



# Dental PBRN Newsletter

Spring 2008

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Welcome to the Dental PBRN quarterly newsletter! This newsletter is designed to provide you a synopsis of the contents of our website, <http://www.DentalPBRN.org>.

You can also view the projects for which we are currently recruiting dental 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.

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## News Items

### Scandinavian Executive Committee representative elected



Dr. Liselotte Persson has been elected practitioner-investigator representative on the DPBRN Executive Committee for the Scandinavian region. She will serve on the DPBRN Executive Committee for the 2008-2011 term. Since earning her Swedish dental degree in 1980, Dr. Persson has been practicing full-time in a Swedish public dental health service based practice; with the first six years as general practitioner and the past 21 years, as the head of the clinic. Dr. Persson has always been interested in quality issues and epidemiology and is looking forward to this opportunity. Congratulations, Dr. Persson!

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### Two practitioner-investigator representatives from the AL/MS region elected to DPBRN Executive Committee



Two practitioner-investigator representatives from the AL/MS region have been elected to the DPBRN Executive Committee. Dr. Martha Wallace of Birmingham, AL, and Dr. Gerald Anderson of Selma, AL, have been elected to represent the AL/MS region. Dr. Wallace will serve as the member-at-large representative for the combined AL/MS and FL/GA regions. Dr. Anderson will serve as the representative from the AL/MS region. Their three-year terms will run from February 2008-February 2011. Both Drs. Anderson and Wallace have been active DPBRN practitioner-investigators, and now increase their service further in these important elected positions.

Dr. Wallace served as an appointed representative on the Executive Committee from 2005-2008 for the AL/MS region, as did Dr. David Cawley of Montgomery, AL. Dr. Cawley served in an expert fashion and DPBRN and the AL/MS region are very grateful for his service! At its November 2007 meeting, the DPBRN Executive Committee approved having a total of 6 practitioner-investigator representatives. There will be one practitioner-investigator from each of DPBRN's regions, for a total of 5 practitioner-investigators, plus one practitioner-investigator "member-at-large" who represents the southeast region (combined regions of AL/MS and FL/GA), to make for a total of 6 practitioner-investigator members on the EC. The first 3-year term of the southeast representative is filled by a practitioner-investigator from the AL/MS region, followed by the next 3-year term being occupied by a practitioner-investigator from the FL/GA region. Congratulations, Drs. Anderson and Wallace!

**Continued****Florida/Georgia region Executive Committee representative elected**

Dr. Paul Benjamin of Miami, FL has been elected practitioner-investigator representative on the DPBRN Executive Committee for the FL/GA region. He will serve on the DPBRN Executive Committee for the 2008-2011 term. Dr. Benjamin also served as an appointed representative on the Executive Committee from 2005-2008 for the FL/GA region, as did Dr. Manuel Serra-Jovenich of Miami, FL. In addition to serving on the DPBRN Executive Committee, Dr. Benjamin also serves as adjunct instructor at the University of Florida College of Dentistry and the University of Miami College of Medicine's Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. Congratulations, Dr. Benjamin!

**Practitioner-Investigator Highlight**

In this issue, we are highlighting Manuel Serra-Jovenich, DDS. Dr. Serra-Jovenich is a past DPBRN Executive Committee (EC) member, a member of the credentialing committee for CompDent insurance company, and has been in private practice in Miami, FL since 1986. As an initially-appointed DPBRN EC member, along with Dr. Paul Benjamin, Dr. Serra-Jovenich feels it has been an honor and a privilege to have served as a member of the "core" group, allowing DPBRN to grow and prosper in its practice research and contributions to the advancement of practice-based dentistry.

"The three years of my experience on the EC have been an eye-opener as to the contrast between academia and research and 'wet-finger' dentistry in the private sector. It is because of the dedication and research that the EC continues to exhibit that dentistry will advance proficiently. I am grateful for all the knowledge I have gained in so many ways through the EC and am confident we have laid the basis for a great foundation that will continue to serve the dental population for years to come.

