

# DPBRN Newsletter

Winter 2011

## In This Issue

[News Items](#)

[Testimonials](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Follow us on these networks:



## Mission Statement

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

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

### 2010 DPBRN Annual Meetings for the Florida/Georgia Region

DPBRN holds annual meetings with its practitioner-investigators in each region. Because the practitioner-investigators are widely spread throughout the states of Florida and Georgia, the FL/GA region decided to experiment this year with having four localized meetings for the convenience of the practitioner-investigators, instead of a single regional meeting. These local meetings were held in Atlanta (Georgia) on October 8, 2010; Miami (South Florida) on October 22, 2010; Lakeland (Central Florida) on October 29, 2010; and Milton (Panhandle Florida) on November 4, 2010. Each meeting had different presentations tailored to the practitioners and guests at each specific location.

Dental practice staff members who are active in the research were also invited to attend the meetings because they are critical to the success of the research and have a vested interest in the outcomes.

The agenda for each of the meetings followed the same pattern. Posters were available for viewing and discussion as the practitioners arrived at the meeting. A PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Gordan (Principal Investigator for the FL/GA region) and/or Ms. Deborah

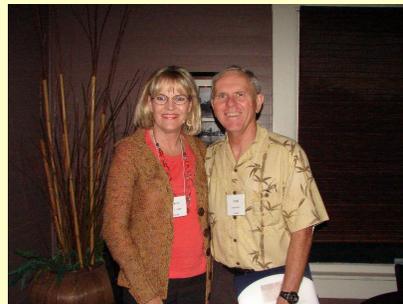
McEdward (Regional Coordinator for the FL/GA region) covered studies, training, practitioner presentations, publications and other relevant information. Each practitioner was given a booklet of the posters and selected manuscripts published by the network. Dinner was served during the time allowed for discussion and networking.

This meeting format was very successful. Attendees expressed interest in the update on studies and were enthusiastic about talking with each other about the research. Practitioners also showed interest in presenting and writing the results of the completed and current studies.

A total of 58 practitioners and staff attended these meetings, in addition to faculty and students from the University of Florida Hialeah and St. Petersburg clinics.



Dr. Robert Payne (DPBRN practitioner-investigator from Marianna, FL) and Ms. Deborah McEdward at the Florida Panhandle meeting.



Dr. Paul Kellum (DPBRN practitioner-investigator from Destin, FL) and his wife, Kathy Kellum, RDH, at the Florida Panhandle meeting.



Dr. Jeffrey Meral (DPBRN practitioner-investigator from Coral Springs, FL) received a plaque of the DPBRN poster he co-authored, given to him by Dr. Valeria Gordan, Ms. Pearl Ann Harris, and Ms. Deborah McEdward.



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. Susan Hudak-Boss (DPBRN Practitioner-investigator from Seminole, FL) received a plaque of the DPBRN presentation she co-authored, given to her by Ms. Deborah McEdward, Dr. Valeria Gordan, and Ms. Pearl Ann Harris.



Dr. Marlon Jackson (DPBRN practitioner-investigator from Atlanta, GA) received a plaque of the DPBRN poster he co-authored, given to him by Ms. Deborah McEdward, Dr. Valeria Gordan, and Ms. Pearl Ann Harris.

#### Fourth annual meeting for Minnesota practitioner-investigators: Partnering with the Minnesota Dental Association on the dissemination of DPBRN results

The MN Region of the DPBRN hosted its annual meeting co-sponsored this year by the Minnesota Dental Association (MDA). The event was held at the University of Minnesota Conference and Continuing Education Center in St. Paul, MN on Friday, October 15th, 2010. In attendance were 63 individuals representing the Dental Practice-Based Research Network (dentists in private practice, community health practice, and group practice across the state), the Minnesota Dental Association, the Minnesota Academy of General Dentistry, and the University of Minnesota's School of Dentistry. Of those not currently enrolled in DPBRN activities, many expressed interest after a lively and informative meeting.

The meeting was led by Dr. Brad Rindal, Minnesota Regional Principal Investigator and Dr. Gary Anderson of the MDA's Evidence-Based Taskforce. Dr. Don DeNucci provided an update on the future of dental practice-based research. Dr. Gregg Gilbert provided the annual update on DPBRN study progress to date.

Dr. Raj Gopalakrishnan presented recent findings from studies at the University of Minnesota on osteonecrosis of the jaw. Results were presented by Dr. Andrei Barasch on the CONDOR study on "Osteonecrosis of the Jaw." DPBRN Practitioner-Investigator Dr. Doug Shamp provided testimonial on his involvement in that and other studies in the DPBRN. Panel discussion and a breakout session focused

on the results presented, with much positive feedback from practitioners.

Dr. Don Nixdorf, Dr. Alan Law, and Dr. Alejandro Aguirre presented a study update and preliminary data on "Peri-operative Pain and Root Canal Therapy" and "Persistent Pain and Root Canal Therapy". Both studies are underway in all regions of the DPBRN. Dr. Aguirre shared details of the successful implementation of the study protocol into his practice across three offices highlighting involvement of engaged staff members and sharing patients' interest and willingness to participate. DPBRN Practitioner-Investigators Dr. Pat Foy, Dr. Vince Riehm, Dr. Matt Rindal, and Dr. Robin Yardic shared poster presentations on:

- Caries Risk and Treatment Decisions
- Actual Versus Reported Caries Restorative Thresholds
- Gender Differences in the Treatment of Dental Caries
- Factors Used to Rate Dentists' Technical Skills

DPBRN Executive Committee member Dr. Pat Foy provided closing remarks on the importance practice-based research in understanding "what works, and why?" A social luncheon followed providing opportunity to converse with friends and colleagues.



Dr. Gary Anderson (MDA Taskforce and DPBRN enrolled member) presented to the group.



Dr. Raj Gopalakrishnan, University of Minnesota, gave an update on the University of Minnesota's recent findings on ONJ.



Dr. Doug Shamp spoke about his experience as a DPBRN practitioner-investigator.



Dr. Doug Shamp (DPBRN practitioner-investigator) and Dr. Gerald Rauchwarter (MDA member).

## Testimonial



**Dan V. Besjakov, DDS**  
Full-time private practice of general dentistry  
Copenhagen, Denmark

The DPBRN study entitled "Persistent pain and root canal therapy" was the third project I engaged in at my dental practice north of Copenhagen. I advertise locally that I offer pain-free treatment, but by joining the DPBRN network, I actually help fill this void that exists in evidence-based dentistry and thus allow me to hopefully soon substantiate my pain-free treatment claim. The persistent pain and root canal therapy study will provide evidence that allows us to improve pain control, and increase our patients' quality of life. I can only recommend others to join the DPBRN study and help advance our profession while improving the benefits for our patients. It has been a very rewarding experience for me and my whole practice team to be involved in each DPBRN project, and I can say by my first-hand experience, there is nothing more satisfying than knowing that you helped make some else's life a better one, as this line of research could have an impact on healthcare in general.



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.

## 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 Waiwaiole, 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.