



Dr Anne Harrison

Green Light for Victoria's first DPBRN- eviDent

Together with the Cooperative Research Centre for Oral Health Science (CRC-OHS), the ADAVB has established eviDent; the first Dental Practice Based Research Network (DPBRN) in the state of Victoria.

DPBRNs present a fantastic opportunity for us to develop a greater sense of our professionalism through engagement in research activities with the collaboration of our association and peers. The eviDent network will ensure the provision of suitable training, guidance and support to participating practitioners to foster improved design and quality of research on all projects undertaken.

Barriers that have traditionally separated researchers and practitioners can be broken down via DPBRNs by using in vivo patients and dental practitioners (Mold & Peterson, 2005; Burke & Stewardson, 2005). The degree to which eviDent is the catalyst for the generation of innovation and improvement in the delivery of oral health care in Victoria is limited only by our ability and commitment, together with that of our critical partners and stakeholders, to work together toward our research goals.

The central role of the ADAVB (and the CRC-OHS) in supporting and progressing eviDent has been pivotal and continues with the invaluable support of many of our local practitioners, academics and researchers. Practice based research and quality improvement in healthcare continue to become fundamentally linked. The instrument with which to measure benefits to patient care is critical. Furthermore, practice-based observation has the potential to help shape university curriculum by assessing the nature of service delivery within the primary care settings. In turn this will facilitate an assessment of the efficacy of various healthcare training programs, thus shaping our future educational models.

The eviDent Committee (Prof Mike Morgan [Co-Chairman], Dr John Boucher [Co-Chairman], Dr Denise Bailey, Prof Martin Tyas AM, A/Prof Rodrigo Mariño, Dr David Manton, Dr Tony Robertson, Dr Jeremy Sternson and Dr Simon Wylie) has laid the

foundation of the network. It is both exciting and a testament to their hard work that a research plan relevant to dentistry has been developed, and that the necessary infrastructure affording the capability to conduct high level practice based research, has been established.

eviDent is now ready to conduct various research projects run by teams of practitioners and academics. In fact, one of eviDent's projects has just received ethics approval (see page 7) and another is working to submit a research protocol for the eviDent Committee's consideration.

eviDent will target research topics and themes of relevance to practitioners and policy makers. eviDent's project teams will interpret the research results and disseminate the findings, aiming for advanced oral health care practice and policies.

How can the results of research be used for 'evidence based practice' and integrated into daily dental practice? The realities of daily practice, combined with the fiscal constraints of running a viable business, often prohibit the implementation of new techniques or protocols as proposed by research outcomes. Suggested remedies have included more participatory research, ideally in the form of practice-based research networks such as eviDent, with the results becoming more relevant, more actionable, more tailored and providing more immediate feedback to practitioners themselves (Balas & Boren, 2000). Consequently there is a need for more relevant, quality research (that is more accessible to us as practitioners) and better ways to translate research into practice.

Research ideas are generated by practitioners. Once received, the eviDent Committee will consider proposals against the following criteria:

- Is the research idea or concept a researchable question?
- Does it fit within our aims and objectives?
- Is the study fundable?

The primary objective of each eviDent project is to strengthen our knowledge base for clinical decision-making and to aid in policy development. Contemporary quality assurance agendas link in well with these objectives.

On Friday July 30th, eviDent features on the ADAVB Convention program! I welcome you all, and encourage you to attend these presentations to be delivered by Dr Denise Bailey, Dr Karen Kan and Dr Roy Judge featuring two of eviDent's projects; Implant Complications in Practice and Molar Incisor Hypomineralisation. eviDent's Coordinator, Ms Meaghan Quinn (8825 4603 or coordinator@evident.net.au) will also be at the trade display exhibition to discuss any queries you might have about eviDent.

Federal Meetings

In late April I attended both the Branch Presidents/CEOs/Federal Executive meeting and the Federal Council meeting in Sydney together with our Federal representatives, Dr Mark Bowman and Dr Anne Stewart (standing in for Dr John Matthews). These meetings are an important opportunity in the current climate of rapid change for the states to engage, debate and unify on the many issues facing us all.

Submission to DBA on CPD

Together with the MDS, our recent joint submission to the DBA highlights the concerns of the two major providers of CPD in Victoria with respect to the draft CPD guidelines. The DBA has the unenviable task of bringing together the standards nationwide and taking into consideration the varied experiences of each State. Here in Victoria with our substantial experience in CPD, I feel the submission is a standout document that will hopefully be referred to as the board proceeds with the shaping of their CPD guidelines.

HR manual now available

The Australian Dental Association Inc. Human Resources manual is now available. It has been produced to help members deal with the day-to-day Human Resource and Industrial Relations issues.

The manual covers all the recent Industrial relations reforms. Contents include: Recruitment, Occupational Health and Safety, Workers Compensation, Termination of Employment, Leave, Leave Records, and templates for job descriptions. (Due to the current online set-up for the manual, it is suggested that members wanting the templates via page 14 - 'Recruitment' - and navigate from there.)

Each sub-section is numbered according to the Section number and its location within the Chapter.

The manual is available at <http://www.ada.org.au/members/hrmatters.aspx>

STOP PRESS

Amalgam separator rebate

The Dentists for Cleaner Water Steering Committee has just announced that from 1 July, 2010 the rebate for the fitting of ISO 11 143 compliant amalgam separators will be \$500 per practice or up to a maximum of 10% of the total costs associated with the purchase and installation of these items - whatever is the greatest amount.

This will be the effective rebate level until the completion of the project on June 30, 2011. Place your order by 30 June, 2010 to receive your higher rebate.