

European Academy of Paediatric Dentistry

A brief History of its Founding.

First Steps

Meetings at various international conferences by a group of leading paediatric dentists in Europe concluded that there should be a European Paediatric Dental Academy to encourage the interchange of ideas and to develop standards of clinical excellence, teaching, and research. As a first step, a group of twenty-five paediatric dentists provided the initial support and five formed a steering group to begin the process of founding of the EAPD. However, not surprisingly for the formation of a new specialist academy, there were questions as to who should be eligible as a member, how would annual conferences be organised and to how to finance the organisation and what form its management should take.

It was agreed that a first step was to contact known paediatric dentists throughout Europe whose practices or academic affiliations were known. In addition, some European paediatric dentists were members of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), and they were all contacted. Quickly a data base of potential members was developed, and all were written to seeking if there was an interest in joining. Positive replies were received in all cases. As to a first congress that would take some time to organise but a target of 1992 at a suitable date and venue.

The five core members comprised Goran Koch (Sweden), Luc Martens (Belgium), Constantine Oulis (Greece) with John Roberts and Martin Curzon (United Kingdom). But how would the EAPD get off the ground financially? The core group agreed to help from their own resources. The Leeds Foundation for Oral Research was a UK charity with an associated research group conducting clinical trials and had some office premises near Leeds. Martin Curzon was its main honorary director and offered secretarial support for the EAPD. The initial management of the EAPD could then be started without any substantial financial assets other than the slowly accumulating membership annual subscriptions.

For the first few months the management was by correspondence, and a bank account was set up with Barclays Bank, guaranteed by Martin Curzon, with John Roberts as Treasurer. The other core members provided advice and helped with recruitment. That was all very encouraging but as the membership grew and more countries in Europe were represented it was soon obvious that a meeting of a new body, to be called the Executive was needed. Dr Jean-Michel Morand (France) had joined and offered to arrange a meeting room in Paris as that city was readily reached by plane or rail. Thus in 1990 eight of the initial founding members of the EAPD formed a 'Steering Committee', as shown in this photograph.



1.

Present at that historic meeting, were from left to right.

Standing: ‘not recorded’ Bob Burgisdijk (Netherlands), John Roberts (UK), Olaf Hoskuldsson (Iceland). **Sitting:** Martin Curzon (UK), Constantine Oulis (Greece) Goran Koch (Sweden) and Domaso Caprioglio (Italy)

The first business/executive was held, again in Paris, in 1991 to confirm the appointment of a secretary to take the minutes (Martin) and a Treasurer (John).



2.



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Initial executive members: Photograph 2. Luc Martens (Belgium), Satu Alalusua (Finland), Jean-Michel Morand (France), Photograph 3, Ariane Arav-Hassan (France) with Constantine Oulis (Greece)

A President was to be chosen later. The other members would provide support and the group, now called ‘The Executive’ realised there was a pressing need for a meeting or Congress to launch the Academy. However, without any capital or any other sources of finance that would be difficult. The membership by that date had increased but only to the extent of about thirty. The total membership fee income was clearly not sufficient to support a scientific meeting. Several of the Executive Members volunteered to approach their contacts in the dental industries for support, but as the EAPD had no history such an approach was unlikely to generate enough money.

It was agreed that the format of the first meeting should comprise one or two main presentations together with short oral papers, following the well-established approach of other organisations such as IADR and ORCA.

Previously, in 1988, Martin Curzon had been the honorary director of an ‘*International Conference on Diet and Dental Caries*’, and subsequently there was a call from various organisations for a follow-up meeting to focus on ‘*Prevention*’. If that second meeting could materialise then Martin thought that he could bring it to a suggested venue of Leeuwenhorst in the Netherlands (previously successfully used by ORCA), for a two-day meeting but to have a

third day for the EAPD's first Congress in the same Convention centre. The small EAPD Congress could 'piggy-back' on the proposed Prevention Congress. In addition, one or two of the speakers at the Prevention meeting might also be willing to stay on and present at the First EAPD Congress.

