Editorial

The European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA), in support of its missions, makes many efforts to increase activity and visibility of the organization by organizing, in addition to the annual congresses, other scientific forums such as symposiums, summer schools, and workshops, either within ORCA or jointly with other scientific associations. Amongst all the meetings held over the past year, the following events could be mentioned as endeavours to cover a broad spectrum of research pertaining to health promotion: the Saturday Afternoon Symposium, which focused on the critical appraisal of the currently existing clinical classifications of dental caries lesions, the “Sugar” Symposium, organized jointly with the European Association of Dental Public Health (EADPH), and the workshop “Boundaries between Dental Caries and Periodontal Diseases,” in partnership with the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP). The aim of those meetings was not only to stimulate research activities in the prevention of dental and oral diseases but also to provide the ORCA members and attendees an opportunity to network with the international community of researchers while exploring the latest scientific discoveries in the field.

Another step in support of the ORCA missions was made by introducing several amendments in the Constitution and Bylaws of ORCA. The proposed amendments were announced to the membership in the newsletter, then discussed during the General Assembly on July 7, 2016, in Athens, Greece, and approved by the extraordinary General Assembly on November 6, 2016, in La Granja de San Ildefonso, Spain. Thus, the amendment in the Constitution comprised the introduction of Institu-

tional Membership applicable to non-profit organizations and educational or research institutions engaged in caries research or oral health promotion and interested in the activities of ORCA. In the Bylaws, the Individual Membership category was modified by cancellation of Introductory Membership and maintaining the categories of Full, Retired, and Honorary members, as well as the introduction of Student Membership. The latter category is applicable to students currently enrolled for a degree at recognized academic institutions, without an academic appointment and interested in caries research. The annual membership fees for students shall be recommended by the Board and approved by the General Assembly.

Furthermore, application for membership has been simplified so that recommendation letters are no longer required. Any individual eligible for membership under the Constitution and Bylaws can become a member of the organization. Full or Student Membership will be considered following submission of the application and payment, and membership will become official following the review of the applications. Organizations supporting the objectives of ORCA are invited to apply for Corporate or Institutional Membership. Applications should be made to the Membership Secretary and accompanied by a statement describing the objectives of the organization applying.

The newly introduced membership categories will have the same benefits of ORCA membership as the regular members, including free online subscription to *Caries Research*, the official journal of ORCA. A full description of the privileges and responsibilities of ORCA members can be found in the Constitution and Bylaws that are available on the ORCA webpage.

In order to strengthen the internal democracy in ORCA the terms and election procedures for the Executive Board have been clarified in the Bylaws. Thus, the term for all the executives (except the President's office) will normally be limited to 5 years. The executive members, except the Vice-President, are nominated by the Board and take office on approval by the General Assembly. In the case of several nominations for each office, the election must be confirmed by a secret vote of the Board Members. The Editor of *Caries Research* can be elected for

an additional term of 5 years, following the nomination procedure and approval by the Board.

The present report has outlined some of ORCA's activities of the last year and changes that have been made to improve the functioning and further progress of the organization. I would like to thank sincerely all ORCA members for their engagement and support in all ORCA's activities that stimulate the development of caries research in all parts of the world.

Vita Machiulskiene, President of ORCA