direct, focused discussions and active engagement of the participants in key topics of interest. Moreover, a range of publications have complemented these activities with EADPH major statements, updates or summary of its activities published in the Community Dental Health (CDH) journal. Over the last 30 years, EADPH has worked constructively with industry by providing a network and expertise and by building bilateral relationships.

## Table 1: Host Countries of EADPH Congresses

| YEAR | VENUE                                                            |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1996 | Dundee, Scotland                                                 |
| 1997 | Cittadella, Italy                                                |
| 1998 | Santander, Spain                                                 |
| 1999 | Strasbourg, France                                               |
| 2000 | Cork, Ireland                                                    |
| 2001 | Marburg, Germany                                                 |
| 2002 | Athens, Greece                                                   |
| 2003 | Jyvaskyla, Finland                                               |
| 2004 | Oporto, Portugal                                                 |
| 2005 | Liverpool, England (with World Congress on Preventive Dentistry) |
| 2006 | Prague, Czechia                                                  |
| 2007 | Gent/Leuven, Belgium                                             |
| 2008 | Heidelberg, Germany                                              |
| 2009 | Tromso, Norway                                                   |
| 2010 | Constanta, Romania                                               |
| 2011 | Rome, Italy                                                      |
| 2012 | London, England (with BASCD)                                     |

| YEAR | VENUE                                |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 2013 | St Julians, Malta                    |
| 2014 | Göteborg, Sweden                     |
| 2015 | Istanbul, Turkey                     |
| 2016 | Budapest, Hungary                    |
| 2017 | Vilnius, Lithuania                   |
| 2018 | Palma de Mallorca, Spain             |
| 2019 | Gent, Belgium                        |
| 2020 | <b>No conference due to COVID-19</b> |
| 2021 | Montpellier, France (Online only)    |
| 2022 | Montpellier, France (Hybrid)         |
| 2023 | Riga, Latvia (Hybrid)                |
| 2024 | Heraklion, Greece (Hybrid)           |
| 2025 | Rome, Italy (Hybrid)                 |
| 2026 | Timisoara, Romania (Hybrid)          |

## Table 2: EADPH Presidents

| YEAR      | PRESIDENT                             |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1996-1999 | Cynthia Pine (Honorary member EADPH)  |
| 2000-2001 | Roberto Ferro                         |
| 2002-2003 | Eeva Widström                         |
| 2004-2005 | Nigel Pitts                           |
| 2006-2007 | Dominique Declerck                    |
| 2008-2009 | Eino Honkala                          |
| 2010-2011 | Zdenek Broukal                        |
| 2012-2013 | Kenneth Eaton (Honorary member EADPH) |
| 2014-2015 | George Tsakos                         |
| 2016-2017 | Jacques Vanobbergen                   |
| 2018-2019 | Colwyn Jones                          |
| 2020-2023 | Paula Vassallo                        |
| 2024-2025 | Huda Yusuf                            |
| 2026-2027 | Stephanie Tubert                      |
| 2028-2029 | Magus Hakeberg (President Elect)      |

# Reflections from Past Presidents and Others

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The evolution of EADPH over the past three decades is captured through a series of reflections from its Past Presidents (Table 2), Board members, and other key contributors. These accounts offer an insightful perspective on the organisation's growth, challenges, and milestones, painting a portrait of its progress and impact in public health.

## Professor Cynthia Pine: First President of EADPH



**Cynthia Pine, Roberto Ferro and Eeva Widström (1997)**  
– First, Second and Third EADPH Presidents

Cynthia Pine was President of the British Association of the Study of Community Dentistry BASCD in 1996-1997. During her Presidency of BASCD, Professor Pine was Chair of the Steering Group for European Association of Dental Public Health. She worked with colleagues from across Europe to establish a specialty organisation of dental public health within Europe. At that time, the aims of EADPH included the effective promotion of oral health across the EU and wider EEA and the development of links with the EU Commission. In this Founding Year, 1996, over 300 people across Europe joined EADPH. Her BASCD Presidential meeting in 1996 was held in Dundee, Scotland and was held jointly with EADPH.

Before the incorporation of EADPH under German law, Cynthia Pine was the Founding President of the European Association of Dental Public Health and elected first Honorary Member of EADPH, in 1998: “for her outstanding contribution to promoting teaching and research in dental public health across Europe”. After EADPH became an e.V, the history of EADPH e. V began and the first Honorary Member of EADPH e.V was Professor Cynthia Pine followed by Professor Ken Eaton.

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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The first standalone conference of EADPH was in 1997 and the organisation of the conference was led by the Co-President Dr Roberto Ferro, Italy. The conference was held in Cittadella, a medieval walled city in the Veneto region of Italy. The Opening Ceremony of the conference was held in the Teatro Sociale di Cittadella, this beautiful community theatre was opened in 1828. The conference attendees enjoyed exploring the unique setting from the theatre's boxes. The Gala Dinner provided another memorable occasion, it was mushroom season and delegates enjoyed an excellent meal of different mushroom-based dishes. The unique flavour of EADPH was established with members sharing developments in dental public health across Europe, colleagues becoming friends for life with their shared commitment to oral health improvement.

Further details of the 1998 Santander congress are included in the next section of this history, written by Roberto Ferro.



Teatre Sociale de Citadella



Past President's Badge

Ferro commissioned the first President of EADPH badge and presented Cynthia Pine with the Past President's badge at the Conference whilst he was President in 2000.

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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### Professor Roberto Ferro

When, in early 1996, Professor Giuliano Falcolini alerted me to the idea of some English colleagues establishing a European scientific association dedicated to community dentistry, along the lines of the BASCD, I was immediately intrigued. My dentistry department was the only one in my country running community dentistry, and I did need a forum to learn from and improve community dentistry practice in my area. For this reason, I flew to Dundee in March 1996, where a joint meeting between the BASCD and the EADPH was taking place. On that occasion, I met Professor Cynthia Pine, the true driving force behind this initiative.

Together with European colleagues, who made up the EADPH steering group, I took on the responsibility of organising a conference in Italy, specifically in Cittadella (the town where I have been working for more than 40 years, located in the Veneto region - in northeastern Italy, 40 km from Venice-). It is a small city of medieval origin whose historic centre is surrounded by perfectly preserved walls. The conference was titled "Promoting Oral Health within Europe".

The oral session of the congress was held at the Teatro Sociale of Cittadella, a small pearl of architecture known as a small Fenice (the famous Venetian theatre). In the four sessions the following chairpersons alternated: Cynthia Pine, Roberto Ferro, Giuliano Falcolini, Kenneth Eaton, Klaus Pieper and coordinated speakers from the following countries: Germany, Italy, UK, Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Sweden, Spain, Ireland, Poland.

Prof Gert-Jan Truin and Dr Cortes (Spain) chaired two sessions with 39 posters. The venue on that occasion was the Tower of Malta, a conference room inside a massive construction close to the walls of Cittadella that served as a prison in the Middle Ages.

