

Helping us understand what really matters: connecting the voice of the OI community with our daily work

Mereo was delighted to welcome Taco van Welzenis from the [Osteogenesis Imperfecta Federation Europe \(OIFE\)](#) to our offices on 22 January 2019. Taco has been a member of the Executive Committee of the OIFE for 12 years; and remains an active member of the organisation. Taco kindly travelled all the way from Utrecht in the Netherlands to give a presentation and to share his experiences with everyone in the company, across all our rare disease programmes.



The meeting gave the whole Mereo team the opportunity to hear first-hand about the history of OI from its first discovery and scientific classification; how the OIFE and its member organisations are organised and work together, as well as their aims and objectives; and their projects to help support the OI community.

Most importantly, however, it gave the whole Mereo team the opportunity to hear first-hand about living with OI and what impact it does – and does not – have on a person’s life. Taco shared the extension of the OIFE’s collaboration into new countries, where OI-specific programmes to help support local knowledge about best clinical practice can help people across the globe to have better support and care. And he shared some of the latest European developments aimed at fostering collaboration within the community closer to home – supported by modern technologies.

We all came away with a much deeper understanding and a better appreciation of where research and collaboration in OI can make a difference; about what is important for people with OI; as well as the challenges and opportunities faced by the community in order to improve diagnosis, treatment and care in all aspects for their members and their families. Thank you, Taco, for joining us in London. It was a pleasure to have you with us.