



DPBRN Makes Research Relevant

In early January, about 40 Florida and Georgia dentists participating in the federally funded Dental Practice-based Research Network (DPBRN) attended the network's two-day meeting in Gainesville.

The DPBRN's primary focus is for practicing dentists to, with scientific rigor, conduct research in the actual environment where it is meant to apply – in the dental practice.

The DPBRN is one of three practice-based networks supported by \$75-million in funding from National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH/NIDCR).

Led by the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry and the University of Florida, the DPBRN received \$25.35 million from the award to establish a network to conduct dental practice-based research over a seven-year period. As many as 13 research studies are in the final stages of development or have been approved in concept by the Dental PBRN steering committee.

The DPBRN network has recruited hundreds of practitioner-investigators from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Oregon and Scandinavia, who will conduct about 15 to 20 clinical

studies during the next seven years, comparing the benefits of different dental procedures, dental materials, and prevention strategies under a range of patient and clinical conditions.

Anonymous chart reviews to generate retrospective data on disease, treatment trends and the prevalence of less common oral conditions also may be conducted.

The Florida/ Georgia region initiated the first in-office study, 'Reasons for placing the first restoration on an unrestored permanent tooth surface,' in private practices in January.

If you are interested in joining the DPBRN or have ideas for a study, contact DPBRN Education and Training Coordinator Deborah McEdward, RDH, BS. She can be reached in the Operative Dentistry Department at the University of Florida College of Dentistry at dmcedward@dental.ufl.edu, or by telephone at (352) 273-5848.

More information is available at www.dentalpbrn.org, which will be updated as the organizations progresses.