



**Meet Dr Anne Harrison,
Director**



Why did you choose to become a Director of the eviDent Foundation?

In professional life there are so many committees and associations we could donate our time to. With competing pressures for my time I find it important that the organisations I choose to devote time and energy for have strategic goals and a direction that I am enthusiastic about, and that they offer a broader view of the world than I get looking down a microscope each day! So when the opportunity arose for me to become one of the founding directors of eviDent Foundation, I was delighted.

eviDent has been one of the most exciting developments I have seen in the dental arena during the 10 or so years I served on ADAVB Council. As a director of eviDent I feel fortunate to be part of, contributing to, and learning from, a group of diverse thinking people all working collectively to advance eviDent.

Why is dental and oral disease research so important?

One of the great challenges I enjoy in dental practice are the many, as yet, unanswered questions. Research embraces this curiosity and fosters a way of thinking that encourages us never to stop asking questions.

To optimise dental health outcomes you really can't have practice without research. This is the crux of dental practice. If we do not learn from our

clinical experiences, apart from losing our most valuable resource, we will stagnate as a profession.

Research under the auspices of eviDent contributes to the body of evidence for clinical decision-making, and enables us to respond to, or translate if you like, the clinical outcomes that we are faced with on a daily basis.

What does the eviDent dental practice based research network offer to academics, practitioners, practice staff and patients?

eviDent offers us the capability of having an impact on dental practice within a short space of time. The opportunity to tap into our talented pool of local academics, practitioners and practice staff to unite and generate useful research findings should not be squandered.

The reality is that each of the findings is likely to represent an incremental improvement rather than a radical break through, which is why eviDent has the potential to be of ongoing and long lasting benefit to all stakeholders. Perhaps most of all, it will be our patients who stand to benefit from potential improved dental health outcomes.

At a human level eviDent offers the opportunity to engage with others, with different skill sets, that you otherwise may not come in contact with. In a sense it is breaking down barriers and knowledge silos to bring about change. eviDent is a really positive addition to practicing or academic life.

What other benefits does eviDent offer?

Practicing clinicians can participate in valuable continuing professional development whilst improving frontline clinical care by understanding what is

happening in their own practices. I can't think of a more clinically relevant CPD activity.

Learning to practice evidence based dentistry is one approach to avoid clinical entropy; integrating clinical expertise and best available clinical evidence, to which eviDent contributes. Practising evidence based dentistry helps us to keep up with the rapidly growing body of dental literature.

It is my hope that members find eviDent to be a positive addition to practicing life and that for the profession as a whole it fosters a greater sense of connectedness and collegiality, ownership of knowledge, and, cultivates professional pride.

What impact do you think the eviDent Foundation will have on the dental profession, and why?

The potential for eviDent to have a positive effect on the profession is enormous. The impact will reflect the level of involvement in the network by practitioners, academics and patients. With time, the research that results from this process should lead to improvements and, ultimately, innovation in dental health practice. Beyond a practice level this may better inform policy and patient outcomes. The Foundation is an essential link in the chain designed to support the eviDent committee in the evolution of Australia's first dental practice based research network.

For more information please contact the eviDent Executive Officer – Meaghan Quinn on (03) 8825 4603 or email: ask@evident.net.au Visit: www.evident.net.au



MELBOURNE
12 - 14 APRIL 13
Royal Exhibition Building

Members of the ADAVB Oral Health Committee, along with DHSV staff, will have an "Ask the Oral Health Experts" booth at the Advice Hub at the Melbourne Baby and Toddler Show next month.

The OHC's attendance at last year's event was a great success, with hundreds of parents visiting the stall to discuss their children's oral health.

We urge you to encourage your patients with young children or soon-to-be parents to visit the show, to get further expert opinions on a variety of topics at the Advice Hub.

Visit the Baby and Toddler Show Facebook page or www.babyandtoddlershow.com.au for more information. SG