The weather in Scotland for the 2347 delegates attending the 94th Congress of the European Orthodontic Society (EOS) at the EICC Edinburgh from the June 2018 may not have been perfect but it was made up for by the very warm and friendly welcome.

The meeting commenced with the EBO examination and EFOSA and EPSOS meetings on Saturday, the 15th June. On Sunday the 16th, meetings of NEBEOP and Teachers’ Forum took place. The pre-congress course on that day ‘Biomechanics, tips, tricks and failures: from the practitioner for the practitioner’ given by Bjorn Ludwig was attended by 170 delegates and the course on ‘Evidence-based Class II treatment’ given by Sabine Ruf, was attended by 143 postgraduates. Both courses were extremely popular.

In the evening the President, Dirk Bister, welcomed everyone to the opening ceremony. The compere, who set the tone for the whole meeting - educational, informative and entertaining - was Rye Mattick, a consultant orthodontist in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK. She regaled us in her own inimitable style with tales of Burke and Hare (the notorious Edinburgh grave robbers) who initially provided cadavers for dissection but were not content with just that, and resorted to killing their victims. Delegates were then addressed by the Right Honourable Lord Lieutenant, Frank Ross, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, who outlined the virtues of the city. The next guest required no introduction. A world renowned geneticist, member of the House of Lords and television personality, Professor Lord Robert Winston spoke on genetics and the relationship with craniofacial anomalies and how those with such malformations were perceived in paintings by the Old Masters. Some important ethical issues concerning genetic manipulation and the drive for perfection were raised. This was a
most interesting talk which was understood both by orthodontists and non-orthodontists. The finale was an outstanding performance on the pipes and drums (together with a guitar) by the Red Hot Chilli Pipers. This was Scottish music with a difference that had the audience on their feet. Delegates were then piped to the EICC for the opening of the trade exhibition at which a large number of exhibitors were present and enabled delegates to renew and make new contacts.
The scientific programme commenced on the 17th June with the Sheldon Friel Lecture given by Fraser McDonald, probably the first Sheldon Friel lecturer to deliver their lecture wearing a kilt! His highly thought provoking presentation on ‘Growth and statistics’ questioned the reliability of growth prediction and the use of statistics in forecasting treatment stability. This was followed by the three Houston Oral Research presentations given by Li Mei of Australia, Joël Beyeler of Switzerland and Rupal Shah of the UK on the topics of ‘Efficacy of oral probiotics in managing biofilm formation in orthodontic patients: a triple-blind randomised placebo-controlled trial’, ‘Impaired collagen matrix contracture by fibronectin-deficient fibroblasts’ and ‘Parents’ perceptions of outcomes of orthodontic treatment in adolescent patients: a qualitative study’, respectively. They keynote speakers for the morning session were Greg Huang of the USA and Mithran Goonawardene of Australia on ‘Management of adult anterior open bites’ and ‘Is accelerated orthodontics possible’? The keynote speakers for the afternoon session were Piotr Fudalej of the Czech Republic, Raphael Patcas of Switzerland and Mauro Farella on the topics of ‘Biotype and the development of gingival recession in orthodontic patients, A closer look at life-long retention’ and ‘Snapshots of orthodontic gnathology: the facts from the fiction’, respectively. Short oral presentations were given by delegates from a number of countries including India, Greece and Japan.
The President's reception on Monday evening took place at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh where Dirk Bister, resplendent in the tartan of the College, and his wife, Pat, welcomed guests. In a departure from previously held receptions, the whole of the faculty was opened to delegates and a variety of entertainment and street food was provided. There was something for everyone – chamber music to Ceilidh, a casino to a cake and coffee shop, dancing and guided tours of the museum. A treasure hunt also took place with a prize of either a three night bed and breakfast stay at Ten Hill Place Hotel, Edinburgh or a £300 credit towards a hotel break in another European city. This was won by Ralph The of the Netherlands. A short video of the evening, courtesy of the Royal College, is available at: https://youtu.be/kKLZhwkIPBY

The keynote lectures on Tuesday the 19th June covered the topics of 'Align technology' (John Morton and Manuel Roman), 'Treatment effectiveness and quality of the results using lingual appliances' (Magali Mujagic, France), 'Psychological aspects of orthodontic malocclusions' (Tim Newton, UK) and 'Does orthodontic treatment improve patients’ quality of life?' (Guy Willems, Belgium). During the lunch period the EJO open session focussed on 'Measuring treatment benefits: clinician-determined versus patient-reported outcomes' with contributions from Carlos Flores Mir of Canada and Philip
Benson of the UK. There was significant audience participation in this quick fire debate. The poster session, at which presenters stand by their posters allowing those interested in the topic to discuss their research and findings, took place in the afternoon. Approximately 600 posters were on display on a wide variety of subjects.