And thus, it came about that in March 1992 the dual conferences took place. The the EAPD Congress, would have the theme of '*Efficacy of Preventive Agents for Dental Caries*'. The main speaker was Professor Louis Ripa, from Stonybrook University (New York)' a noted authority of the various techniques for the prevention of dental caries at that time. The EAPD Congress was a success as there were 149 paediatric dentists from eighteen countries attending and a number of new members joined. That was very encouraging.

The first half of the one-day EAPD Congress was concerned with Prevention and the second half presentations on how existing training programmes were organised.

CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY		
Leeuwenhorst Congres Centrum, Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands		
7 March 1992		
PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME		
SATURDAY 7 March 1992		
08.30	REGISTRATION	
09.00	Welcome	Professor M E J Curzon
09.10	Clinical Paediatric Dentistry Chairman Professor C Oulis, Athens	
	"Practical Preventive Paediatric Dentistry in the Dental Office - I"	Professor L Ripa University of Stonybrook New York
10.15	COFFEE	
10.45	Clinical Paediatric Dentistry Chairman : Dr I Jacobsen, Oslo	
	"Practical Preventive Paediatric Dentistry in the Dental Office - II "	Professor L Ripa
12.30	LUNCH	
13.30	Postgraduate Training in Paediatric Dentistry. How long, When and What should we include Chairman : Dr E Ben Zur, Switzerland	
13.40	Training Programmes in Belgium	Dr L Martens Ghent
14.00	Training Programmes in Scandinavia	Professor G Koch Jonkoping
14.20	Training Programmes in the UK	Dr B Scheer London
15.00	Discussion on Training Requirements in the EEC/Scandinavia led by Chairmen	
16.00	Annual General Meeting of European Academy of Paediatric Dentistry	
17.30	CLOSE	
20.00	CONGRESS BANQUET	

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Based on that First EAPD Congress success, the Executive Board agreed to plan for a Second Congress for 1994 to be held in Athens (to be directed by Constantine Oulis) and the Third Congress in 1996 in Bruges (to be directed by Luc Martens).

Pictures from the First EAPD Congress in Leeuwenhorst.



Some members of the first Executive Committee: Photograph 5. Constantine Oulis, Martin Curzon taking the minutes; Photograph 6 John Roberts, Eli Ben-Zur, Goran Koch.

Prior to the Congress, the Board had also decided that we should collect details of ‘*Training Programmes in Europe*,’ specifically the duration of the courses, entry requirements and how the programmes were administered and assessed: Luc Martens was given that task. As a result of his efforts within the programme at Leeuwenhorst the seminar was held on ‘Training’ chaired by Eli Ben-Zur, as shown in a copy of the first brochure. This seminar was the beginning of the development of ‘*Guidelines on Postgraduate Education in Paediatric Dentistry*,’ although it would take several years of consultation to produce a final document.

The Executive agreed that to move the development of the EAPD forward, that a President should be appointed but also future Presidents elect. On that basis Martin Curzon would start the ‘ball rolling’ to be followed by Goran Koch as ‘President Elect.’ Agreement had also been reached that our Congresses should be held every two years and that period would be the term of the President. But there should also be a ‘President Elect’ and the retiring President would be ‘Past President,’ also for two years each. By taking that rolling approach the total time commitment would be six years thus ensuring continuity.

The Three First Presidents



It was also decided that the term of office for that of ‘Secretary’ and ‘Treasurer’ should also be six years. It was also agreed that there should be a ‘Council’ comprising a representative of each member country, which would meet in conjunction with each Congress.

Accordingly, by the end of the First Congress in Leeuwenhorst the provisional organisation had been set but to be refined and adapted as needed. However, a constitution would be needed and that was the next task for the Executive.

Prepared by Martin Curzon with Constantine Oulis and Luc Martens

Past Presidents of the EAPD