

eviDent

The profession collectively, and the professional individually, possesses a body of knowledge and a repertoire of behaviours and skills (professional culture) needed in the practice of dentistry; such knowledge, behaviour, and skills are not normally possessed by the non-professional.

As a profession, we are involved in decision making for the provision of oral health care for our patients. These decisions are made in accordance with the most valid knowledge available, against a background of principles and theories, and within the context of possible impact on other related conditions or decisions.

The British Dental Journal's (BDJ) *Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD)* publication is now embedded into the BDJ and they describe this move as 'Bridging the gap between research and dental practice ...' (<http://www.nature.com/ebd/index.html>).

Similarly, the American Dental Association's new Center for Evidence-Based Dentistry (<http://ebd.ada.org/>) offers the profession access to systematic reviews and summaries, clinical recommendations and many other resources. These websites form a valuable clinical resource and should be included in our ongoing professional development.

Together with the Cooperative Research Centre for Oral Health Science (CRC-OHS), the ADAVB aims to move research from *in vitro* into *in vivo* practice; out of the laboratory and into the mouth by the establishment of Australia's first dental practice based research network (DPBRN), eviDent.

This exciting new venture creates an opportunity for us to participate in research, to improve patient care, to inform policy and implement research findings as they are found!

As dental professionals we strive to promote, develop and improve the art and science of clinical dentistry. There are countless clinical questions we are faced with throughout the provision of care to our patients. eviDent allows us, as practitioners, to raise and research these questions, gather dental practice based evidence and use the findings to provide effective clinical based learning and change as appropriate.

The eviDent DPBRN Committee has done extensive work on policies and procedures and there has been much deliberation on the most appropriate structure through which to operate.

A number of dental groups and societies have been briefed on eviDent and have been invited to consider funding research projects likely to be of interest to their members. Some have already indicated that they are interested in doing so, although the nature of the research topics proposed and the funding on offer are not yet known.

eviDent is an exciting project that I urge you to watch and consider being involved in. Perhaps you are looking for new challenges. Perhaps having the opportunity to bring research findings into practice more rapidly and inform policy appeals to you. Maybe you have considered returning to postgraduate studies, but aren't quite sure. It could be that you thrive on new learning experiences and participating in peer review activities. It might be that you are looking for a rewarding challenge that your practice staff can be a part of. If you like the sound of any or all of these then I recommend you contact eviDent's Coordinator, Ms Meaghan Quinn (8825 4603 or meaghan.quinn@adavb.org) for a chat about eviDent. You will also find more information about eviDent on page 15 of this Newsletter.

Below: eviDent's co-ordinator Meaghan Quinn



Dr Anne Harrison

'If we want more evidence-based practice, we need more practice-based evidence'. - American academic Lawrence W Green, CDC Oral Health Workshop, Atlanta, 2007

Member Assistance Program

MAP provides a professional counselling service for ADAVB members, allowing them to cope with the demands of the profession and their personal circumstances and regain the balance in life.

To make an appointment, phone 1300 366 789.

For emergency counselling (24/7) call 1800 451 138

