



Dental PBRN Newsletter

Fall 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

Annual DPBRN Face-to-Face Committee meetings held in Minnesota

The Executive Committee, Steering Committee, and Regional Coordinators annual face-to-face meetings were held at HealthPartners in Bloomington, MN September 17th and 18th, 2009. Each year, the committee members from all regions participating in DPBRN meet face-to-face to discuss past, present, and future DPBRN projects. Members from AL/MS, FL/GA, PDA, Scandinavia, and MN were all present.

The Steering Committee discussed the various DPBRN manuscripts, abstracts, and presentations thus far as well as those in progress and future topics. The committee also was updated on the status of present DPBRN studies (Prevalence of questionable occlusal caries lesions", "Blood sugar testing in dental practice", "Impact of dental practice-based research networks on patient care", and "Longitudinal study of repaired or replaced restorations"), and future DPBRN studies ("Peri-operative pain and root canal therapy", and Primary care management for TMJD pain").

The Executive Committee met to discuss past, present, and future DPBRN studies. One of the topics included the practitioner-specific results from "Reasons for placing the first restoration on permanent tooth surfaces" so the participants can view their results and compare them with other practitioners in the study from the various regions.

The Regional Coordinators met to discuss the next DPBRN study "Blood sugar testing in dental practice". They discussed the glucometer being used in the dental practices as well as how to ensure the study integrates easily into daily clinical practice.



Continued**Third annual meeting for HealthPartners and Minnesota DPBRN practitioner-investigators**

The MN Region of the DPBRN hosted its annual meeting led by Dr. Pat Foy and Dr. Brad Rindal. The event was held at the Embassy Suites Minneapolis Airport in Bloomington, MN on Saturday, September 19th, 2009. Despite glorious weather and a competing MN Gopher football game in the new University of Minnesota stadium, 40 individuals attended, including dentists and hygienists enrolled in the DPBRN, prospective enrollees, and members of the faculty research community at the School of Dentistry.

DPBRN Executive Committee members Dr. Dan Pihlstrom, Dr. Paul Benjamin, and Dr. Vibeke Qvist provided engaging updates on their specific regions. Dr. Gregg Gilbert spoke about DPBRN progress as well as future studies. Dr. Don DeNucci provided context for the DPBRN within the broader framework of the future of the NIDCR.

Dr. Alan Law and Dr. Don Nixdorf presented the upcoming studies on “Peri-operative Pain and Root Canal Therapy” and “Persistent Pain and Root Canal Therapy”. These studies will be piloted in the MN region this Fall for launch in other regions in the early part of 2010.

Preliminary results were presented by practitioners enrolled in the studies on “Osteonecrosis of the Jaw” and “Reasons for Placement of Restorations on Previously Unrestored Teeth.” A breakout session focused on the latter study, with much positive feedback from practitioners:

“It was great to meet and network with such an enthusiastic and committed group of dental health care professionals and researchers. While I am not a general dentist, I appreciated the study related to assessing depth of decay. It emphasizes the imprecision of our current technology. I enjoyed the round table discussions. It is clear that the group truly cares about incorporating an evidence-based approach into practice.” -Dr. Alan Law

“I enjoyed the recent DPBRN meeting. I did not participate in the study that was discussed at the meeting but I did find the results interesting and especially enjoyed the table discussions with other dentists. There are many ways to look at data, collect data and view the results. I was excited to share the DPBRN with other dentists in my group practice who don't know about the DPBRN group. I have recently contacted them hoping that they will find this group beneficial to them also. I have been doing dentistry differently due to the studies that I have learned about so far, and I do believe that it has made me practice better dentistry, giving my patients better outcomes.”- Dr. Margie Kennelly



Continued**Fourth annual meeting for Permanente Dental Associates DPBRN practitioner-investigators**

PDA held its 4th annual regional meeting on Saturday October 17, 2009 in Portland, Oregon. Forty eight dentists attended. Dr. Gary Lowder, an Executive Committee member from the PRECEDENT practice-based research network, shared study results and studies underway in PRECEDENT as well as provided insights about PRECEDENT's organization. Dr. Gregg Gilbert provided an update of current network activities, Dr. Daniel Pihlstrom presented the Osteonecrosis case-control study and Dr. David Mosen discussed his work looking at dental care and medical outcomes for adults with diabetes.

A highlight of the day was the provider led poster discussions. Dr. Susan Antony, Dr. Donald Hess, Dr. Ethan Kaufman, and Dr. Jonathan Warmflash provided a brief synopsis of a poster while groups of dentists asked questions and discussed the implications of the poster results.

Twenty six dentists received framed certificates for completing the DPBRN study Reasons for replacement or repair of dental restorations. For dentists attending the meeting who were not currently enrolled in the DPBRN, Gail Morgan, DPBRN project manager, assembled enrollment materials and interested dentists could take a DPBRN Enrollment Folder with them, return the verification forms in the provided return envelope and be well on their way to DPBRN membership!



Continued**DPBRN Highlighted Abstract****Dentists in practice-based research networks have much in common with dentists at large: Evidence from the Dental Practice-Based Research Network, *General Dentistry*, May/June 2009**

This quarter we are highlighting the May/June 2009 issue of *General Dentistry* that features an article on DPBRN entitled "Dentists in practice-based research networks have much in common with dentists at large: Evidence from the Dental Practice-Based Research Network". Below is the abstract for this article. To read the entire article, please visit the Literature Watch section of our website, www.DentalPBRN.org.

Practice-based research networks (PBRNs) aim to improve clinical practice by engaging dental practitioners in studies that are directly relevant to daily clinical practice. The Dental Practice-Based Research Network (DPBRN) consists of dentists from seven U.S. states and three Scandinavian countries. All DPBRN dentists complete an enrollment questionnaire about their practices and themselves; as of this writing, 1,086 have done so. To quantify the similarities between DPBRN dentists and U.S. dentists at large, this article compared DPBRN practice characteristics to those of dentists who responded to the 2004 ADA Survey of dental practice, which is not limited to ADA members. DPBRN dentists were similar to U.S. dentists in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, number of offices, percentage of patients with insurance coverage, number of operatories, patient visits per week, days for a new appointment, and waiting room time. DPBRN dentists were statistically more likely to be recent graduates. The commonalities should increase the likelihood that DPBRN studies will be applicable to U.S. practices, thereby fostering knowledge transfer in both research-to-practice and practice-to-research.

Studies Update

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

Data collection ended in October 2009.

- **Patient satisfaction with dental restorations**

Data collection ended in October 2009. This study is in conjunction with "Reasons 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.

- **Prevalence of questionable occlusal caries lesions**

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

- **Peri-operative pain and root canal therapy**

Pilot testing in the MN region will begin November 2009, with data collection in other regions anticipated in Spring 2010.

- **Blood sugar testing in the dental practice**

Pilot testing is complete with anticipated data collection continuing until Winter/Spring 2010.