



Dental PBRN Newsletter

Special Edition 2006

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Welcome to this Special Edition DPBRN Newsletter! We will begin our first network-wide study within the next few weeks and this Newsletter gives you a synopsis of the study as well as introduces you to our Regional Coordinators.

Don't forget to visit our website, <http://www.DentalPBRN.org> to receive up-to-date information on all our studies as well as current articles, a poll, and a helpful tip of the month. We also have a new DPBRN e-mail list feature, which gives you an opportunity to chat with other dentists participating in the network and discuss the latest trends and newest materials in dentistry.

When you visit our website you can link to the online "Human Participant Protections" training course that will provide the foundation for you to participate in future projects.

Our Mission:

"To improve oral health by conducting dental practice-based research and by serving dental professionals through education and collegiality."

Study 1: Assessment of Caries Diagnosis and Caries Treatment

DPBRN Study 1 will begin recruitment in June and July 2006

The first network-wide study is a questionnaire entitled "**Assessment of Caries Diagnosis and Caries Treatment**". The only requirements are that you perform some restorative dentistry in your practice and have completed the enrollment questionnaire, which can be found at our website, www.DentalPBRN.org. Study 1 will be the first in a series of studies. After completing the Study 1 questionnaire, you may be asked to participate in Study 2 and/or Study 3. Completing Study 1 is necessary to participate in Study 2 and/or Study 3, but completing Study 1 does not mean that you are agreeing to participate in Study 2 and/or Study 3, nor that you will necessarily be asked to.

The purpose of this project is to identify methods DPBRN dentists use to diagnose and treat caries lesions. The aims of Study 1 are to quantify the percentages of DPBRN dentists who report: (a) using selected methods for caries diagnosis; (b) using a caries-risk assessment protocol of any variety; (c) intervening surgically at caries stages E1, E2, D1, D2, or D3. The aims will be met by enrolling DPBRN practitioner-investigators in Study 1, each of whom will complete a 10-page questionnaire about caries diagnosis and treatment assessment.

This 10-page questionnaire will include questions about the use of aids such as radiographs, explorers, and devices such as Diagnodent® in diagnosing caries lesions. Other questions will include the use of sealants, chlorhexidine rinses, and the role of assessing a patient's risk in determining final treatment. Some clinical case scenarios are also included in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire will take about 30 minutes to complete and you or your dental group will be compensated \$50 for your time. By completing this questionnaire, you will benefit from the opportunity to reflect your views on the current caries diagnosis and caries risk assessment plans used in your practice as well as gain information on the practice methods of your peers.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, you can contact **Andrea H. Mathews, BS, RDH** at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her email address is ahmathews@uab.edu.

Regional Coordinators

The following are Regional Coordinators who will be contacting and recruiting dentists to participate in the studies. They will also provide training and will be a liaison for the dental practices that choose to participate:



Alabama Jackie Love, AS, CDA

Jackie is a Research Specialist at the School of Dentistry at UAB and Regional Coordinator of DPBRN. Jackie is a certified dental assistant and worked in the Oral Diagnosis/Oral Radiology clinic at the dental school before joining the research staff. She can be reached at jalove@uab.edu or (205) 975-3113.



Alabama Andrea Mathews, BS, RDH

Andrea is Program Manager for DPBRN. Andrea has been at the School of Dentistry at UAB for 4 years and has 15 years of experience in public health and was in private practice before then. She is located at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She can be reached at ahmathews@uab.edu or (205) 934-2578.



Alabama Sherry Wilson, MA, Ed.S

Sherry is a Research Assistant at the School of Dentistry at UAB. She formerly worked as a health educator with the Alabama State Department of Public Health for fifteen years and taught at Jefferson State Community College. She served as a dental assistant while in graduate school in Tennessee. Sherry has been actively involved in writing research papers and participating in research projects in urology private practice. She can be reached at stwilson@uab.edu or (205) 996-5412.



Florida Deborah McEdward, BS, RDH

Before becoming a full-time Research Coordinator, Deborah taught dental hygiene at the local community college and worked part-time in research. She has experience in solo and group practices and was the staff hygienist for 3 years at the Foreign-Trained Dental Program at the University of Florida.



HealthPartners Merry Jo Thoele, MPH, RDH

Merry Jo is regional coordinator for the Minnesota Dental PBRN. She is a Research Project Manager at HealthPartners Research Foundation and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Primary Dental Care-Dental Hygiene at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry.



Kaiser Permanente Dental Associates Sally Jo Little, RDH, MS

Sally Jo is a Dental Research Associate at the Center for Health Research (CHR), Kaiser Permanente Northwest (KPNW). She has 17 years of experience with CHR implementing and managing oral health research projects within the KPNW dental care program. Her research experience includes health behavior change, tobacco cessation, and health services research. Before she came to CHR, she was an Assistant Professor in the department of Dental Hygiene at Idaho State University, where she conducted courses for dental and dental hygiene students.

