



Dental PBRN Newsletter

Summer 2009

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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.

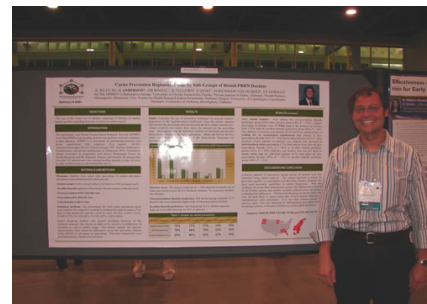
News Items

DPBRN posters and presentations at the AADR meeting

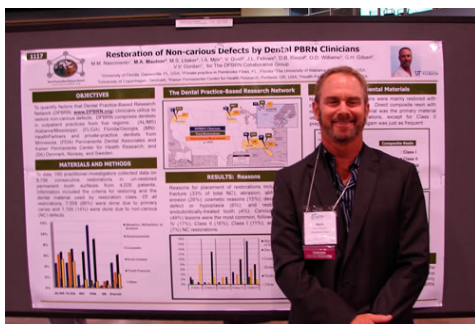
DPBRN was well-represented at the 38th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Dental Research in Miami, FL April 1-4, 2009. Dr. Craig Ajmo (Ellijay GA and Dunedin FL), Dr. Gerald Anderson (Selma, AL), Dr. Mark Mautner (Pembroke Pines FL), and Dr. Louis Roque (Vero Beach FL) are all DPBRN practitioner-investigators who presented posters on study data from two DPBRN studies. Visit the DPBRN website for titles of all their presentations. The practitioner-investigators also attended sessions and symposia on practice-based and other research. Dr. Ajmo was elected as the member-at-large representing private practitioners at the Network for Practice-based Research Section meeting and Ms. Deborah McEdward, a research coordinator for the FL/GA Region, was elected Treasurer. This new IADR section has been formed to facilitate exchange of information between and among the networks and other sections and groups within IADR. Congratulations to all the presenters for a job well done!



Dr. Craig Ajmo



Dr. Gerald Anderson



Dr. Mark Mautner



Dr. Louis Roque

Continued

Pilot Testing for the Blood Sugar* Study

Before a study can begin in earnest, it needs to be pilot tested in order to ensure that it will run smoothly in daily clinical practice. The DPBRN study entitled "Blood Sugar Testing in Dental Practice" has completed this phase. Dr. Andrei Barasch, of Birmingham, AL, is the Principal Investigator of the study, which aims to determine the feasibility of blood glucose measurement in dental practice. If successful, this may have significant public health benefits and establish dental practice as a point of entry into the health care system.

Dr. Randall Palmore and his staff in Pinson, Alabama have completed an evaluation of the screening and testing forms, as well as the consecutive patient log sheet for this study. The process involves screening patients based on their diabetes risks. If they qualify, they are tested with a glucose meter that is readily available in any drug store. Patients whose blood glucose is elevated are then referred to their physician for further evaluation and treatment.

"As a practicing General Dentist for over 25 years I have seen my practice grow from a 'tooth'-focused practice to one that is beginning to look at the total health of my patients. I believe blood glucose screening is another great way of demonstrating to my patients the importance of maintaining long term health by early detection." Randall Palmore, DMD, FAGD; The Dental Health Center; www.SouthernSmile.com

Based on initial suggestions, changes have been made to the screening and testing forms to help increase the ease and efficiency of this study. The recruitment phase has begun or will begin in all DPBRN regions shortly. For more information, please visit <http://www.DentalPBARN.org> or contact your Regional Coordinator. Many thanks to Dr. Palmore for his substantial contribution to the success of this study! Also, a special "thank you" to the office staff for their support and effort; the study team has obtained valuable feedback.

* The terms 'blood sugar', 'blood glucose', and 'hyperglycemia' are related and interchangeable in some contexts. DPBRN adopted the term 'blood sugar' for the title of this study to tailor its communication to a lay, non-dental, non-medical audience. This helps facilitate explaining the study to dental patients.



Three annual DPBRN meetings held in Scandinavia

The Scandinavia region has a pool of enthusiastic practitioner-investigators who are excited to participate in DPBRN studies, and find it beneficial to gather and discuss previous studies together with current studies. Usually, when Swedish and Danish DPBRN practitioner-investigators are joined at meetings, they meet at the School of Dentistry in Copenhagen. But this year's annual meeting will be held in each of the three Scandinavian countries. The reason is that there are evident differences between the dentist societies within the three Scandinavian countries although the Swedish, Norwegian and Danish participants in the DPBRN project are working geographically close to each other.

On March 31, 2009 Dr. Vibeke Qvist, Principal Investigator, and Pia Nørrisgaard, Regional Coordinator, met with 10 practitioner-investigators from Sweden in Malmö. Then on April 21, 2009, the second meeting was held in Copenhagen for 17 Danish practitioner-investigators. The Norwegian annual meeting will be held later this year.

At the meetings in Malmö and Copenhagen, the main topic was DPBRN studies "Reasons for repair or replacement of restorations" and "Patient satisfaction with dental restorations", which has been in the field in Norway since October 2008. Dr. Qvist also gave a brief update on the current news in DPBRN, introduced the future studies, and discussed the DPBRN presentations and posters from the AADR meeting in April 2009 held in Miami, FL. The practitioner-investigators appreciated the opportunity to focus on national experiences of participating in the network and enjoyed the extended meetings.

