

## MEETING OF THE SOCIETIES PARTICIPATING IN THE MOIP NETWORK

(Mediterranean Orthodontic Integration Project)

Napoli - Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2007

The meeting was opened by Dr. Claudio De Nuccio, incoming 2008-09 SIDO president, who welcomed all participants in Napoli, also on behalf of professor Alberto Laino, SIDO president. Mission and aims of the MOIP network were briefly illustrated once again, stating the importance of communication and sharing information among the different participating associations in a more global context.

The Chair of the meeting was taken by dr. C. De Nuccio and professor F. Miotti.

Professor Miotti, observing that not all Delegates of the different Societies had met before, suggested that each participant stand up and introduce himself/herself, the country and the Association they represented.

Croatia	Mladen Slaj	Croatian Orthodontic Society
Cyprus	Abraham Kiriakydes	Cyprus Orthodontic Society
France	Olivier Mauchamp	French Federation of Orthodontics
	Pierre Planchè	French Society of Dento-Facial Orthopedie
Greece	Panagiotis Skoularikis	Greek Orthodontic Society Hellenic Professional Union of Orthodontists
	Vassilios Stathopoulos	Greek Association for Orthodontic Study and Research
Israel	Nir Shpack	Israel Orthodontic Society
Italy	Claudio De Nuccio Francesca Miotti	Italian Society of Orthodontics
Lebanon	Edmond Chaptini	Lebanese Orthodontic Society
Slovenia	S. Zupancic	Slovenian Orthodontic Society
Spain	Josè Maria Llamas	Spanish Society of Orthodontics
Syria	J. Al Baroudi	Syrian Orthodontic Society
Turkey	S. Dogan	Turkish Orthodontic Society

14 societies, out of the 19 included in the network, were represented at the meeting in Napoli. Apologies had been received from Presidents and Delegates from Albania, Arab Countries, Egypt, Morocco and Serbia, who had been unable to be in Italy.

Professor A. Athanasiou, who had also participated in the first workshop in Cairo, joined the Assembly as WFO President and professor G. Siciliani, who first proposed the project, was also present to part of the meeting.

Dr. De Nuccio expressed the wish to illustrate to the assembly the upcoming congress in Venice, May 11-13, 2008, jointly organized by SIDO and SFODF, that will also include the first scientific Session of the MOIP network.

The title of the congress is "Efficiency timing and the future of Orthodontics".

After the Opening Ceremony on Friday morning, the scientific sessions organized by SIDO will continue throughout the day. Saturday morning will see eleven participants from some of the MOIP network countries illustrate their most recent scientific work. At the end of the session dr. Stephen Chadwick, from the UK, will present his research that had been awarded the 2007 FEO prize. Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning will be dedicated to



sessions organized by the SFODF, and the meeting will be closed with a farewell cocktail at lunchtime.

There will also be a pre-congress course, presented by professor Junji Sugawara from the University of Tohoku in Japan, who will illustrate the recent development of “Predictable adult orthodontics using innovative skeletal anchorage systems (S.A.S.)”

The Scientific Committee has aimed to organizing a program including both scientific and clinical papers, and most new developments in the field of orthodontics will be illustrated and discussed during the three days of the meeting.

Dr. De Nuccio invited dr. O. Mauchamp and dr. P. Planchè to join him in inviting all Societies and Delegates to Venice. Dr. Mauchamp expressed his pleasure in having organized this joint venture with SIDO. The original plan from SFODF had been to hold the meeting in Monaco, but some local planning difficulties made SIDO suggest Venice as a possible location and SFODF gladly accepted the proposal. The scientific relevance of the program was illustrated, and dr. Mauchamp also suggested all Societies and Delegates check the dedicated website ([www.venice-sido-sfodf-moip.com](http://www.venice-sido-sfodf-moip.com)) for information and registrations. SFODF Membership are very pleased with the venue and a number of French Colleagues have already sent their registration in. Thus the advice to register early to have the choice of the preferred hotel and also because the participation to the pre-congress course will be limited in numbers.

Professor Miotti introduced then dr. B. Di Tommaso, General Director of Congresship, the organizing agency, who also briefly illustrated the website, where all informations regarding the meeting and the venue can be found.

The organization of the MOIP network was then discussed. It has to be noted that the Cairo workshop had been followed by a meeting in Firenze, as previously reported, where some suggestions had been made and some plans of action were formulated. The project is not simple or easy to carry out and it takes time to develop all initiatives, thus the network is still not working to its full potential. However the will to work together towards a common goal was felt by all both in Cairo and in Firenze, thus an update was needed before further planning.

