



# DPBRN Newsletter Fall 2010

## In This Issue

[News Items](#)

[Testimonials](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Welcome to the Dental PBRN quarterly newsletter! We invite you to see other details at our website, <http://www.DentalPBRN.org>. You can also view the projects for which we are currently recruiting practitioners, as well as suggest and view new research ideas. When you visit our website you can complete your online training course that will provide the foundation for you to begin on a project if you have not already done so.

DPBRN continues to be extraordinarily active and productive, as this edition of the newsletter demonstrates - thanks to all of our practitioner-investigators!

## News Items

### **Fifth annual meeting for Permanente Dental Associates DPBRN practitioner-investigators**

Permanente Dental Associates (PDA) held its 5th annual regional meeting on Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the RiverPlace hotel in Portland, Oregon. Forty PDA dentists attended the meeting. Practitioners and research staff who were in Portland to attend The DPBRN Steering Committee, Regional Coordination Group, and Executive Committee meetings also attended the regional meeting, bringing the total in attendance to almost 60. One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentations given by practitioners from the Florida, Minnesota and Scandinavian regions. Each gave an informative and sometimes humorous presentation about dentistry in his or her region.

With the 2012 end-of-award date approaching, Dr. Don DeNucci talked about the future of practice-based research networks. Dr. Gregg Gilbert provided an update on current network activities. Several PDA practitioners spoke about recent and ongoing DPBRN studies. Dr. Jeffrey Houtz talked about DPBRN study "Peri-operative pain and root canal therapy", which is currently underway. Dr. May Kao presented

### Mission Statement

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

information about DPBRN study "Blood sugar testing in dental practice" which was conducted earlier in 2010. Dr. Daniel Pihlstrom presented PDA region-specific results from DPBRN study "Reasons for replacement or repair of dental restorations". Finally, Dr. Kenneth Brossel, a member of the PRECEDENT practice-based research network, shared study results from their study "Salivary markers in caries risk detection".

Providers Dr. Minah DeAinza, Dr. David Straube, Dr. Jeffrey Wolfe and Dr. Farooq Nasserziayee, along with the principal investigator of the Kaiser Permanente site, Dr. Jeffrey Fellows, led poster discussions during the meeting. These presenters provided a brief synopsis of a poster as groups of dentists circulated asking questions and discussing the implications of poster results.

Eighteen dentists received framed DPBRN certificates for their participation in one (or both) of the DPBRN studies "Prevalence of questionable occlusal caries lesions" and "Blood sugar testing in dental practice".



PDA practitioner-investigators received a certificate for participating in one or more DPBRN studies.



Dr. David Straube, DPBRN practitioner-investigator, led a poster discussion entitled "Gender differences in treatment of dental caries".



DPBRN is an effort to help dental professionals directly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dental care. Essentially, it is research done about and in the "real world" of daily clinical practice.



Dr. Jeffrey Wolfe, DPBRN practitioner-investigator, led a poster discussion entitled "Actual versus reported caries restorative thresholds".



DPBRN practitioner-investigators Drs. Minah DeAinz, Ernest Meshack-Hart, Cyrus Lee, and John Kim.

## Testimonials



**Ms. Jennifer Guidoni, RDH**  
**Full-time hygienist with Raymond Shenfield, D.D.S., P.A.**  
**Stuart, Florida**

As a full time hygienist of a busy practice, I thought the participation in DPBRN studies would interrupt the normal course of the dental office. I was pleasantly surprised when I found out how easy these studies were. Our patients were very receptive to the fact that we were helping with a research project through the university. We had an appreciation from our patients when we asked them to be a participant. We have participated, as an office, in three studies and all of the personnel in our office have enjoyed them.

By participating as a researcher, I have witnessed a rejuvenation of my own efforts in the practice; being a hygienist for 27 years, you tend to



need inspiration at times. This form of practice-based research has continued to encourage me to practice at the highest level achievable with each and every patient as it may ultimately influence others.

---



**Alan Law, DDS PhD**  
**Full-time endodontist**  
**The Dental Specialists in Lake Elmo, MN**

I joined The DPBRN because I wanted to be part of a group that is attempting to answer questions that most practitioners ask. I have not been disappointed. In fact, I continue to be pleased and inspired by the enthusiasm of other clinician-investigators. What I had not expected to see was the level of commitment that my office team has demonstrated. After an initial period of getting organized, the DPBRN studies on root canal therapy quickly became part of our daily routine. I feel that patients sensed the comfort level of the team which made them more willing to enroll in the study. Out of 34 patients, only one did not enroll. We look forward to participating in future studies.

---



**Ronald Dichiara, DDS**  
**Full-time Endodontist**  
**Birmingham, AL**

The root canal studies entitled "Peri-operative pain and root canal therapy" and "Persistent pain and root canal therapy" were the first Dental PBRN projects in which I and my office participated. I was recruited to join DPBRN by Dr. Jocelyn McClelland, a general dentist in Alabaster, Alabama, who has participated in several DPBRN projects and who has presented DPBRN findings at national and international research meetings.