"I have enjoyed working with all the current EC members, but a special thanks to Dr. Paul Benjamin. In the beginning of our EC tenure, we did not realize just how important our role was in funding projects, approving different studies that were presented to us, or understanding the complex nature of consents, research paper submissions, and other factors that required immediate attention.

"I look forward to meeting the practitioners in the network in May at the Atlanta meeting, and continuing my participation in DPBRN."

**Alumni Weekend for the School of Dentistry at the University of Alabama at Birmingham**

Jackie Love and Sherry Sutphin, Research Assistants and DPBRN Regional Coordinators, exhibited at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, AL for the University of Alabama at Birmingham Alumni Weekend February 1, 2008. They displayed information and answered questions about upcoming DPBRN research studies, which are: Study 3 "Reasons for Replacement or Repair of Dental Restorations", Study 4 "Patient Satisfaction with Dental Restorations", Study 5 "Longitudinal Study of Dental Restorations", and Study 6 "Questionable Occlusal Caries Lesions". More than 1,000 people attended.



**Continued****Evidence-Based Clinical Recommendations on Dental Sealants in JADA**

In a 2004 survey, the ADA asked members to tell them what clinical questions they would like answered through an evidence-based process. The effectiveness of dental sealants for managing or arresting carious lesions in permanent teeth was high on the list. To address this need, the ADA published evidence-based clinical recommendations for the use of pit and fissure sealants in the March 2008 issue of The Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA). The recommendations are posted on ADA.org.

The ADA convened an expert panel in November 2006 to assess the scientific evidence and develop these recommendations. The recommendations are a tool to help dentists with their clinical decision-making. They are not a substitute for the dentist's professional judgment or the patient's needs and preferences. The primary conclusions derived from the evidence support certain things that dentists have known all along:

- dental sealants are effective at preventing dental decay; and
  - both children and adults can benefit from the use of sealants.
- Other evidence-based conclusions may be less familiar to dentists. These include:
- sealants can stop non-cavitated (incipient) lesions from progressing; and
  - in most cases, removing tooth structure before placing a sealant is not recommended.

The evidence also shows that sealants are effective as long as they are applied properly, monitored and replaced when needed. Not surprisingly, the retention of sealants is significantly enhanced when a four-handed technique is used.

The recommendations are published in the March 2008 JADA with an executive summary that dentists can use as a quick reference. The full report includes information on:

- the process the ADA followed to develop these evidence-based clinical recommendations;
- the system for classifying the strength of the recommendations based on the supporting evidence; and
- helpful clinical recommendation summary charts.

The same issue of JADA will include For the Dental Patient, a feature designed to help dentists talk with their patients about pit and fissure sealants.

**New Principal Investigator appointed for the Florida/Georgia region of DPBRN**

Valeria Gordan DDS, MS, MSCI has been appointed Principal Investigator of the Florida/Georgia region of DPBRN to replace Dr. Ivar Mjör, who is in the process of retiring. Dr. Gordan received her dental degree from the State University of Londrina in Brazil in 1993, a Master of Sciences degree and Certificate in Operative Dentistry from The University of Iowa, and a Master of Sciences in Clinical Investigation degree from the University of Florida. She has been with the Department of Operative Dentistry at the University of Florida for over 10 years. She has been active in DPBRN since its inception and is the Principal Investigator for Studies 1: Caries Risk Assessment, 2: Reason for placing the first restoration on a previously unrestored permanent tooth surface, 3: Reasons for repair and replacement of dental restorations, and 5: Longitudinal follow-up of dental restorations. Congratulations, Dr. Gordan!