Professor Miotti indicated that at the moment 19 societies, representing 17 mediterranean Countries have joined the network. However, the position of two countries, Bulgaria and Luxemburgh, who had been originally invited to the first MOIP workshop in Cairo and joined the network, need to be considered. It had been pointed out by colleagues from other areas that neither country has access to the Mediterranean, thus other European groups from various countries have asked to participate in the project. Consideration needs to be given to the concept of limiting the network according to geographical borders or indeed accepting other countries in the network.

Dr. De Nuccio stated that he had no objections to keep the participation to the network open but indicated that more time is needed before accepting new countries, as more definite working plans are needed to strengthen the network.

Dr. Mauchamp suggested that countries not facing the Mediterranean could join FEO instead, and a full cooperation between FEO and MOIP could then be established.

Dr. Stathopoulos asked whether Bulgaria, Luxemburg and Portugal have actually left the projects. Professor Miotti answered that Portugal had already communicated in the past that as the national orthodontic community is going through a process of internal reorganization they preferred not to join another organization, but would consider an affiliation in the future. As mentioned before, some decision is needed about the other two countries.

Dr. Al Baroudi asked some information about Algeria, Libya and Tunisia. It was explained that while some contacts have been established with Tunisia, this had proved quite



difficult. However, further efforts are made to communicate with the Societies in these countries too and the assembly was then asked to provide SIDO with information, should any member have some contacts in these areas, to facilitate communication.

Dr. Stathopoulos, again referring to the acceptance of countries not facing the Mediterranean, suggested that boundaries should not be considered in any educational project, but once again indicated the need for the network to become stronger and operative before becoming too large. According to Dr. De Nuccio future plans need to be established and defined to continue developing the project.

However, a decision needs to be made on the issue of boundaries and all Delegates were asked to consult with the Councils of their Societies and present their suggestions to the SIDO delegate who will then collate all indications. A final proposal will be formulated to be discussed during the next MOIP meeting in Venice in May 2008.

Professor Miotti stated that, though efforts have been made by many Members since Florence 2006, the MOIP network system is still not working to its full potential and there certainly is room for improvement. Thus the need to examine what has been achieved since last November.

The "affiliation" of Albania, Croatia and Spain to the network has been confirmed.

An Advisory Committee for the journal Progress in Orthodontics now includes all Presidents or Delegates of the MOIP network.

The program for the 2008 congress in Venice has been wrapped up and has been printed in time for Napoli, though unfortunately some imperfections had been observed and only a limited number of booklets were available. The amended program will be printed and shipped to all associations requesting it for distribution and a PDF version can also be provided for inclusion in the associations website.

In Florence (2006), some projects were suggested and are illustrated in the report of the meeting.

*Statement 1 :*

*the establishment of a committee responsible to create a group of official MOIP speakers (from the countries involved in MOIP project) who will be annually invited to lecture in the national congresses of the affiliated societies. The work of this committee will provide a closer cooperation between the societies and organizations in the MOIP and will promote its aims. National Societies should provide travel and accommodation costs to the speakers.*

A list of MOIP speakers has indeed been collected, with input from the various Countries, and the Scientific Committee for the session in Venice nominated speakers from this list. However, some included only few names and will already need to be updated, possibly including also new researchers who might be developing new interesting projects. Dr. Nir Shpack has kindly agreed to contact all Associations again, asking for new information, and it is hoped a full list of names can be completed within 2 months, as suggested by Nir, who clearly indicated the need for firm deadlines in common actions. It was then decided that nominations could also include speakers from different Associations and recommendations could also be accepted from individual members. The Assembly was asked to provide either Nir or Francesca with the nominations, and the updated list will then be circulated to all Societies.

*Statement 2:*

*For the better development of the MOIP project, the release of a newsletter with all the latest developments of the MOIP project is recommended. A committee should be responsible for editing the newsletter or at least providing the societies and organizations*



*involved with all the latest information so that these can be included in the newsletter released by every organization.*

This is proving to be a more difficult issue, as it appears many initiatives are indeed being carried out by all Societies, but the information is still not being shared. This problem has been indicated by many Editors of various international newsletters and better communication is obviously needed. What could trigger a better communication ? what sort of information would interest the different memberships in the various countries ? Some examples of national initiatives were then described.

