Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

Since our last congress in Cartagena, Colombia, there is a new board of the European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA). It is my honour to start this new year, 2020, with a guest editorial. ORCA is deeply thankful for the incredible work that Prof. David Beighton dedicated to the development of *Caries Research* over the last 10 years as Editor in Chief. He also managed the abstract process for the ORCA conferences in this time. Prof. Carolina Ganss will now carry the editorial team of *Caries Research* into the future where ORCA will continue to serve as an international crystallization nucleus for cariology. This encompasses basic research on the aetio-pathology of dental caries and other hard-tissue disorders, possible ways to interact, the global epidemiology, risk factors and, last but not least, preventive and therapeutic approaches for caries management.

To achieve these goals, ORCA organized a joint workshop in 2019 with the cariology group of IADR to redefine a “common language,” i.e., conventionally used terms related to dental caries and erosion published in *Caries Research* in 2019 (Epub ahead of print). Together with the European Foundation for Conservative Dentistry (EFCD) a consensus process was initiated to find an evidence-based consensus on “How to intervene in the caries process?” Based on 6 systematic reviews on ECC,

caries in the primary dentition, occlusal surfaces of permanent molars, proximal surfaces, and recurrent and root caries, 3 consensus papers on dental caries in children, adults, and seniors are now on their way to publication. These consensus statements cover all degrees of caries management from non-operative/non-invasive to minimally/micro-invasive and conventional restorative. They were intensively discussed by the selected expert group from ORCA and EFCD in Berlin last June and they are currently in the Delphi voting process.

ORCA has formed an international alliance with other organizations to focus cariology research and its implementation on successfully fighting dental caries and its complications on a global level. The educational platform at the ORCA congress will try to expand this to under-represented areas on the ORCA map, especially in Asia and the Middle East.

In the future, ORCA will remain an interactive player, networking to serve our populations by professionally managing dental caries and other hard-tissue disorders at multiple levels. I would like to thank all ORCA members for their contributions to this process and I invite other individuals and organizations to join ORCA in this endeavour.

Christian H. Splieth, President of ORCA