*Informal note: for years, colleagues from all over Europe have reminded me of the memorable mushroom gala dinner which, for this reason, seemed to me to have been very much appreciated.*

With my staff I designed the association's logo:



**EADPH Logo**

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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During my two years of presidency with Klaus Pieper (Germany), Eeva Widström (Finland), and Anne.-Marie Musset (France) the association was registered with a notary in Marburg with the aims and objectives set out in its statutes (EADPH e.V.).

In 2000, a Joint Conference (the EADPH Congress- my first as President) was held in Cork at University College of Cork, entitled "Reducing Inequalities in Oral Health in Europe: Role of Fluoride." The opening ceremony was attended by, among others, the two presidents (Denis O'Mullane for BASCD and Roberto Ferro for EADPH), and the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.

The conference was held at the Boole Complex, named after George Boole, the first Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cork, whose algebra is a foundation of computer science, cybernetics, and electronics.

The main topics of the conference (ranging from the inequalities in oral health in Europe to the impact of different fluoride modalities on reducing them ) were discussed by eminent scientific personalities such as Profs Thomas Marthaler, Mike Lennon, Liz Treasure, Gary Whitford, Anthony Roberts, Helen Whelton and so on) ; 80 posters were presented and discussed

My second congress, entitled Oral Diseases and Prevention in Underprivileged Groups, was held in 2001 at Philipps University in Marburg. The Cork congress was perfectly organized by Professor Denis O'Mullane and his staff, and the same can be said of Professor Klaus Pieper for the German congress.

Colleagues from 12 countries presented 42 posters, comprehensively covering the congress's theme, along with the oral presentations. On Saturday afternoon, an interesting oral session was dedicated to strengthening the foundations of EADPH, foundations on which the association is still working. The title was: Future developments of EADPH and the working groups. The contributions of figures of the calibre of Kenneth Eaton, Denis O'Mullane, Cynthia Pine, and Dominique Declerck were a milestone for the association.

### Professor Anne-Marie-Musset: Past EADPH Secretary



From the outset, the founding members aimed to exert influence across Europe, where traditions in public oral health varied greatly. While public health was a well-established specialty in Northern Europe, it was almost non-existent elsewhere, particularly in France. Professor Pierre-Michel Cahen and I enthusiastically embraced this project, which sought to bring together the various stakeholders in public oral health across Europe. The EADPH rapidly and fully achieved its objectives in terms of visibility and, most importantly, in the field of research.

The international board and the scientific committee were composed of leading experts in public oral health from the following countries: Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Scotland, Spain, and the United Kingdom. We were few in number, but highly motivated.

We were able to publish the congress abstracts in *Community Dental Health*, which provided significant international visibility. Each year, our congresses offered valuable opportunities for exchange and collaboration. These meetings led to a rapid and substantial improvement in our research, facilitated by swift information sharing and the development of European collaborations. Our ambition was to harmonise and strengthen public oral health in Europe. The improvement in oral health outcomes is evident, and it may reasonably be assumed that we contributed to this progress.

In 1999, we were very proud and honoured to host the 3rd Congress in Strasbourg, a city that has stood at the crossroads of civilizations for more than 2,000 years and is now the seat of the European Parliament. The event was organised under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and held at the Palais du Conseil de l'Europe. As the first Congress on Oral Public Health to be held in France, it attracted a large number of colleagues from all parts of Europe, including Eastern Europe, as well as from the rest of the world. The exchange of research findings and scientific perspectives was extremely rich. All the themes that later proved to be important were already addressed at that time.

### Professor Eeva Widström

*For photograph of Eeva, see photograph with Roberto Ferro and Cynthia Pine on page 12*

My first contact with the EADPH was in Cittadella, 26 September 1997, the same day a fatal earthquake had taken place in Umbria, not so far from where we were. I was invited to give a presentation titled "Working with national governments and the European Commission: How can we put dental health on the agenda". A few years earlier I had been appointed to the Chief Dental Officer of Finland having previously been Associate Professor in Dental Public Health at a University. In the new government adviser position my tasks included participation in meetings and working groups in the enlarging European Union. In Cittadella. I was worried about both the earthquake and thinking that colleagues might not understand my presentation. Obviously, everything went well and at the end of the day I had become executive board member (Secretary, 1997-2001).

In the first years, a lot of effort was put to find representatives or persons with an interest in the field of Dental Public Health in European countries outside UK. Many of the early EADPH congresses were held in cities where well-known professors worked and could act as co-presidents: Strasbourg 1999, Cork 2000 and Marburg 2001 as Professor Ferro has already mentioned. Athens in 2002, was a step into uncharted territory both for the EADPH and myself having been elected president for the years 2002 and 2003. Thanks to the local co-president, Professor Thessaly Athanassouli, the meeting in the beautiful antique meeting rooms in Athens was successful. Many local colleagues took part in the congress.

The 2003 congress was held in Finland. The Public Dental Service (PDS) Unit of Jyväskylä in the Finnish Lake District offered to host it and its head, Dr Paavo Luukkonen volunteered to become the co-president. The meeting focused on preventive and prophylactic methods. Professor Hannu Hausen was one of the key note speakers. As the PDS was a major service provider in the Nordic countries the event gathered together a number of PDS managers and PDS dentists from Finland, Sweden and Norway in addition to the EADPH members. The social program offered a front-row seat to Finnish dance culture. The congress attendees were taken by bus to dance at a local lakeside open-air dance pavilion.

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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A big disadvantage with the early meetings was that no information of the programmes, presentations or abstracts was published. Only printed handouts were distributed at the meetings. These could not be found when I wrote this section of the EADPH's history.

After Athens and Jyväskylä I attended most of the EADPH meetings during the next 20 years. In my eyes, the association was and still is in the first place a suitable performance venue for senior and junior researchers in dental public health, a subject that is quite small and modest in most European countries. In countries where professionals with specialised training can find opportunities outside academia as well, the field holds a stronger position. Spreading the meetings all over Europe made it possible for local colleagues and students to become familiar with the subject and for the ordinary members it provided new insights and gave rise to new research ideas. Speaking as an emerita professor in dental public health, I would have hoped for our field to gain a more prominent role in dental education. In this respect I very much agree with the Cascadia declaration (Ref) criticising among others that the focus of education is still very much on technical measures (drilling and filling) instead of establishing health. Also, dentists' earnings are based on the concrete procedures they perform.

### Professor Nigel Pitts



Nigel Pitts was President of the British Association of the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD) in 1994-95 and was a Founding member of EADPH at the joint BASCD/EADPH Meeting in Dundee in 1996. He became Chairman of the EADPH Caries Epidemiology and Prevention Special Interest Group (SIG) in 2002 and continued that role through the development of the equivalent Special Interest Working Group, until 2024. He currently chairs the new SIG on Translating research into policy. Nigel was EADPH President in 2004 and 2005.

