

DPBRN Recruits Practitioner-investigators

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The National Institutes of Health-National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research funded three oral health practice-based research networks in 2005, including the Dental PBRN (DPBRN). DPBRN is a consortium of dental practices and organizations committed to advancing knowledge of dental practice and ways to improve it. The network includes more than 1,100 practitioner-investigators from seven U.S. states (including Alabama) and three Scandinavian countries.

Several studies are currently in progress:

● Study 2

Reasons for placements of restorations on previously unrestored surfaces

This study exceeded expectations. Our goal was to recruit 100 to 200 practitioner-investigators. However, all DPBRN regions have now finished their recruitment of practitioner-investigators. We had more than 200 practitioner-investigators enroll.

● Study 3

Reasons for replacement or repair of dental restorations

● Study 4

Patient satisfaction with dental restorations

These studies will be done at the same time in each practice. Recruitment for these studies will occur in 2008.

● Study 5

Longitudinal study of dental restorations

This study will recruit all practitioner-investigators who participated in Study 2 to follow-up previously placed restorations. Study 5 enrollment began in one DPBRN region in December 2007 and will continue through Summer 2008.



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● Study 6

Questionable occlusal caries lesions

Recruitment for this study will occur in 2008.

● Study 7

Trans-PBRN study of osteonecrosis of the jaws

This study continues to progress well. Data collection should be completed in Spring 2008. The study involves all three 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 nine cases.

Florida practitioner-investigators continue to be very active in DPBRN studies and supportive of the network. Dr. **Paul Benjamin** of Miami 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. 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 and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Many of the benefits of participating have been pointed out by Florida dentists, as listed on the DPBRN Web site. To learn more about enrolling in the network, visit www.DPBRN.org.

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