



TODAY'S
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**Nova Southeastern University
College of Dental Medicine's
First Decade of Accomplishments**

Regenerative Dentistry * Oralfacial Pain Clinic * Digital Imaging



Georgia DPBRN Holds

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The Dental Practice-Based Research Network (DPBRN) on May 15-17 held its first network-wide meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel in Atlanta. Previously, annual meetings of DPBRN practitioner-investigators had been held by each of DPBRN’s five regions, instead of having all practitioner-investigators meet at the same time. With more than 140 DPBRN practitioner-investigators from the United States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oregon, and Washington) and Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway and Sweden) in attendance, all DPBRN regions were well represented.

Before the meeting, each practitioner received his or her own personalized results by mail from the Assessment of Caries Diagnosis and Treatment questionnaire (DPBRN Study 1), along with results from all the practitioner-investigators. This allowed each practitioner-investigator to compare his or her answers to what all other practitioner-investigators in each region responded.

Network-wide results from DPBRN Study 2 were provided to all attendees at the meeting. Results from Studies

1 and 2 were then used during “breakout sessions.” During these breakout sessions, representatives from all DPBRN regions were divided into discussion groups of eight-10 practitioner-investigators. Lively discussions were had in all sessions about similarities and differences among the five DPBRN regions. Discussion topics included:

- which results practitioner-investigators found the most interesting and surprising.
- which results were the most applicable to DPBRN patients.
- which differences across DPBRN regions were due to different dental care systems in the DPBRN regions, differences in how dentists are trained and differences in patient populations.

Practitioner-investigators discussed how these results may affect how they practice in the future and how they could lead to improving dental care. Both the United States and Scandinavian practitioners learned valuable information from these breakout groups and enjoyed sharing ideas and experiences with each other.

At the end of the breakout sessions, Dr. Jeffrey Houtz, practitioner-investigator from Oregon; Dr. **Louis Roque**, practitioner-investigator from Florida; Dr. Barry Goodspeed, practitioner-investigator from Alabama; and Dr. George Mor-



Network-wide Meeting

arasu, practitioner-investigator from Minnesota presented to the meeting at large all findings from the breakout sessions, which proved to be very beneficial to all DPBRN members.

Most speakers at the meeting were DPBRN practitioner-investigators. Dr. Ola Johan Basmo, practitioner-investigator from Norway, provided information about the Scandinavian dental care system. Dr. Martha Wallace-Dawson, practitioner-investigator from Birmingham, Ala., spoke about characteristics of private-practice dental care systems in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, and Mississippi and how they affect dental care. Dr. **Paul Benjamin**, practitioner-investigator from Miami and DPBRN Executive Committee member, gave an overview of DPBRN Study 1. Dr. Craig Ajmo, practitioner-investigator from Dunedin, discussed preliminary results from DPBRN Study 2. Dr. Dan Pihlstrom, practitioner-investigator in the Permanente Dental Associates region and DPBRN Executive Committee member, presented on the importance of translating research into practice, pointing out that it can take as many as 17 years to translate traditional research into daily clinical practice. He also stated that results from DPBRN studies should speed up this process.

At the beginning and end of the meeting, practitioners filled out a questionnaire regarding the impact of practice-based research in their daily clinical practices. Practitioner-investigators very much enjoyed meeting other DPBRN

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practitioner-investigators from across the globe and enjoyed interacting with each other throughout the meeting. Attending practitioner-investigators look forward to using the DPBRN results and interactions at the meeting to improve dental care for their patients. 

Photo cutlines:

1. Dr. Manny Serra-Jovenich (right) received his certificate of appreciation for serving on the DPBRN Executive Committee. Dr. Benjamin (right) is the current FL/GA region Executive Committee member.
2. Practitioners broke out into focus groups to discuss the results of DPBRN Studies 1 & 2.
3. Craig Ajmo of Dunedin presents results from Study 2.

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