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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The highlight of his EADPH Presidency was to hold a joint meeting with International Association for Dental Research (IADR), the World Health Organization (WHO) and BASCD from 7-10 September, 2005 in Liverpool, United Kingdom. This joint meeting was held as the 8th World Congress on Preventive Dentistry (WCPD) during a period when the UK held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Participants from 43 countries addressed the prevention of oral diseases which were recognised as significant burdens on children and adults worldwide.

The participants emphasised that oral health is an integral part of general health and wellbeing and a basic human right. They took note of the World Health Organization's Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion in a Globalized World (Bangkok, Thailand, 2005) and affirmed their commitment to support the work carried out by national and international health authorities, research institutions, non-governmental organisations and civil society for the promotion of health and prevention of oral diseases. The parallels with the more recent and more ambitious WHO Bangkok Oral Health Meeting and Declaration of November 2024 are quite striking and indicate that the rate of progress over the last twenty years has been modest!

The excellent meeting generated the "Liverpool Declaration" a Call for Action listing nine areas of work for oral health which should have been strengthened in countries by the year 2020.

### Professor Dominique Declerck



In 2005, Dominique Declerck (Belgium) took over the presidency of EADPH from Nigel Pitts at the Liverpool meeting.

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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In the first year, the 11th EADPH annual conference, which was held in Prague (Czech Republic) from 7 to 9 September 2006, was prepared and organised with Zdenek Broukal as co-president. This meeting was held in conjunction with the 6th Annual Conference of the Kuwaiti Division of IADR and attracted 247 participants from 32 countries. In 2007, the 12th Congress of the European Association of Dental Public Health took place in Leuven and Ghent (Belgium) between the 20th and 22nd of September, with Jackie Vanobbergen as co-president. Main themes for that meeting were “Workforce Planning” and “Evidence-based Oral Public Health”.

During her presidency variable fees were introduced, facilitating membership from countries with low and middle incomes based on the World Bank classification economic indicator. Travel grants were offered for the first time allowing young researchers from these countries to attend the meetings and present their research.

Regular contacts and a close cooperation with different international organizations was sought, including the British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD), the Council of European Chief Dental Officers (CECDO) and the European Public Health Association (EUPHA).

Further, the process of transforming the Special Interest Groups (under the leadership of Ken Eaton as EADPH Officer for Special Interest Groups) into Special Interest Working Groups was launched. The initial SIGs (Oral Epidemiology and Oral Health Improvement) were regrouped and extended into six Special Interest Working Groups covering the following themes (and initial group leaders): tooth surface loss/erosion (Carolina Ganss), health services research (Rebecca Harris), geriatric dentistry (Luc De Visschere & Jacques Vanobbergen), caries epidemiology and caries prevention (Nigel Pitts), prevention of oral cancer (Monika Gyenes) and periodontal epidemiology (Roos Leroy).

### Professor Eino Honkala



## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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At the 2008 meeting in Heidelberg, Germany, the Presidency was passed to Eino Honkala.

The 13th annual EADPH meeting was held from 4 to 6 September 2008 at the Medical School of the University of Heidelberg. The theme of the meeting was “Promotion of oral health by public health measures”. The chairman of the Local Organising Committee was Prof. Andreas G. Schulte. The guest speakers were Professors Stéphanie Tubert-Jeannin, Rainer Sauerborn, Ian Needleman, and Peter Eickholz, and Dr Imke Kaschke. Oral presentations and posters covered topics like longitudinal studies on caries increment dynamics, trends in oral health among children and adolescents, and European oral health policies.

The Heidelberg meeting saw the debut of the six Special Interest Group (SIG) workshops, which were initiated at the EADPH Ghent meeting in 2007. They set the framework for ongoing, specialised discussions and collaborations in Dental Public Health across Europe.

In 2009, September 3–5, the 14th annual meeting took place in Tromsø, Norway. The main theme was “Changing treatment needs – implications for oral health care and education. The European perspective.” The programme featured keynote lectures and poster sessions, during which 58 young researchers from 20 countries presented their posters. The meeting was organised by the Institute of Clinical Dentistry at the University of Tromsø, the northernmost dental school in the world. Professor Harald M. Eriksen, Head of the Institute, acted as chairman of the conference. The Institute was newly established (in 2004), and this conference was the first one they organised. Therefore, a six-person delegation from the Institute took part in the EADPH Prague meeting in 2007 as a study trip. That was planned already when I worked at the University of Tromsø in 2006.

The collaborators in Tromsø were most enthusiastic in organising an EADPH meeting and welcoming colleagues at their new school. The conference was attended by 168 participants who certainly enjoyed not only the meeting but also the beautiful scenery, including the mountains and the sea.

In June 2009, I moved to Kuwait to work as a Professor of Dental Public Health at the Faculty of Dentistry, Kuwait University. Although not living in Europe, working online with the organisers at the Tromsø University was smooth and productive. I was gladly able to attend the event and enjoyed everything, especially discussing with the European colleagues.

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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During the conference, the Presidency was passed to Zdenek Broukal. It was planned that the name of the next President would be carved on the badge in Prague before the Tromsø meeting. Therefore, I sent the badge by post. Unfortunately, it was lost during the shipment between Kuwait and Prague. Of course, in hindsight, I should have packed the badge with me when travelling to Norway, passed it to the next President and had the name be carved afterwards. Anyway, while it was my mistake, the new badge was prepared by goldsmiths in Prague at my cost, and the presidents' names were inscribed on it. It could be said that we learn from all experiences!

### Professor Zdenek Broukal



Sadly Zdenek died in 2020. He was a Professor at the Stomatology Clinic of the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague. Apart from his work for the EADPH, he had been chairman of the Czech Stomatological Society and organised many conferences.

In 2010, the annual congress was held in Constanta and was organised by Professor Corneliu Amariei and his team. It was preceded by a two day workshop. During the congress, the presidency passed to Zdenek. Unfortunately, as described in Eino Honkala's reflections, the President's badge of office was not handed over.

During Zdenek's presidency, in 2011 annual congress took place in Rome.

Zdenek hosted three workshops in Prague, all funded by GABA, to help EADPH members improved their academic publishing. The first took place in 2008 and was on abstract writing, the second was in 2010 and was on research methodology, the third was in 2012 and was on peer reviewing

### Professor Kenneth Eaton



Ken Eaton took over the EADPH presidency and co-hosted a joint EADPH/BASCD meeting in London in November 2012. Jenny Gallagher was the other co-host and through her good offices, the meeting took place at the Royal Institute of British Architects. The theme of the congress was Addressing Common Challenges in Europe Pan European Working in Support of Oral Health. Over 240 delegates attended the congress. The opening reception was held at the House of Lords and the Gala dinner at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Also in 2012, the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe (PBOHE) held its first meeting in Brussels. Its founding organisations were EADPH, the Council of European Chief Dental Officers and the Association for Dental Education in Europe. Ken Eaton was elected as its first Chairperson for the period from 2012 - 2014. EADPH has played a major role in the PBOHE and Paula Vassallo and George Tsakos are past chairpersons. Further details of the role of EADPH in the PBOHE are to be found on page 42.