These studies can be challenging because of the perceptions that many patients have when coming to an endodontist for root canal treatment,

especially when they are in pain. However, they typically understand the importance of doing studies, and they see our practice as something "special" because we are participating in studies designed to improve their health outcomes and quality of care. Participation rates have been very good and we are eager to see the results from these studies. I am especially interested in being able to compare the findings from our practice to other practices anonymously throughout the network.

## News Items

### Faculty member from Japan visits The Dental PBRN

Naoki Kakudate, DDS, PhD, MPH, a faculty member in the Graduate School of Medicine and Public Health, Kyoto University, Japan, visited Birmingham, Alabama and Portland, Oregon from September 14-22, 2010 to learn more about The Dental PBRN and to observe its activities.

He began by visiting the Network Chair and Coordinating Center groups at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He visited with faculty and staff in both groups, attended weekly meetings of these groups, and learned about the structure and function of DPBRN overall, as well as specifics of the Alabama/Mississippi region. He also visited the office of an active DPBRN practitioner-investigator, Dr. Wilson Wright, Jr., of Birmingham, AL.

Dr. Wilson Wright Jr. and his staff, Celenia Colston and Shannon Bagley, hosted Dr. Kakudate on September 15, 2010. Dr. Wright and his staff are currently participating in the DPBRN studies "Peri-Operative Tooth Pain and Root Canal Therapy" and "Persistent Tooth Pain and Root Canal Therapy". Dr. Kakudate was very interested in how Dr. Wright interacted with the university and the mechanics of doing a research project in his private practice, which they discussed over lunch. Dr. Wright was quick to point out that without his staff helping facilitate the paperwork, the project would not get done due to busy office workload.

Following his visit in Birmingham, Dr. Kakudate attended the face-to-face meetings of the DPBRN Executive Committee, Steering Committee, and Regional Coordination Group in Portland, Oregon.



Dr. Wilson Wright, staff members Celenia Colston and Shannon Bagley, and Dr. Kakudate.



Some have referred to much of dental research conducted to date as "scientifically valid, statistically significant, but clinically useless". We would like to change that.



Dr. Gregg Gilbert and Ms. Andrea Mathews discuss The DPBRN with Dr. Kakudate during a DPBRN Network Chair meeting.



Ms. Sherry Sutphin (AL/MS Regional Coordinator), Ms. Jackie Love (AL/MS Regional Coordinator), Dr. Kakudate, and Ms. Andrea Mathews (DPBRN Program Manager).

---

### **Annual DPBRN face-to-face committee meetings held in Oregon this year**

The DPBRN Executive Committee, Steering Committee, and Regional Coordination Group held their annual face-to-face meetings at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research and the Permanente Dental Associates administrative offices in Portland, Oregon September 23-24, 2010. Each year, the committee members from all DPBRN regions meet face-to-face to engage in an assessment of the network's performance, to discuss strategic planning, and to discuss past, present, and future DPBRN projects. Members from the AL/MS, FL/GA, MN, PDA, and Scandinavia regions were all present, which included personnel from the HealthPartners Research Foundation, Kaiser Permanente Northwest, Permanente Dental Associates (PDA), the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Copenhagen, and the University of Florida.

The Steering Committee and Regional Coordination Group held a joint meeting and discussed the numerous DPBRN manuscripts, abstracts, and presentations thus far as well as those in progress. The groups were



also updated on the status of all ongoing DPBRN studies. The Executive Committee met to engage in strategic planning and to discuss how best to prepare for the upcoming grant renewal competition. In a first for the network, the EC also held a joint meeting with the Steering Committee and Regional Coordination Group in the afternoon of September 24. This was followed by a discussion of the operations and interactions among the Kaiser Permanente system overall, the Kaiser Permanente Northwest organization, the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research, and the PDA. This was followed by a tour of one of the PDA dental clinics.



Certain members of the DPBRN Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Regional Coordination Group outside the Kaiser Permanente offices in Portland, OR.



The members of The DPBRN Steering Committee discuss the numerous DPBRN manuscripts, abstracts and presentations in progress.



The DPBRN Steering Committee and Regional Coordination Group tour the Grand Avenue Permanente Dental Associates Clinic in Portland, OR.



Dr. Vibeke Qvist, Principal Investigator for the Scandinavian region, updates practitioner-investigators and other attendees at the Permanente Dental Associates annual DPBRN meeting.

## Contact Us

**Alabama/Mississippi:** Andi H. Mathews BS, RDH at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Florida/Georgia:** Deborah McEdward RDH, BS or Pearl Ann Harris, RDH, BASDH, Education/Training Coordinators for DPBRN, Department of Operative Dentistry at the College of Dentistry, Gainesville, FL.

**Kaiser Permanente:** Lisa Ann Waiwai MS, Research Associate for Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research (CHR), or Gail Morgan, Project Manager for Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research (CHR).

**Minnesota:** Emily Durand RDH, RF or Heather Weidner at HealthPartners.

**Scandinavia:** Pia Nørrisgaard RDH or Lene Fabricius-Bekker RDH.

[www.DentalPBRN.org](http://www.DentalPBRN.org)