**DPBRN Presentation at the Birmingham (Alabama) Pediatric Dentistry Association**

On January 15, 2008, Dr. Janice Jackson, a DPBRN practitioner-investigator and pediatric dentist who completed both Studies 1 and 2, presented results from DPBRN Study 1 ("Assessment of Caries Diagnosis and Caries Treatment") and then discussed her rewarding experiences with doing DPBRN Study 2 ("Reasons for placing the first restoration on permanent tooth surfaces"). Dr. Jackson encouraged all attendees at the meeting to enroll in DPBRN because doing so will help improve their clinical practice and make it more rewarding and appreciated by their patients.

Dr. Gregg Gilbert, DPBRN Network Chair, gave a presentation entitled "Real-world research in private practice" and discussed the goals and the many accomplishments of DPBRN so far. He also spoke about the benefits to participating in DPBRN as reported by DPBRN practitioner-investigators themselves. Jackie Love and Sherry Sutphin, DPBRN Regional Coordinators, presented a display with DPBRN information for attending pediatric dentists.

## Continued

### **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has posted information about the risk of serious allergic reactions in users of denture cleansers**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has posted information about the risk of serious allergic reactions in users of denture cleansers. The FDA has received at least 73 reports of adverse events, including at least one death, related to the use of denture cleansers. These adverse events, including abdominal pain, vomiting, seizures, hypotension and difficulty breathing, have occurred both when the product has been used properly as well as from improper use. These events can occur soon after first use or after years of use. The FDA believes that the ingredient responsible for these reactions is persulfate, a known allergen. Persulfates are used in most denture cleansers to help clean and bleach the dentures. The FDA has provided specific recommendations for dental health-care professionals and an "Advice for Patients" document. Please visit the FDA website at [www.FDA.gov](http://www.FDA.gov) for more information.

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## Studies Update

**DPBRN Study 2** ("Reasons for placements of restorations on previously unrestored surfaces") exceeded our expectations. Our goal was to recruit 100-200 practitioner-investigators. All DPBRN regions have now finished their recruitment of practitioner-investigators. We had more than 200 practitioner-investigators enroll. The next study will be **DPBRN Study 5** ("Longitudinal study of dental restorations"). This study will recruit all the practitioner-investigators who participated in Study 2. Recall that Study 5 involves following-up the restorations that you placed in Study 2. Study 5 enrollment began in one DPBRN region in December 2007 and will continue through Summer 2008.

**DPBRN Study 3** ("Reasons for replacement or repair of dental restorations") and Study 4 ("Patient satisfaction with dental restorations") will be done at the same time in each practice. Recruitment for these studies will occur in 2008, as will recruitment for **DPBRN Study 6** ("Questionable occlusal caries lesions").

**DPBRN Study 7** ("Trans-PBRN study of osteonecrosis of the jaws") continues to progress well. Data collection should be completed in Spring 2008. This study involves all 3 practice-based research networks with a goal of identifying 179 cases. DPBRN has exceeded expectations of cases. To date, the Alabama/Mississippi region has 61 cases; HealthPartners has 13 cases; and the Kaiser Permanente/Permanente Dental Associates have 9 cases.

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## Minnesota Region Update

The newly-elected Minnesota DPBRN Executive Committee member Dr. Pat Foy has been actively recruiting new enrollees. Since Dr. Foy joined the Executive Committee, we have gained eight new practitioners who are eager to be part of the network. We would like to recognize Dr. Foy for his efforts to expand our network. The DPBRN staff of the Minnesota Region prepared "New Enrollee Welcome" packets that were sent to all of the new DPBRN practitioners.

Dr. Foy and Merry Jo Thoele will represent DPBRN by presenting a table clinic during the scientific session of the Minnesota Dental Association Star of the North Meeting April 12<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul, Minnesota. The table clinic will provide an overview of DPBRN for dentists and hygienists. The importance of "real-world" research and how to be a part of it will be highlighted.

The two DPBRN studies on osteonecrosis of the jaw will be completing recruitment of cases and controls at the end of March 2008. Results of these projects will be disseminated by early summer. This information will help inform us on the risk factors for developing ONJ so that we can make better recommendations regarding the impact of dental treatment.