In November 2013, the annual congress was in Malta at St Julians . It was hosted by Paula Vassallo and its theme was - Behavioral aspects of oral health disease, disease and interventions. In the two days before the congress a grant applications training session took place. Ken Eaton handed the presidency on to George Tsakos at the congresses gala dinner

### Professor George Tsakos



George Tsakos was President for the following two years (2014-2015). This coincided with two successful annual EADPH congresses, in Gothenburg, Sweden, from 12-14th June 2014, and in Istanbul, Turkey, from 17-19th September 2015.

For the EADPH congress in Gothenburg, Magnus Hakeberg was EADPH Co-President and chair of the organising committee. It was held at the Wallenberg Conference Centre, University of Gothenburg. The theme was “Behavioral aspects of oral health, diseases and interventions” with emphasis on both individual and population perspectives. The Invited speakers were Sarah Baker (England), Gerry Humphris (Scotland), Eeva Widström (Finland), Ulla Wide (Sweden), Tiril Willumsen (Norway), and Magnus Hakeberg (Sweden) and the main issues presented were oral health promotion, insurance systems in dentistry, health care systems in the Nordic countries, dental anxiety as an example of behavioural problems in a population perspective, and also register-based research in dentistry. More than 200 abstracts were presented with researchers coming (mostly) from all parts of Europe, but there were also participants from Asia, North America and Australia. The opening ceremony was held in Gothenburg City Hall, with a welcome address by the Gothenburg mayor, while the gala dinner was held at the Opera and became a massive party throughout a good part of the night!

The 20th EADPH Congress was held in Istanbul (Betül Kargul was EADPH Co-President and chair of the organising committee). The theme of the congress was “Ageing and Oral health-related quality of life” and the emphasis was on oral health policies and interventions for health and quality of life, highlighting the importance of working in partnership to address the implications of an ageing society for care systems. There were invited presentations from international experts: Jacques Vanobbergen (Belgium), Finbarr Allen (Ireland), Joke Duyck (Belgium), Andreas Schulte (Germany), Nigel Pitts (UK), and also from experts from Turkey (İnci Oktay, Gulçin Bermek, Oya Aktoren, Kadriye Peker).

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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The main issues covered in the invited presentations referred to oral health and frailty among older adults, the impact of minimally invasive dentistry on quality of life, life skills based oral health promotion in older people, and public health aspects of caries prevention in Europe. In addition, more than 120 abstracts were presented from participants from all areas of Europe and beyond, covering a wide range of public health themes. The social side of the programme was also memorable, with the highlight being the gala dinner on a cruise to Bosphorus that also included impromptu belly dancing! George handed over the EADPH Presidency to Jackie Vanobbergen on the sea (literally) and the nice journey continued.

Both congresses would not have been such a success without the massive help of the respective organising and scientific committees and also the generous support of organisations that supported them. The Borrow Foundation, Colgate, and GSK (now Haleon) supported the expenses for the invited speakers and keynote lectures, while the Borrow Foundation and Colgate provided travel awards enabling many researchers to attend. In addition, a highlight of the programme in both congresses were the meetings of the Special Interest Groups that provided an opportunity for more direct, focused discussions and active engagement of the participants in key topics of interest. Many thanks to the Chairs of the Groups for their dedication and leadership.

Away from the two congresses, EADPH was involved in several outward looking activities over this period. Among them, it is worth highlighting the written submission in the WHO consultation on sugar consumption (in 2014), documenting the role of sugar as the key determinant of dental caries and supporting the WHO sugars intake guideline that was published in 2015. Linked to this, a proposal was put forward for a joint EADPH-ORCA Symposium on sugar that took place in Athens in 2016 during the ORCA Conference. In addition, the EADPH, the Alliance for a Cavity Free Future, the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe, and ORCA organised in 2015 a well-attended symposium on Caries epidemiology and Surveillance in Europe. Finally, the EADPH contributed to the work of the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe throughout this period and was instrumental in the production of the Platform toolkit of Best Practices for oral health promotion in Europe. All these activities and interventions were a result of teamwork and the whole of the EADPH Board (Jackie Vanobbergen, Ken Eaton, Huda Yusuf, Colwyn Jones, Marc Van Steenkiste, Andreas Schulte, Roxana Oancea) deserve a lot of credit for their dedication, commitment, working closely together and sharing responsibilities.

### Professor Jacques Vanobbergen



The years 2016 and 2017 marked a dynamic phase for the European Association of Dental Public Health (EADPH), characterised by strategic developments, influential collaborations, and two memorable congresses that strengthened its role as a leading voice in dental public health across Europe.

In early 2016, in Marburg, Germany, and continuing until the end of 2017 in Budapest, Hungary, Ghent, Belgium, and Vilnius, Lithuania, the Board convened to refine the organisation's operational framework. A major outcome was the creation of a comprehensive Guidance on the Organisation of EADPH Congresses, addressing financial protocols, sponsorship agreements, and the role of Special Interest Groups (SIGs). This document ensured greater clarity and sustainability for future events, including provisions for start-up funding and transparent financial reporting.

The Board also focused on strengthening ties with the Community Dental Health (CDH) Journal, a cornerstone of EADPH's scientific communication. Discussions led to the appointment of Professor Peter Robinson as the new Chief Editor and the formalisation of EADPH's representation on the editorial board. Additionally, the idea of publishing congress abstracts as an electronic supplement to CDH was introduced, signalling a move toward digital accessibility.

EADPH continued to play an active role in European oral health advocacy. Through its engagement with the PBOHE, EADPH contributed to policy development, notably the position paper "Oral Health and General Health: Putting the Mouth Back in the Body." (July 2016). The association also maintained strong links with the Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future (ACFF), supporting initiatives to promote preventive strategies across Europe. Other partnerships included participation in the Council of European Chief Dental Officers (CECDO) and the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), reinforcing EADPH's commitment to integrating oral health within the broader public health agenda.

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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The 21st EADPH Congress took place in Budapest, Hungary (29 September – 1 October 2016) with the theme *“Oral Health Inequalities in Europe”*. The Budapest congress was organised together with Prof dr Judit Szöke, EADPH Co-president. This event brought together over 217 participants from 31 countries, featuring 123 scientific abstracts and a vibrant program of keynote lectures, poster sessions, and social events. The congress underscored the persistent challenge of health disparities and the need for equity-driven strategies in oral health. Sponsors such as GSK, Colgate, and the Borrow Foundation played a pivotal role in supporting travel grants and scientific contributions.

