

DPBRN Studies Ongoing, Dentists Needed

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 seven states (including Alabama) and three Scandinavian countries.

Several studies currently ongoing are:

- DPBRN study “Prevalence of Questionable Occlusal Carious Lesions” exceeded our expectations in the Florida/Georgia region. All DPBRN regions now have finished their recruitment of practitioner-investigators. More than 90 practitioner-investigators enroll.
- DPBRN study “Blood Sugar Testing in Dental Practice.” The specific goals of this study are to quantify the percentage of DPBRN patients meeting the American Diabetes Association screening criteria, describe the characteristics of these patients, determine the acceptability of conducting blood sugar testing in the dental office, and identify barriers to regular screening, as reported by DPBRN patients and practices. This study began enrollment in one DP-



Dental Practice-Based Research Network
www.DentalPBRN.org

BRN region in December 2009 and will continue through Spring 2010.

- DPBRN study “Primary Care Management for TMJD Pain” will be a Web-based survey with purpose of collecting data to be used in preparing an application for a Clinical Trial Planning Grant and in designing a subsequent Phase III clinical trial. The ultimate goal is to determine the most practical approach to conduct a randomized clinical trial to evaluate initial interventions for patients with painful temporomandibular muscle and joint disorders (TMJD) in primary care clinics.

Florida practitioner-investigators continue to be very active in DPBRN studies and supportive of the network. Dr. **Paul Benjamin** of Miami has been elected practitioner-investigator representative on the DPBRN Executive Committee for the FL/GA region. He will serve on the DPBRN Executive Committee for the 2008-2011 term. In addition to serving on the DPBRN Executive Committee, Dr. Benjamin also serves as adjunct instructor at the University of Florida College of Dentistry and the University

of Miami College of Medicine’s Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Many benefits of participating have been pointed out by Florida dentists, as listed on the DPBRN Web site. To learn more about enrolling in the network, visit www.DPBRN.org.

Visit the ADA Legislative Action Center for Updates

The American Dental Association (ADA) constantly is working for its members through legislative advocacy. Want the latest updates and action alerts? Visit <http://capwiz.com/dental>. The site includes:

- a sign-up for Action E-alerts that allow you to e-mail your legislator quickly and easily regarding key dental-related issues.
- contact information for your state and federal elected officials.
- information on important issues, recent votes and current legislation affecting your profession.
- election and candidate information.
- a “Guide to the Media,” which allows you to contact local newspapers, radio stations and TV stations.

2010 Annual Scientific Table Clinic Session to be Held in Miami

The American College of Dentists Florida Section will host the 2010 Annual Scientific Table Clinic Session on Thursday, April 22 at the Renaissance Ballroom in Miami. The event will include a lecture

Please see NEWS BRIEFS, 10