

## MDA sponsors evidence-based dentistry symposium

Friday, October 30, found close to 70 enthusiastic participants gathered on a gray, rainy fall day in St. Paul at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education Center. They heard a program on “Practical Research for Clinical Excellence: Be Better – Be Smarter and Be Part of the Process.” Dr. Gary Anderson, Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD) Taskforce Chair, welcomed the group and gave background on the mission of the Taskforce and activities since its establishment in 2006. He also related how its members, in addition to understanding the value of EBD in their practices, had come to believe that the practicing dental community has an important role to play in the development of credible and clinically useful evidence through practice-based research. This development is in step with comparative effectiveness research being promoted recently at the national level by Congress.

Our first guest presentation was provided by Dr. Julie Frantsve-Hawley from the American Dental Association. Dr. Frantsve-Hawley provided an overview of the many efforts of the ADA to provide background and tools in the use of EBD for its membership, patients and community. The centerpiece of this effort has been the EBD systematic review topical search engine, which has open access. It is clear our Association realizes the value of EBD.

Dr. Jane Gillette, private practitioner from Bozeman, Montana, related how EBD became part of her practice influenced by her dental education at the University of Washington. She enthusiastically described the use of EBD within her

practice to support clinical care. Dr. Gillette is also an active participant in the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)-funded PRECEDENT practice-based research network and she talked about how this has fit into her practice.

After a short break, Dr. Paul Benjamin, another private practitioner from Miami, Florida, told all of us “old dogs” that even we can be taught

new tricks. He has been very active in the leadership and research of the DPBRN (Dental Practice-Based Research Network) clinical research network. The DPBRN is based at the Universities of Alabama and Florida, but has developed a fairly



*Drs. Paul Benjamin and Patrick Foy, two of the symposium speakers.*

large membership within Minnesota. His presentation with great energy and humor made a case for being involved in both EBD and practice-based research.

In conclusion of the formal program, our own Dr. Pat Foy conducted a roundtable small group session. Dr. Foy, an early skeptic of EBD, has become an enthusiastic

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## Watch your mail for 2010 dues statements

Dues statements for 2010 membership are in the mail. Renew by January 1, 2010, to ensure continuation of membership in the ADA, MDA and District Dental Societies and enjoy all the benefits of organized dentistry. Your membership commitment provides the support needed for us to continue addressing the challenging issues facing our profession. Help us maintain a strong membership base by renewing TODAY!

## Help Wanted: Coverage assistance needed by dentists stricken with flu

Over the past few weeks the MDA has learned of Minnesota dentists being unable to practice for a few weeks or more due to the H1N1 virus. In at least one circumstance so far, the time off will be extensive due to hospitalization. The MDA encourages you to contact your district officers or the MDA office and let them if you are willing to assist dental clinics in your area when illness strikes. Also, should illness strike your office and you need assistance, you may contact the MDA office for help in locating a willing dentist.

## Mark Your Calendar: Dental Day at the Capitol February 24, 2010

With all of the legislative action happening at the federal level, we wanted to announce that Dental Day at the Capitol will be on Wednesday, February 24, 2010. On this day, over a hundred dentists and dental students will meet in St. Paul at the Kelly Inn, to discuss legislative issues in the morning and then meet with their legislators during the early afternoon. Please mark your calendars now and block this important day off to promote oral health care issues to our state's leaders.



*Attendees have discussions at the roundtable sessions.*

Most of the attendees returned after a convivial lunch for an open session to practice accessing EBD resources and the literature available on-line, through the use of a WIFI connection and their own laptops. All in all it was a most informative day that led many to appreciate the potential of EBD and practice-based research to affect quality care for our patients.

For more information about Dental Practice-Based Research Networks, visit [www.dentalpbrn.org](http://www.dentalpbrn.org).

## Fraud, Waste and Abuse compliance training: Delta Dental offers free Medicare-approved course

All Delta Dental participating dentists should have received a letter about a free course designed by Delta to meet the Medicare-required Fraud, Waste and Abuse (FWA) training. All dentists who provide dental services to Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D members are required to take the FWA training and attest to completion by the entire dental team. You may meet this requirement by taking any Medicare-approved course; however, many courses, including online programs, have a fee. The Delta course is self-explanatory, easy to complete, and offered as a free benefit to all participating dentists.

While the majority of dentists are doing the right thing and providing care with integrity, a small group of active health care fraud perpetrators has resulted in this federal regulation. Fortunately, dentists only need to complete the training once, regardless of how many networks they participate in. You must, however, provide attestation of course completion to all participating networks in order to be eligible to participate in Medicare programs.

If you cannot locate your letter and training materials from Delta, or you have any questions regarding this, please contact Delta at 651-406-5900, ext. 4170.

## Self-assessment test questions sought

The Board of Dentistry is seeking the assistance of Minnesota dentists in writing questions for the next version of the self-assessment. The self assessment is a required element of the Minnesota Professional Development rules. Specifically, the Board is looking for help drafting questions pertaining to the diagnosis and treatment planning portion of the exam and this is your opportunity to make this requirement meaningful and educational. Once constructed, every dental professional in the state will be required to complete this exam over the following two years.

The time commitment lasts only as long as it takes to finalize the self assessment; however, the Board would welcome anyone who is interested in remaining as part of the task force to begin drafting future exams. There are only a few actual meetings, as most of the work is done on your own, drafting questions and submitting them via email. Once all the questions are gathered, the group meets to discuss the submitted questions and decide which of them will be in the final version.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Joyce Nelson at the Minnesota Board of Dentistry at 612-617-2250.