In June 2017 (7th – 10th June), the 22nd Congress in Vilnius, Lithuania focused on *“Challenges in Oral Epidemiology.”* This congress was organised together with Prof dr Alina Puriene, EADPH Co-president. With 128 participants from 28 countries, the meeting offered 80 poster presentations and introduced a practical workshop titled *“Don’t Be Rejected,”* aimed at improving scientific publishing skills among members. The event also expanded the scope of SIGs, adding a new group on Special Care Dentistry. Once again, international sponsors ensured accessibility through travel grants and keynote support.

By the end of 2017, EADPH had laid the groundwork for future congresses in Palma de Mallorca (2018) and Ghent (2019), while exploring options for 2020. The association’s growing presence on social media and its biannual newsletter reflected a commitment to communication and member engagement.

### Professor Colwyn Jones



*Wearing the current president's badge of office made to replace the original*

My inauguration as president of the European Association of Dental Public Health was at the 22nd Congress dinner during the excellent meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania in June 2017. The Congress theme was, *“Challenges in Oral Epidemiology.”*

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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A UK referendum held on 23 June 2016 showed that a small majority of those who voted chose to leave the European Union. No one will be surprised that I thought this was a misguided decision which overshadowed my presidency and continues to disadvantage the UK.

In April 2018, during this first year of my presidency the UK soft drinks industry levy (sugar tax) was introduced to encourage producers of ultra-processed soft drinks to reformulate their products to reduce the sugar content. As expected there has been a positive impact in the UK. Excess sugar consumption is associated with caries, obesity, excess weight, diabetes, heart disease and a number of cancers (Jones, Craig & Anand 2017, Turner & Jones 2017).

The most significant and certainly the most demanding and enjoyable task was organising the 2018 EADPH Congress which was held in Palma de Mallorca on the 18-20 October 2018. A joint meeting was held with SESPO ( Sociedad Española de Epidemiología y Salud Pública Oral) and the theme was, *“Educating the Oral Healthcare Workforce To Provide Effective Prevention of Oral Diseases.”*. Personally, I feel I was very fortunate that my co-chair was Dr Carmen Trullos. Since then the close affiliation with SESPO has been a major benefit for both associations. Mallorca provided an excellent meeting and one long-term benefit has been the production of Spanish language abstracts for the papers published in our Journal, Community Dental Health.

In 2019 my second annual scientific meeting as president was on the theme of *“Patient-centred care: multi-sectoral approaches to improving oral health”*. It was held amid the beautiful medieval architecture of the Belgian city of Ghent, a University town and cultural centre.

### Dr Paula Vassallo



## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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Looking back, my presidency of the European Association of Dental Public Health which started in Ghent and came to a close in Latvia was a truly defining and deeply humbling experience.

Much of my time in this role coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, a period that challenged all of us both professionally and personally. In the midst of uncertainty and rapidly shifting priorities, I felt strongly, and still do, that oral health could not be sidelined. Together, we made it a priority to ensure that it remained visible within the wider public health response and prepared a report on Oral health and Emergency preparedness. In 2021 EADPH hosted its first online meeting on innovation in dental public health, bringing colleagues together to highlight the importance of not excluding oral health from pandemic preparedness and response.

Despite the disruptions, we were able to maintain a strong sense of connection within our community. I look back with great pride at the two congresses we organised—first in Montpellier, under the theme *“Non-Communicable Diseases: Time for Action”*, and later in Latvia, *“Sustainability in Dentistry – a multifaceted approach”*. These meetings were more than scientific gatherings; they were moments of reconnection, reflection, and renewed commitment to our shared goals.

During my presidency, I also felt it was important that EADPH continues to evolve. We revisited our Special Interest Groups to better reflect current public health priorities, ensuring that our work remains relevant and responsive to emerging challenges. Equally close to my heart was starting discussions to introduce the mentorship scheme—an initiative aimed at supporting and empower the next generation of dental public health professionals. Investing in people and creating opportunities for growth is, I believe, one of the most meaningful contributions we can make.

Above all, what stays with me is the sense of solidarity, resilience, and shared purpose that characterised this period. I am incredibly grateful to colleagues across EADPH for their support, collaboration, and friendship. It was a privilege to serve during such a pivotal time, and I remain inspired by the collective commitment to advancing oral health as an integral part of public health.

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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### Professor Huda Yusuf



My personal journey with EADPH started in 2011 with Professor Ken Eaton and Professor Georgios Tsakos asking me to join EADPH as a Dental Public Health Trainee and a PhD student. I had the privilege of serving EADPH including my time as Secretary organising 14 conferences that brought together colleagues, partners, and friends from across the public health community. I served as President from 2023-2025 and co-organised two scientific conferences in Crete and Rome. The conference in Crete was one of the first international scientific meeting to focus on the theme of 'From Plate to Profit: the commercial determinants of health. Presentations included from the Lancet Commission (Prof Sharon Friel), WHO (Benoit Varenne and Gauden Galea) and experts from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Professor Mark Petticrew) and University of Adelaide (Professor Paula Moynihan). The second conference Oral health for all: building a healthier future with key speakers from EUPHA (Elena Petelos), WHO (Benoit Varenne and Jim Campbell), and Europe (Ave Pold and Julian Fisher).

A key highlight during my presidency was being in Bangkok for the first WHO meeting on oral health and being part of the WHO Declaration on the Global Oral Health Action Plan- a moment where oral health was finally receiving the recognition it deserves considering the impacts on our populations and communities.

EADPH has been growing from strength to strength because of commitment and passion of past presidents and executive board members, but also EADPH's dedicated members who are eager to collaborate to improve public health outcomes. There is no EADPH without its members!

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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I am deeply grateful to the Executive Board, members, and sponsors for their unwavering support, the Borrow Foundation, Colgate and GSK (Haleon). Many of the achievements during my tenure included the development and delivery of webinars and masterclasses, proposal of the mentorship programme for early careers researchers, conference evaluation, development of the EADPH oral health advocacy toolkit and launching the EADPH undergraduate research prize. My vision was to integrate wider public health perspectives into our dental public health family. Our joint efforts with other organisations such as WHO, ACFF, EUPHA, EFPC, CECDO, EDSA, BASCD, the European Platform for Better Oral Health, WFPHA will support our advocacy for oral health for all.

Although my role was demanding, it has been deeply rewarding. Over the years, I have come to value the human connections built through this work the most. Conferences were not just events; they were opportunities to building collaboration and forming friendships. There were also opportunities to let out hair down and take to the dance floor!

I wish EADPH success for the future ahead! Thank you to all who hosted EADPH conferences, members, sponsors, colleagues and friends.