Continued**Development of DPBRN Studies 17 & 18 Underway**

Two endodontic studies regarding the assessment of pain in relation to initial root canal therapy are under development. "Peri-operative Pain associated with Root Canal Therapy" (DPBRN Study 17), and "Persistent Pain associated with Root Canal Therapy" (DPBRN Study 18) have the combined goals to:

- 1) assess the frequency and intensity of pre-operative pain;
- 2) evaluate the occurrence and intensity of intra-operative pain;
- 3) evaluate the occurrence and intensity of post-operative pain;
- 4) estimate the frequency and intensity of persistent tooth pain;
- 5) assess the interference of persistent tooth pain with daily life; and
- 6) identify risk factors related to the development of persistent pain.

The long-term goal of this line of research is to identify modifiable factors that put patients at risk of experiencing intra-operative, post-operative, and persistent tooth pain following root canal therapy so that dentists can intervene to prevent this pain from occurring.

This study is being developed and directed from the Minnesota region, with Dr. Donald Nixdorf at the University of Minnesota leading the project, in close collaboration with Dr. Brad Rindal at HealthPartners and Dr. Alan Law, a DPBRN member Endodontist in private practice. It will involve 48 practitioner-investigator dentists within DPBRN. Target enrollment is 12 endodontists and 36 general practitioners who will collectively enroll and treat 600 patients who require non-surgical root canal therapy on a previous un-accessed permanent tooth over 6 months.

Participation for patients involves completing a series of questionnaires. Prior to root canal therapy and before administration of local anesthesia, patients will complete a survey that will take about 1 minute. Before starting treatment patients will fill out a survey that takes about 3 minutes. Patients will be given a packet that contains another 1-minute survey that should be completed about an hour after treatment and a 2-minute survey that should be completed one week after the appointment. A 6-month follow up of patients will not involve the dentist. A 2-minute survey will be mailed to each patient that will be mailed back to the regional coordinators. Dentists enrolled to participate in these studies are to be recruiting patients in the winter of 2009-10 for the Minnesota region and summer 2010 for other regions.

Welcome new DPBRN Regional Coordinators

Emily Utoft Durand, BS, BA, RDH has recently joined HealthPartners Research Foundation and the DPBRN as Minnesota's Regional Coordinator. Prior to HealthPartners, Emily was the Associate Director and Editor of a sponsored project at the University of Minnesota that translated peer-reviewed research findings into everyday language for professionals working in architecture, design, and regional planning and policy. With a background in both dental hygiene and rhetoric, Emily is excited about the potential of the DPBRN to transform both the pace and processes through which knowledge is created and utilized within dentistry. Lene Fabricius-Bekker has recently joined the Scandinavian DPBRN region. Ms. Fabricius-Bekker is a dental hygienist and received her education from the University of Copenhagen in 2003. Since then, she has been working in a private clinic in Copenhagen, where she will continue to work part-time. Lene will work as part-time Regional Coordinator in the DPBRN.



Ms. Emily Durand



Ms. Lene Fabricius-Bekker

DPBRN Practitioner-Investigator presents at PRECEDENT meeting

DPBRN practitioner-investigator Dr. Ethan Kaufman presented at the 4th Annual Northwest PRECEDENT (Practice-based Research Collaborative in Evidence-based Dentistry) meeting on March 6, 2009 in Portland, Oregon. In addition to DPBRN and the PEARL network, PRECEDENT is one of the three dental PBRNs funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research in 2005. Presenting on behalf of DPBRN, Dr. Kaufman provided an overview of the mission, structure and studies currently underway in DPBRN. Representatives from the PEARL network, the NIDCR, and the ADA were also among the audience of over 150 PRECEDENT practitioner-investigators and guests. Dr. Kaufman is a general dentist with Permanente Dental Associates and practices in Longview, Washington.

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IADR formalizes slate of officers for the Network for Practice Based Dentistry

The “Network for Practice-Based Research” formalized its slate of officers at the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Annual Session in Miami, held in April of this year. The DPBRN is well represented in this group, with Ms. Deborah McEdward, RDH, coordinator for the FL/GA region, serving as Treasurer, and Dr. Craig Ajmo, Practitioner-Investigator, serving as interim Practitioner-At-Large.

The other officers of the IADR Network are:

- President: Dr. Kenneth Eaton, Royal College of Surgeons of England
- Vice-President: Dr. Van Thompson, New York University, and PEARL Network
- Secretary: Dr. Catherine Demko, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
- Program Chair: Dr. Paul Batchelor, University College, London

The IADR is structured with separate “Groups”, each one dedicated to a particular area of study, using traditional research methodology. With the advent of evidence-based and practice-based research, the IADR created “Networks” each of which is tasked with coordinating with the specific Groups dealing with any particular study, while focusing on the Network’s style of research. Each Group and Network has its own board, elected from within, which administers its own budget, and sets its own meeting agenda under the umbrella of IADR. The board also sets a social agenda in order to foster a collegial atmosphere and improve communication among researchers worldwide. The IADR created the Network for Practice-Based Research at the July 2008 Session in Toronto. Several of our DPBRN studies were presented by a number of our researchers at both the Miami and Toronto Annual Sessions. Additional information regarding specific presentations is available throughout this website.

Studies Update

- **Reasons for placing the first restoration on permanent tooth surfaces**

Data collection is now complete for all regions.

- **Reasons for replacement or repair of dental restorations**

Data collection is currently underway with an anticipated data collection end date of 2009.

- **Patient satisfaction with dental restorations**

Data collection is currently underway with an anticipated data collection end date of 2009. This study is in conjunction with “Reasons for replacement or repair of dental restorations”.

- **Longitudinal study of dental restorations placed on previously unrestored surfaces**

Data collection has begun with baseline enrollment completed December 2008 at the last enrolled practice.

- **Longitudinal study of repaired or replaced dental restorations**

Data collection is currently underway.

- **Development of a patient-based provider intervention for early caries management**

Phase I and II has been completed. The last phase will begin shortly.

- **Prevalence of questionable occlusal caries lesions**

Data collection is currently underway with an anticipated data collection end date of 2009.