

# NNOHA NEWS, Volume 4, Issue 2

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## The Dental Practice-Based Research Network

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The National Institutes of Health-National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research funded three oral health practice-based research networks (PBRN) in 2005, including "The Dental PBRN" (DPBRN). DPBRN is a consortium of participating practices and dental organizations committed to advancing knowledge of dental practice and ways to improve it. Essentially, it is "practical science" done about, in, and for, the benefit of "real world" daily clinical practice. The network includes more than 1,100 practitioner-investigators from the United States and three Scandinavian countries.

One of the DPBRN studies conducted recently was "Blood glucose testing in dental practice." The specific goals of this study were to quantify the percentage of DPBRN patients who meet the American Diabetes Association screening criteria, describe the characteristics of these patients, determine the acceptability of conducting blood glucose testing in the dental office, and identify barriers to regular screening, as reported by DPBRN patients and practices. Below is a testimonial from one of our

practitioners who participated in the study, Dr. Adolphus Jackson, of Birmingham, Alabama:

"My staff and I were delighted to be a part of the DPBRN study on Blood Glucose levels. One health risk that we already check as a standard rule is high blood pressure. This has proven to be effective in identifying patients who may be at risk of having hypertension. The testing of blood glucose levels in the dental office would definitely be useful. The patients were receptive to the idea of being able to know if their blood glucose level was within normal range. As a health care provider it is important for me to be able to give my patients as much information as possible about the effects of various health conditions on their dental health. It also shows that we are not only concerned about their dental health but their overall health and well-being. Our patients were impressed to know that we place great emphasis on their total health by participating in the study. The staff enjoyed being a part of the study and we all look forward to participating in future studies. It's a positive benefit for both the patients and the practice."

For more details, please visit our website: [DentalPBRN.org](http://DentalPBRN.org).



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



*Dr. Adolphus Jackson and his team.*