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

Scenes from the Congresses held in Crete, Mallorca, Rome and at the first WHO Oral Health meeting to launch the WHO Global Oral Health Action Plan in Bangkok



### Professor Stéphanie Tubert-Jeanin



I am a Professor of Dental Public Health at Clermont Auvergne University (France), having begun my academic career in the 1990s. I was fortunate to attend the EADPH Congress in Cittadella, Italy, in 1997—an experience that proved to be a true revelation. At the time, Dental Public Health was still in its infancy in France, and the opportunity to exchange ideas with international colleagues in the same field was invaluable. There, I met many pioneering figures in public health, which was deeply inspiring. For instance, I shared a car ride to the airport with Poul Erik Petersen, during which I discovered the pivotal role of the WHO in Dental Public Health. I returned to France convinced that Dental Public Health needed to be developed further and that I could contribute to its growth.

Since then, I have maintained close ties with EADPH by regularly attending its congresses. It was in Turkey, during the 2015 Congress, that Georges Tsakos proposed the idea of organizing a congress in France. Together with my colleague Nicolas Giraudeau from Montpellier, we decided to host it in Montpellier. This initiative allowed me to reconnect with EADPH and eventually led to my election as its President. After serving as Vice-President alongside Paula Vassallo and Huda Yusuf for two years, I began my presidency in September 2025.

I am proud to co-host, with Professor Roxana Oancea and her team, the current congress in Timișoara, where we aimed to explore the structural and political determinants of oral health and health policies. Since September 2025, significant milestones have been achieved, including EADPH's active participation in the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe, the WHO Oral Health Coalition, and the Cyprus Declaration—led by the ACFF—affirming that "Oral health is not a privilege, but a human right."

## REFLECTIONS FROM PAST PRESIDENTS AND OTHERS – CONTINUED

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These political actions complement the association's growing momentum, which today brings together nearly 400 members from European countries and beyond. Our members are actively involved in Special Interest Groups, they present their research at EADPH congresses where they can engage in discussions with peers. They also can contribute to the Community Dental Health journal, together with BASCD. EADPH board and Local organisers work hard to offer a rich programme of keynote speeches during congresses, as well as online webinars held and recorded throughout the year.

EADPH has grown significantly, and despite a challenging international context—marked by frequent challenges to science and difficulties such as rising travel costs due to fuel prices—I remain hopeful for its bright future. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, without whom EADPH's activities would not be possible, and we hope to secure the association's sustainability for the years to come. One thing is certain: populations need public health, and oral public health in particular, to ensure oral health promotion as well as equity in access to healthcare services.

### EADPH Annual Congresses

For thirty years, EADPH congresses (Listed in Table 1) have served as a global platform for advancing the science, practice, and policy of oral public health. Each year, congresses have brought together academics, researchers, clinicians, policymakers, to explore the most critical challenges in the field. The themes of our past congresses reflect a commitment to equity, innovation, and collaboration, addressing oral health not just as a standalone discipline, but as a vital component of overall well-being and general health. These themes have been chosen each year with a close collaboration between the EADPH and local organizing committee. From exploring the role of health behaviours in oral diseases prevention to tackling commercial and structural determinants of health, we've strived to ensure that oral health and particularly dental public health remains a priority on the global public health agenda. As we look back on these themes (Table 3), we can celebrate the progress made and recognize the work still ahead.

## Table 3: Themes of EADPH Congresses

| YEAR | THEME                                                                                    |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2013 | The mouth - the mirror of the body                                                       |
| 2014 | Behavioural aspects of oral health disease, disease and interventions                    |
| 2015 | Ageing and oral health related quality of life                                           |
| 2016 | Oral Health Inequalities in Europe                                                       |
| 2017 | Challenges in Oral Epidemiology                                                          |
| 2018 | Educating the Oral Healthcare Workforce to Provide Effective Prevention of Oral Diseases |
| 2019 | Patient-centred care: multi-sectoral approaches to improving oral health                 |
| 2020 | No congress due to COVID-19                                                              |
| 2021 | The innovation in Dental Public Health                                                   |
| 2022 | Non-Communicable Diseases: time for action                                               |
| 2023 | Sustainability in Dentistry - a multifaceted approach                                    |
| 2024 | From plate to profit: the Commercial Determinants of Health                              |
| 2025 | Oral Health for all: building a healthier future                                         |
| 2026 | Structural Changes for oral Health Equity: bridging science and policy                   |

# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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## Lina Strangvaltaite-Mouhat



Since the mid-2000s, EADPH has run special interest groups. They were originally called Special Interest Working Groups (SWIGs). They were established to allow members with research interests, in different aspects of Dental Public Health, to meet together at annual congresses, discuss their interests and develop projects or perform literature reviews. In 2008, there were six SWIGs. They were:

**Group 1** Prevention of Oral Cancer

**Group 2** Periodontal Epidemiology

**Group 3** Geriatric Dentistry

**Group 4** Tooth Surface Loss/Erosion

**Group 5** Caries Epidemiology and Caries Prevention

**Group 6** Health Services Research

However, although some papers were produced by some of the SWIGs, it became apparent that some the groups were producing no outputs.

In 2012, two further Special Interest Groups (SIGs), namely Quality of Life and Dental Public Health Education, were established, and one SIG, Health Services Research, was terminated. In 2017, it was decided to start in 2018 another SIG, Oral Health and Special Care Dentistry, which was approved by the AGM. This group started working in 2018. In 2019, the EADPH Executive Board decided to change the name of SIG Periodontal Epidemiology to Special Interest Group in Periodontology.

In 2022 and 2023, EADPH has consulted with its members regarding the restructuring of SIGs in line with the interests of members, current public health challenges and the World Health Organization Oral Health Strategy and Action Plan.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS - CONTINUED

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In the 2024 AGM, membership voted for the proposals within new SIG themes.

Currently, there are seven themes that are in line with WHO Oral Health Action Plan and that are driving the definition and activities of the eight SIGs.

**1. 'Health promotion and disease prevention' theme.**

SIG 'Primary prevention of oral cancer. Health promotion and disease prevention'.

SIG 'Sustainable community-based preventive oral health strategies (SustainOral)'

**2. 'Financial models, universal health coverage and oral health care systems' theme.**

SIG 'Oral health care within Universal Health Coverage and General Health Care'

**3. 'Vulnerable populations' theme.**

SIG 'Addressing inequalities by improving the oral health of vulnerable groups'

**4. 'Education, workforce and training' theme.**

Education, workforce and training 'WET SIG'

**5. 'Digitalization and Innovation' theme.**

SIG 'Digitalisation and Innovation'

**6. 'Translating research into policy' theme.**

SIG 'Translating Research Evidence into Policy – with caries as an exemplar'

**7. 'Oral health outcomes, oral epidemiology and health information systems' theme.**

SIG 'Strategies to improve the oral health outcomes of socio-economically deprived children'

The references for the papers, produced by SIGs are included in the reference list at the end of this publication.

