

First steps of newly formed dental practice based research network

The first steps of Australia's first Dental Practice Based Research Network (DPBRN), **eViDent**, have just been taken with the inaugural meeting of its committee.

The Ad Hoc committee, established jointly by the ADAVB and the Co-operative Research Centre for Oral Health Science (CRC-OHS), is now laying the foundation for the practice based research network to operate, initially in Victoria.

The next step will be conducting a workshop to design the study of the effectiveness of the network. Member participation in the network will be invited in mid 2009 and an official launch is planned for later in the year.

Aims and Objectives

eViDent aims to conduct and facilitate practice-based research relevant to dentistry, and to develop an evidence-based practice model for DPBRNs. eViDent also aims to enhance the translation of research results into oral health care practice and policies by targeting research topics and themes of interest and concern to both practitioners and policy makers.

eViDent will aim to accomplish these objectives and activities over its first five-year period:

- Develop a feasible and replicable model for organising and operating DPBRNs. eViDent will be comprised of collaborating organisations, namely the peak dental professional body in Victoria, the ADAVB, and its members, working with the CRC-OHS and the Melbourne Dental School.
- eViDent will coordinate activities to enhance the evidence base supporting oral health public policy, so that policy is practicable and relevant to dental practitioners.
- Operate a statewide coordinating centre that provides technical assistance and support to eViDent members in designing, funding, and conducting oral health services research.
- Facilitate the implementation, and translation of new oral health research studies into evidence-based daily practice of dentists.

- Assist in the design, development and launching of individual research projects conceived by network participants.

This model will assure that eViDent has the necessary infrastructure to design and conduct at least 10 rigorous studies (including clinical and policy studies, a baseline study and an overarching study of the whole exercise), in an efficient and accurate manner in dental care settings participating in the network.

The medium-term outcome will be a model DPBRN and the provision of recommendations for the implementation of an Australia-wide DPBRN.

A further short term target will be to commence at least three research projects within the initial 12-months.

It is also envisaged that during the project period eViDent will accomplish the:

- sharing of research findings via peer-learning education of the wider oral health profession through seminars, workshops and conference presentations
- establishment of interdisciplinary networks for projects that address the relationship between oral and general health e.g. diabetic patient needs, smoking cessation
- integration of undergraduate research projects into the network structure with a view to modelling desirable post graduate behaviours, bringing research findings into effect more rapidly.

Terms of reference

The terms of reference for eViDent are to encourage the conduct of evidence-based dental practice in Victoria by:

- supporting collaborative practice-based dental research that makes a difference to health outcomes and experiences of care in areas in which the network has expertise and experience:
- providing practices with the opportunity to engage in research, and access research expertise and other development opportunities available through the CRC-

OHS, the Melbourne Dental School and the University of Melbourne;

- providing CRC researchers with access to practitioners' expertise and a practice base; and
- actively disseminating research network findings to network members and to relevant policy-makers through the joint efforts of the ADAVB and the CRC-OHS.

• The committee

Peter Parashos, Associate Professor at the Melbourne Dental School and in private practice, is the Chairman of eViDent.



ADAVB is represented by: Dr Simon Wylie, a prosthodontist; Dr Jeremy Sternson, dentist; Dr John Boucher, Deputy President of the Dental Practice Board of Victoria and a dentist; A/Prof

Nicky Kilpatrick, Director of the Department of Dentistry at the Royal Children's Hospital.

The CRC-OHS is represented by: Prof Mike Morgan, Prof Martin Tyas, A/Prof Rodrigo Mariño and Dr Denise Bailey.

Further information:

Members interested in eViDent should contact:



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Thanks for supporting the Benevolent Fund bushfire appeal

ADAVB thanks members who have generously donated to the Branch's Benevolent Fund to help finance professional counselling services for fellow members affected by the bushfires earlier this year. Although the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal closes on 30 June, the Benevolent Fund continues to accept donations. Donations – which are not tax deductible – can be sent directly to the Branch, or the Benevolent Fund donation form can be downloaded from the Document Exchange section of MyADAVB www.adavb.net