## Dr. Lee Jess announces candidacy for ADA Second Vice President

At the annual ADA House of Delegates meeting last month in Honolulu, Dr. Lee Jess announced his candidacy for the ADA Second Vice President



position. He was approached at this year's ADA annual session by the ADA trustee from Illinois about running for the position. With little time remaining before the last session of the House, Dr. Jess made the decision to run and submitted his candidate profile to the ADA for approval while still in Hawaii.

Dr. Jess is currently unopposed in his candidacy, although the actual election will not occur until the 2010

ADA House of Delegates. If elected Dr. Jess would serve a two-year term, first as Second Vice President, then as First Vice President. There is no automatic succession to President, which has a separate field of candidates at the ADA.

Dr. Jess is immediate past-president of the MDA and has held numerous positions in organized dentistry over the years, including as MDA trustee, ADA tenth district delegate, and ADA tenth district chair. He has also been actively involved over the years with the Minnesota Dental Foundation, MINDENPAC and ADPAC, the MDA Dental Education Committee, and the Minnesota Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Jess is running on the platform of "a collaborative, principled leader for turbulent times." As president of our Association during the intense legislative session that established a new member of the dental team, Dr. Jess fostered a spirit of collaboration among members of the dental community and held firm to principles to keep patient safety in the forefront of every debate. His passion for organized dentistry, commitment to advocating for patients, and unparalleled energy and enthusiasm make him an excellent candidate for this prestigious position!

## MDB appoints new board member

Midwest Dental Benefits (MDB) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Mark S. Simmons, D.D.S, M.A. to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Simmons currently holds two roles as the Medical Director for Dental Services for PrimeWest Health in Alexandria and Assistant Dental Director for HealthPartners Dental Administration in Bloomington. He previously managed his own practice and was on the faculty at the School of Dentistry at the

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Provided by: Mary Hiles  
I.C. System Representative



**Upcoming Events:**

**December 2:** SPDDS CE  
Event (MDA Headquarters)

**December 4:** MDDS Annual  
Midwinter Meeting (Minneapolis  
Marriott Southwest, Minnetonka)

**December 4:** NEDDS Midwinter  
Meeting (Kitchi Gammi Club)

**January 15:** SPDDS Midwinter  
Meeting (Crowne Plaza, St. Paul)

**January 15:** SDDS Midwinter  
Meeting (South Central  
Technical College, Mankato)

**January 16:** WCDDS Midwinter  
Meeting (Cragun's Resort, Brainerd)

**January 29-31:** NWDDS Ice  
Fishing Adventure (Sportsman's  
Lodge, Baudette, MN)

**MDA News**

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suggestions to Carol Embertson,  
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University of Minnesota for 18 years. Upon retiring from his dental practice, he founded a successful insurance consulting firm.

Dr. Simmons received his dental training (D.D.S., M.A.) at the University of Minnesota. He was an award winning clinical instructor at the University of Minnesota and held multiple prominent positions within the School of Dentistry. He has been a member of the Minneapolis District Dental Society, MDA, and ADA since 1974.

MDB is pleased to have Dr. Simmons' unique experience and perspective in the dental benefits marketplace. MDB looks forward to having his new voice amongst its talented board as MDB continues to develop and execute its new strategic plan to profitability grow its business.

**FTC extends Red Flags Rule to June 1, 2010**

A great victory occurred recently for the dental profession and other small businesses when the Federal Trade Commission extended the Red Flags Rule deadline from November 1, 2009, to June 1, 2010. The Red Flags Rule would require any business that may provide credit to customers to take certain steps to guard against identity theft.

The FTC's agreement to further delay the Rule came as the ADA, fueled by efforts of grassroots dentists, urged final action on legislation to exempt most dental offices. These efforts resulted in the recent successful passage in the U.S. House of Representatives of H.R. 3763, a bill that would exempt small businesses, including private practicing dentists, from having to comply with the Rule. The ADA is seeking similar Senate legislation to assure final congressional passage and enactment of a law excluding Red Flags Rule guidelines for certain businesses, including a health care practice with less than 20 employees. As reported in ADA News recently, a legislative aide to the House sponsor said, "Currently the legislation is pending in the Senate, and we expect the bill will be signed into law shortly."

Watch for future email notices from the ADA and the MDA for updated information on this legislation.

**DHS seeks candidates for evidence-based oral health care position**

The Minnesota Department of Human Services is seeking candidates for an Agency Policy Specialist position in evidence-based oral health care for the Medicaid population. Applications are being accepted until Friday, November 20, 2009.

This new position will have primary responsibility for developing evidence-based coverage policy positions for consideration by the department's Dental Services Advisory Committee (DSAC). The DSAC, composed mostly of dentists and hygienists, is an advisory council that provides oral health recommendations to the department regarding dental benefit coverage for all Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

Interested candidates should submit their resume to the online Resume Builder at [www.careers.state.mn.us](http://www.careers.state.mn.us). Under "Search for a Job" use the posting number: 09DHS000752. For further information contact Chris Reisdorf, Manager Policy Development, at 651-431-2480 or [christine.reisdorf@state.mn.us](mailto:christine.reisdorf@state.mn.us).



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