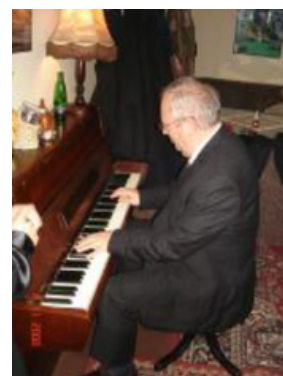
# TRAINING SESSIONS ON SCIENTIFIC WRITING AND RESEARCH METHODS

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Between 2008 and 2015, EADPH held training sessions on scientific writing and research methods. With the exception of the 2015 training session, which was sponsored by Colgate, all the sessions were sponsored by GABA. This funded the travel and accommodation cost of typically 15 participants and three teachers to attend for a two day training session.

- In 2008, the first training session took place in Prague and was on the topic of writing scientific abstracts.
- In 2010, a training session on research methodologies and methods took place in Constanta and one on writing scientific papers was held in Prague.
- In 2012 the training session was once again held in Prague and was on the topic of reviewing scientific papers.
- In 2013, the workshop topic was on writing grant applications. It took place in Malta, over the two days before the annual EADPH congress.
- In 2015, the two day session was held in Bratislava and was on the topic of planning, training examiners and administering research projects.

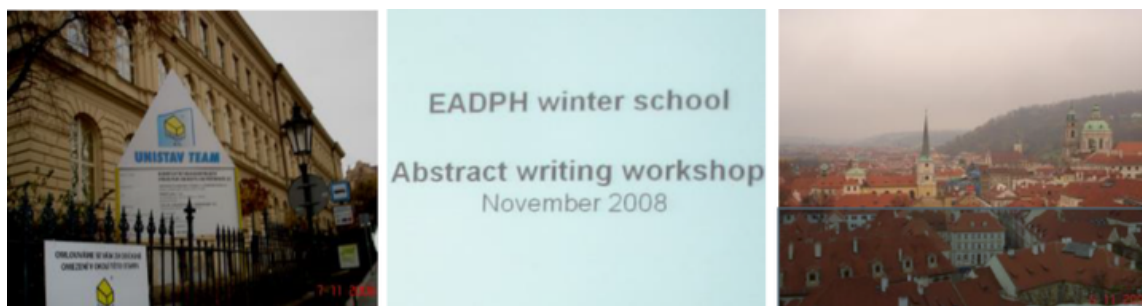
## An Appreciation from Dr Ruxandra Sava-Rosianu



*Some of the Participants at the first EADPH Writing Workshop in Prague with Professor Corneliu Amariei playing the piano during the dinner*

## TRAINING SESSIONS ON SCIENTIFIC WRITING AND RESEARCH METHODS – CONTINUED

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My journey within EADPH began in 2008, shortly after graduating in Dentistry from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Timișoara, Romania. I first met Professors Kenneth Eaton and Cynthia Pine at an Oral Health and Dental Management Conference in Constanta. Coming from a country where dental public health did not exist at the time, I felt fortunate to learn from their experience. Soon after, I attended my first training session on scientific writing and research methodology in Prague that same year. This was crucial for my early scientific career, as I previously had no experience in these areas. From the beginning, I felt welcomed into a professional yet warm community. We were a group of young researchers eager to learn during the workshops, guided by inspiring mentors, and we also enjoyed to party during the evenings. Additional training sessions followed in Constanța, Bratislava, and Malta. After each one, I returned home with greater confidence in my ability to conduct research and write scientific papers, and with stronger motivation to promote dental public health in Romania. During the Malta workshop on grant writing, after reviewing examples of successful programmes, I began considering the implementation of a national oral health survey in Romania, as we could not provide national data when asked. Encouraged by mentors, I pursued the idea despite scepticism at home about conducting a national survey from a university outside the capital. My motivation was continually reinforced through participation in EADPH congresses and the support of board members and sponsors. The Borrow Foundation played a significant role by supporting researchers' participation in EADPH conferences and workshops. A workshop in Glasgow, presenting the Scottish "Childsmile" programme, inspired me to apply for funding and initiate the first national oral health survey for children in Romania. After completing it, I planned an oral health intervention programme for children and obtained another grant. Although the intervention was finalised earlier this year, it also helped establish a strong network of supportive researchers who will contribute to developing dental public health in Romania. This progress would not have been possible without EADPH's support, for which I remain deeply grateful.

# PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

For over a decade, Colgate- sponsored pre-congress workshops have served as a vital platform for advancing dental public health, fostering collaboration, and addressing emerging challenges in the field. These workshops, held in conjunction with major conferences, have brought together experts, researchers, and practitioners to explore critical topics—from the intersection of caries and periodontal diseases to the adoption of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and interprofessional practice. Each year, the workshops have tackled up to date issues. As we reflect on the history of EADPH, the presentation of the themes (Table 4) and impacts of these workshops, underscores their role in shaping dental public health.

**Table 4: Themes of the Pre-Congress Workshops**

| YEAR | THEME                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2006 | Prague - Challenges for Dental Public Health in the Central and Eastern European Countries                                                                                |
| 2017 | Vilnius—Don't be rejected- EADPH workshop to help members avoid rejection of papers submitted to peer reviewed journals.                                                  |
| 2018 | Palma de Mallorca -Boundaries between Caries and Periodontal Diseases. What are the Implications for Dental Public Health ? (Add CDH reference)                           |
| 2019 | Ghent - Best practices in dental curricula developments – a follow up to the 2028 EADPH workshop.                                                                         |
| 2020 | No conference due to COVID-19                                                                                                                                             |
| 2021 | Montpellier, France - Online only, no pre-congress workshop                                                                                                               |
| 2022 | Montpellier, France - The WHO Action Plan for Oral Health – How can the EADPH and CEEDO contribute?                                                                       |
| 2023 | Riga, Latvia - Public Health Advocacy                                                                                                                                     |
| 2024 | Heraklion, Crete - What is essential oral health care from an EADPH Perspective ? What are the challenges in adopting Universal Health Coverage and Potential Solutions ? |
| 2025 | Rome, Italy - Bridging Gaps: Interprofessional collaborative practice for Universal Health Coverage and Oral Health Equity                                                |
| 2026 | Timisoara, Romania-- Adolescent Health and Oral Health: Addressing developing trends with a public health perspective                                                     |

# INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

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The European Association of Dental Public Health (EADPH) has cultivated enduring partnerships with a wide array of organisations at international, regional, and national levels, fostering collaboration to advance oral health and dental public health. These relationships span international networks, European institutions, and local stakeholders, enabling EADPH to amplify its impact through shared expertise, joint initiatives, and collective advocacy. By engaging with diverse partners, EADPH has strengthened its capacity to promote evidence-based practices, and shape policies to improve public health outcomes across Europe and beyond. We have not been able to list all our partnerships in this document, so we have highlighted three organisations with which the EADPH maintains historical close ties. We have also sought to gather testimonials from dental public health organisations operating at national level across Europe, whose members are involved in the EADPH.

