

Preface

Niklaus P. Lang, Thorkild Karring,
Denis F. Kinane, Jan Lindhe,
Mariano Sanz, Maurizio S. Tonetti

Fifth European Workshop on Periodontology (EWP) of the European Academy of Periodontology (EAP), Charterhouse at Ittingen, Thurgau, Switzerland

The European Academy of Periodontology (EAP) is a standing committee of the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP). Starting in 1992, the EAP has organized a European Workshop (EWP) every 3 years. These workshops were staged to unite teachers and researchers in the field of Periodontology and related areas to discuss and promote the field in the sense of a true academy. Upon completion of the workshops, the EAP resumes the status of a standing committee with the mission of planning the next event 3 years later.

From the third EWP in 1999 and onwards the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) was cordially invited to send a delegation and actively participate in this endeavour. Thus, the EAP has provided and continues to provide numerous opportunities for friendly contacts on both sides of the Atlantic and to jointly further the knowledge in our academic environment contributing to the improvement of the

scientific background of teachers worldwide.

The fourth EWP in 2002 tackled the difficult task of profoundly probe the scientific basis for periodontal practice. For the first time a workshop was based entirely on systematic reviews specifically prepared for the discussion within the working groups. This enterprise constituted a pioneer approach in dentistry and led to a stage setting in so-called evidence-based periodontology. The proceedings of the fourth EWP appeared as a supplement of the *Journal of Clinical Periodontology* and included 15 systematic reviews and five consensus reports. These documents were widely recognized and frequently quoted in subsequent publications on therapy. They truly created a solid scientific foundation for periodontal practice in the new millennium.

After a successful approach in 2002, the EAP decided to devote the fifth EWP to the discussion of new knowledge arising from research in aetiology,

pathogenesis and analytical epidemiology leading to preventive concepts. Patient-centred benefits and public health aspects were also addressed. As opposed to the topics discussed in the fourth EWP, the topics of the fifth EWP could not only be debated based on systematic reviews and hence, traditional reviews were also accepted, scrutinized and amended. Again, a valuable document has been composed. Owing to the generosity of *Blackwell Munksgaard International Publishers*, another supplement of the *Journal of Clinical Periodontology* will disseminate the knowledge acquired and gained from lively discussions in the Charterhouse at Ittingen, Canton of Thurgau, Switzerland.

Finally, the EAP wishes to acknowledge the financial support of the fifth EWP by *Oral B Laboratories*. Without their unique and generous support both financially as well as professionally this fantastic event would not have taken place.

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