SIDO has organized the program “ adopt a child ” to provide free orthodontic care for children living in protected accommodation (“Family Homes”) because of difficult family condition, who could otherwise not afford to have their teeth straightened. SIDO president professor Laino and his Council organized the program and over 300 members have already offered their participation. The Regional Authorities select the children on the basis of their need of treatment and refer them to the members of the Society who carry out the comprehensive treatment in their private offices or departments, free of any charge.

A similar initiative, described by dr. Kyriakides, has been established by the Cyprus Orthodontic Society, by sponsoring dental care in Kenya provided by Cypriot colleagues: the money was raised by selling the pieces that were collected from the art competition among members. The Art Competition was called Smile and patients were asked to draw whatever they thought about the smile. The Award Committee consisted of artists and the drawings were exhibited during the Dental and the Orthodontic Congresses. The feedback was so positive it was decided to establish it as an Annual Competition. A suggestion has also been put forward to organize an international competition.

The Israeli Orthodontic Society has recently been working on a public awareness campaign dedicated to educating the public on the subject of specialty in orthodontics, concentrating initially on people interested in orthodontics, who might not be aware of the fact that orthodontics is a specialty and that there are differences between specialists and dentists practicing orthodontics. An information booklet was prepared, to be distributed by the orthodontists, to explain “*All about Orthodontics*”, “*Who is an orthodontist*” and “*How to select your orthodontist*”. The same information has been made available through a CD presentation to be run in the waiting room and in a poster.

The issue of public awareness on orthodontics has been addressed in slightly different ways also by other countries, Cyprus (dr. Kyriakides), Greece (dr. Stathopoulos) and Lebanon (dr. Chaptini) who also use booklets and CDs to promote education in the public. Many members suggested sharing the material and dr. Skouliarikiis will be calling for further information.

A final comment from the Chair indicated that the MOIP network has so far not been described in some journals or sites, though in some sites there might be a link to SIDO’s website. Thus in some countries colleagues have not heard about the joint congress in Venice, organized by SIDO and SFODF, hosting a full MOIP session. It is recommended that all Members report on this point to their Councils, asking for the Congress to be publicized with the indication of the dedicated website ([www.venice-sido-sfodf-moip.com](http://www.venice-sido-sfodf-moip.com)).

### *Statement 3:*

*The creation of a MOIP Award to be given annually to a presentation by a postgraduate student in orthodontics of the Mediterranean countries involved. A specific committee should therefore establish the criteria of the MOIP Award and choose between the nominated presentations. Education in orthodontics in the Mediterranean area must become an important interest for the MOIP.*

This suggestion had been put forward, but no criteria had been set. The choice might be logistically difficult and there are some critical points to be decided, such as the venue where the presentation should be given (during a MOIP session ? this would involve establishing the MOIP session at yearly meetings. During a national meeting ? the presentation would then need to be submitted to a international jury and this would make it a long process). The possibility of the award being presented to posters during international congresses was also considered.

Drs. Kyriakides, Slaj and Stathopoulos volunteered in suggesting a list of criteria to be discussed at the next meeting in Venice.

A general discussion followed, and many suggestions and ideas were put forward.

Dr. M. Slaj suggested the invitation of a MOIP speaker to all local meeting. The proposal was seconded by dr. N. Shpack, who also indicated the need of some form of sponsorship to increase mobility and suggested establishing a biannual MOIP session, rotating among the different countries of the network. Dr. V. Stathopoulos stated that he will be sending all membership some proposals from GAOSR, including a suggestion to organize a joint meeting in 2010 with Cyprus. It is obviously hoped by all that all Greek Orthodontic Associations would eventually be involved in the project.

However, many venues have been suggested for such an event, Slovenia, Turkey and Greece among the others, and it should be pointed out that, according to most participants, the general outcome of the upcoming SIDO / SFODF joint meeting in Venice should be evaluated before further planning.

Professor A. Athanasiou congratulated the presidents of SFODF and SIDO, and their organizing Committees, for their joint efforts towards the Congress in Venice, and expressed some positive comments on the venture. He suggested information on the event should be spread to all Members of the different Associations and not only to their Boards. A final suggestion was to circulate all educational material among all Societies, to be integrated and adapted to the different environments.

Dr. Claudio De Nuccio declared the meeting closed, inviting all participants to Venice with many of their Colleagues and to join the SIDO Council at the Gala Dinner the following evening.

Francesca A. Miotti