## **British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry and Community Dental Health**

From the outset, EADPH has had a close relationship with the British Society for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD). In 1996, when EADPH started, the key journals publishing dental public health research were few. The Journal of Public Health Dentistry featured articles on fluorosis, oral cancer, and infant caries and the Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology journal was known for articles on e.g. health education. Journal of Dental Research published population data on caries and the American Geriatrics Society journal articles on the older patients. These journals provided a platform for studies on preventive strategies, population health trends, and evidence-based practices in dental public health during that period, notes Wiley Online Library and SciSpace.

Over ten years ago, EADPH was invited by BASCD to join them in their Journal Community Dental Health (CDH) and to nominate Editorial Board members. CDH is now the journal of the two associations and has published abstracts presented at annual EADPH congresses and the proceedings of the EADPH pre-congress workshops for several years,

## INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS - CONTINUED

### Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe (PBOHE)

EADPH was a founder member of PBOHE, together with the Council of European Chief Dental Officers and the Association for Dental Education in Europe. The aim of PBOHE is to bring together all European organisations that work towards the promotion of oral health and promoting the prevention of oral diseases in Europe. It has a secretariat based in Brussels and has produced a number of publications and policy documents. Its chair regularly meets MEP and policy makers in Brussels to promote oral health.

In September 2012, it held a Pan-European Oral Health Summit at the European Parliament and published an extensive report on the State of Oral Health in Europe.

Several Past EADPH Chairs and members have chaired the PBOHE, including Ken Eaton (2011 – 2014), Paula Vassallo (2015 – 2016) , Nigel Carter ( 2017 – 2019) and George Tsakos ( 2020 – 2023).

### Alliance for a Cavity Free Future

EADPH has built on the theme of developing links with other organisations which started with the 2014 Liverpool Meeting; an example of this was the Pre-ORCA 2015, Brussels Joint Symposium “Caries Epidemiology and Surveillance in Europe: Towards a Harmonised Approach” which was held jointly between EADPH, ACFF, ORCA, and PBOHE.



*Nigel Pitts and several EADPH members including Professor Klaus Pieper (fourth from the right) at the Joint ACFF, EADPH, ORCA and PBOHE Symposium on Epidemiology in Europe in 2015*

## INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS - CONTINUED

### **An Appreciation of Professor Klaus Pieper By Professor Huda Yusuf**



It is with great sadness that EADPH learnt that Professor Klaus Pieper has passed away in June 2026. Some of you will remember that Professor Klaus Pieper was EADPH Treasurer and co-chair of the then Caries Epidemiology and Prevention SIG. He served the organisation with great care, and meticulous governance. He also supported the organisation of a successful conference in Marburg in 2001.

He was the Head of the Department of Paediatric and Community Dentistry at Philipps University Marburg. He was an advocate of dental public health and presented his research in conferences with the aim of sharing his knowledge and expertise in improving children's oral health. He will be missed.

### **A tribute to Dr Nigel Carter-Oral Health Foundation**



Nigel served as a Trustee, Chair of the Trustee Board, and as Chief Executive of the Oral Health Foundation. He was an advocate for oral health in the UK and beyond having held leadership positions within the Department of Health Dental Smoking Cessation Group, the Oral and Dental Research Trust and the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe. He was Chair of the Platform for Better Oral Health (2017 to 2019) and continued his commitment until recently. He advocated for oral health improvements and tackling oral health inequalities within the European Commission with political aptitude and exceptional influencing skills for the benefit of populations and patients.

# MASTER CLASSES AND WEBINARS

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Since 2021, EADPH has held a number of masterclasses and webinars. All have been recorded and can be accessed and downloaded from the EADPH website [www.eadph.org](http://www.eadph.org). They are as follows:

## Masterclasses

**May 2021** Colwyn Jones Masterclass – “Child dental health improvement in Scotland – ChildSmile reflections

**June 2023** Health Advocacy Masterclasses 2023 Part I What is public health advocacy and what is the role of healthcare professionals?

Speaker: Michael Moore

**July 2023** Health Advocacy Masterclasses 2023 Part II Strategic communication and framing the issue: how to raise the importance of oral health in 5 minutes and disseminate information and policy implications.

Speakers: Prof. Stefan Listl, Prof Kenneth Eaton and Dr. Paula Vassallo

## Webinars

**Measuring Oral Health-Related Quality of Life: Part 1 from theory to practice**

Speakers: Prof. George Tsakos, Prof. Roger Keller Celeste, Prof. Matheus Perazzo

**September 2024 ,Measuring Oral Health-Related Quality of Life Part II: Lessons learned from using quality of life data in population and clinical studies**

Speakers: Prof. George Tsakos, Prof. Finbarr Allen, Prof. Satu Lahti

Date:12th September 2024.

**November 2024, Academic Publishing for Beginners**

Speakers: Prof. Kenneth Eaton, Prof. Ivor Chestnutt.

**March 2025 , Oral Health Inequalities: where do we start?**

Speakers: Professor Richard Watt and Sante Leandro Baldi.

**May 2025, Digital Communication in Oral Public Health**

Speakers: Dr Nicolas Giraudeau and Freyr Guðlaugsson.

**June 2025, Teaching Dental Public Health Using a Socially Accountable Approach EADPH Workforce, Education & Training Special Interest Group Webinar.**

**February 2026 Universal Health Coverage by 2030. A pipe dream or a development imperative?**

Speakers: Professor Manu Mathur and Dr Paula Vassallo

**March 2026 Why is an ecosystem in oral health important?**

Speaker: Professor Jan Clarkson

# DETAILS OF SPONSORS, PRIZES, AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

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Apart from local sponsors for individual annual congresses, EADPH has received generous sponsorship for several years from Colgate, the Borrow Foundation and Haleon (formerly GSK). All are currently corporate members of EADPH.

Colgate have sponsored the pre-congress workshop for several years and offered travel grants to EADPH members from countries, defined by the World Bank as having medium or low economies, to help them with the expense of attending annual EADPH congresses. Colgate has also funded the cost of a key note speaker at several annual congresses. More recently, it has funded a prize for undergraduate projects

GABA funded the training sessions, described earlier in this history.

The Borrow Foundation has funded travel grants, an annual key note speaker and paid the annual EADPH membership for up to 100 EADPH members from countries defined by the World Bank as having medium or low economies.

Haleon funds three annual research prizes, two for postgraduates and one for undergraduates. This year (2026) it is also funding travel awards for EADPH members from non-European countries with medium or low economies, as defined by the World Bank.

Since 2025, EADPH has funded a second research prize for undergraduates.

In 2025, Oral B agreed to fund one of the EADPH SiGs , in combination with the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP), to produce a White Paper on the need for Interprofessional working to prevent oral diseases. A team of 15 representatives nominated by EADPH and 15 nominated by EFP, met near Frankfurt, in January 2026, for a two day workshop and the White paper is due to be completed by the summer of this year.

Two EADPH members have been awarded Honorary Membership of EADPH they are Professor Cynthia Pine and Professor Kenneth Eaton

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