

EAO News: How the Junior Committee of the EAO Has Influenced My Professional Development and Made a Lasting Impact on My Career

Ignacio Sanz Sánchez, DDS, MS, PhD

Etiology and Therapy of Periodontal and Peri-Implant Diseases Research Group, Faculty of Dentistry, University Complutense of Madrid; Private practice, Madrid, Spain.

With support from the following:

Kathrin Becker, DDS, PhD

Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany.

Lucrezia Paternò Holtzman, DDS, MS

Department of Periodontics and Prosthodontics, G. Eastman Dental Hospital, University Policlinic Umberto I; Private practice, Rome, Italy.

Dear Esteemed Members,

I would like to extend a warm invitation to young minds eager to improve the future of science, innovation, and clinical performance in the field of dental implantology by joining our EAO Junior Committee. In an era where scientific developments are crucial for societal progress, promoting the next generation of leaders is paramount.

My involvement with the EAO Junior Committee has provided me with a wealth of experiences that extend beyond the benefits described in this letter. It has been a transformative journey that has offered me the opportunity to navigate numerous transitions. Initially, I had assumed the role of a Committee Member representing Spanish implantology, which was a responsibility that demanded a high degree of accountability and responsibility from a young clinician and researcher like me. During the 3 years that I was an active member, I had the opportunity to gain a considerable amount of insight, form valuable connections, and become an integral part of the EAO. As time progressed, they offered me the position of President of the Committee, which I could not decline because it aligns with one of the most admirable aspirations of a young dentist. Over the following 2 years, I came to appreciate how the role of President afforded me the opportunity to gain insight into the functioning of the EAO Association, given that I was required to represent the Committee within the EAO Board. However, what proved to be of greater significance was the chance to lead a group that showed me the value of working as a team. This group continues to evolve with the valuable contributions of the incoming president and new members. I am gratified to have been able to leave a modest legacy.

Here are some reasons why being part of our Junior Committee—and the wider community of the Junior Academy—is a unique and great opportunity:

doi: 10.11607/ijp.8895



Fig 1 Members of the EAO Junior Committee. From left to right: Nikolay Makarov, Joao Pitta, Ignacio Sanz Sánchez, Lucrezia Paterno Holtzman, Kathrin Becker, Pavel Scarlat, Maria-Angeliki Alexopoulou, and Balazs Feher.

Empowerment

As a member of the EAO Junior Committee, you will have the opportunity to express ideas, evaluate concepts, realize initiatives, and participate in discussions that may contribute to the development of projects that could have an impact on the scientific community and daily clinical practice.

National and International Networking

As a member, you are also able to connect with peers who share your passion for dental implantology and curiosity for exploration and improvement. Through workshops, conferences, hands-on sessions, and collaborative projects, you will build a network of like-minded individuals, while forging friendships and professional relationships that can last forever!

Impactful Contributions

In this position, your ideas matter because there is a chance to impact the scientific community and the clinical practice with your contributions. By joining forces with your fellow committee members, you will amplify your efforts and effect meaningful change, whether it is organizing outreach events or participating in research projects.

Skill Development

Committee membership is more than a title, it is an opportunity to develop essential skills, such as teamwork, communication, leadership, and project management. This development is not only essential for future scientific growth but also for personal and professional maturation.

Personal Growth

Beyond academic achievements, being part of the EAO Junior Committee cultivates personal growth. Members of the EAO Junior Committee will develop resilience in the face of challenges, confidence in their abilities, and a sense of responsibility for the greater scientific community.

Career Opportunities Within the EAO

My personal experience has showed me that my activity within the Junior Committee did not go unnoticed, because I was invited to take part as an advisor in the education committee led by Helena Francisco. The Junior Committee has given rise to the career opportunities of many within the EAO. Aside from myself, countless others have moved on to different positions within the organization, including Helena Francisco, Iva



Fig 2 Members of the EAO Junior Committee. From left to right: Pavel Scarlat, Ignacio Sanz Sánchez, Balazs Feher, Lucrezia Paterno Holtzman, Kathrin Becker, Maria-Angeliki Alexopoulou, Joao Pitta, and Nikolay Makarov.

Milinkovic, Josè Manuel Navarro, Ferruccio Torsello, Isabella Rocchietta, and even the current president, Rony Jung! The Junior Committee is truly a breeding ground for future advisors within the organization and, more broadly, leaders in the field of implant dentistry.

CONCLUSIONS

The EAO Junior Committee is not just an opportunity, it is a journey of discovery, growth, and impact. It is with this thought in mind that I wish the current committee, under

the presidency of Lucrezia Paternò Holtzman, boundless success and impact with their projects and endeavors. I believe the Junior Committee's enthusiasm and fresh ideas will help them gain traction amongst their peers and increase the visibility of the EAO Association.

I invite you to join us on this trip as we shape the future of science and empower the next generation of leaders.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Ignacio Sanz Sánchez