During the evening, the ever popular postgraduate party took place at the Assembly Rooms, built during the Georgian period. Those attending (both young and old!) could choose between a ceildah or disco; whilst those taking part in the former had difficulty in following instructions, particularly when attempting 'Strip the willow', there was no doubt that the evening was a great success!

The morning session on Wednesday the 19th June was on Free topics with keynote lectures by David Rice of Finland on 'Breakthroughs in understanding cleft lip and palate and craniosynostosis: implications for treatment and for orthodontics' and Maisa Seppälä of the UK on 'Searching for the molecular causes of altered tooth number in mouse and man', with short presentations on cleft lip and palate, hypodontia and supernumerary teeth. These talks highlighted the possible role of epigenetic factors in the pathogenesis of oral clefts and the genetics of tooth number.
The following presentations were made at the award ceremony: Fraser McDonald Sheldon Friel Memorial Lecturer, Timo Peltomäki, Distinguished Teacher 2019, Joël Beyeler, Switzerland (Houston Oral Research), Maria Bizzarro, Italy (Houston Poster Research), Caroline Sondeijker (Netherlands), Alexandra Papadopoulou (Australia), Tuula Talvitie, Finland and Satoru Hayano, Japan (EOS Posters) and Petra Santander, Germany (Francesca Miotti Award). Full membership of the EBO was given to: Pasquale Aceto, Enrico Albertini, Mattia Fontana, Paolo Francesco Gallo, Satoru Hayano, Trevor Hodge, Anthony Macari, Alessandro Musci and Masahiro Nakamura and provisional membership (Part I) of the EBO to: Lucia Ammendola, Catherine Brierley, Miha Bobič, Pedro Carreiro, Gianluca Danzi, Fabienne Egli Howald, Clara Fontinha, Gerardo Franzese, Frédéric Rafflenbeul, Damien Robaldo and Sophie Stolz. The University of Ghent was awarded full membership of the Network of Erasmus Based European Orthodontic Programmes. The winner of the Beni Solow Award for the best article published in the European Journal of Orthodontics in 2017 was Nisa Gul Amuk et al. (Turkey). A short presentation then followed on their research titled 'Effect of cell-mediated osteoprotegerin gene transfer and mesenchymal stem cell applications on orthodontically induced root resorption of rat teeth'.

The keynote lecturers for the afternoon session were Giulio Allesandri Bonetti of Italy on ‘Oral appliances for obstructive sleep apnoea: an evidence-based analysis, highlighting the role of body mass index’ and Tony Ireland of the UK on 'The Index of Orthodontic Functional Need', which provided information on the rationale behind the provision of nationally funded jaw surgery.
The session finished with the EOS Business Meeting where the officers of the Society, the editor of the EJO and the Presidents of the EBO and NEBOP gave their reports. Dirk Bister then passed the badge of office to Olivier Sorel who will hold the 96th EOS Congress in Nice in 2019.

The gala dinner was held at the National Museum of Scotland and commenced with a unique and symbolic celebration of Scottish culture: the Address to a Haggis, inspired by the famous Scottish poem by the national bard, Robert Burns. Following dinner the delegates danced to live music provided by the Killer City Sound.
The final events of the meeting were the golf tournament and the Congress outing and Silver Mill Competition which was held at Stirling Castle. Delegates toured the castle and surrounding grounds. The castle, surrounded on three sides by steep cliffs, is in a strong defensive strategic position, making it an important fortification from the earliest times. It was a favourite residence of the Stewart Kings and Queens who held grand celebrations from christenings to coronations. It was also the childhood home of Mary Queen of Scots and James VI of Scotland and I of England. With tam o’shanter (flat bonnets) in various tartans on their heads, those attending took part in the Silver Mill Competition which consisted of identifying various whiskies and then answering a quiz on the topic. An international team from a number of countries were awarded first place, followed by Greece and Scandinavia.
A tour of Edinburgh, together with a visit to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, was provided during the course of the meeting for those attending as accompanying persons.

Running a successful congress requires a significant amount of time and work, not only on the part of the President, but also the scientific and local committees. The EOS is indebted to all those concerned and in particular Dirk’s wife, Pat, who provided moral support over a number of years.