

# The evidence is... eviDent

eviDent is a Dental Practice Based Research Network (DPBRN), but what does this mean?

*'Practice-based research networks (PBRNs) are sustained collaborations between practitioners and academics dedicated to developing relevant research questions, working together on study design and conduct, and translating new knowledge into practice'.*

## Key features of PBRNs include:

- They are practice based
- They involve practitioners and academics
- They generate research
- They target research topics and themes of interest and concern to practitioners and policy makers
- They enhance the translation of research into practice and policies.

## eviDent is:

- an exciting initiative of the ADAVB and the Oral Health Cooperative Centre Science (CRC-OHS) located at the Melbourne Dental School;
- a consortium of dental care providers committed to advancing evidence based treatment and ways to improve it; and
- 'practical science' done about, in and for the benefit of the 'real world'.

## Why do we need eviDent?

- Most dental research is conducted within a university or hospital environment and most dental care is provided by dentists in a practice setting;
- Of the dental research reviewed, only 2% related to primary dental care;<sup>1</sup>
- Of those studies undertaken in primary care settings, only 43 out of 134 reviewed would be suitable for inclusion in a systematic review;<sup>2</sup> and
- It takes 17 years to turn 14 percent of original research to the benefit of patient care.<sup>3</sup>

ADAVB is an association of dentists committed to advancing the art, science and ethics of dentistry, the care of oral health of all Victorians, and the professional lives of its members.

It therefore makes perfect sense that we have teamed up with the Oral Health CRC, as the centre brings together scientists, dentists, population health experts and manufacturers to find new and efficient ways of reducing the burden of oral disease in Australia.

eviDent aims to encourage/engage the practitioner research relationship with a view to building research capacity to produce and use evidence. eviDent hopes to achieve this by facilitating and supporting those practices involved in research by producing and disseminating evidence that can translate into practice and inform policy. Ideally, eviDent will achieve a successful and sustainable DPBRN model.

Let's consider what kinds of projects can be done by a DPBRN and how you might share some of your ideas or get involved.

Ideas for projects are generated by you, the practitioner! If you have a project idea, contact Ms Meaghan Quinn, eviDent's Coordinator, to obtain and complete a research project proposal form. Once received, the eviDent Committee will consider the proposal 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?

## Projects undertaken by other DPBRNs include:

- Tobacco cessation counselling in dental practices
- Analgesic use and effectiveness
- Treating deep caries.

## Project proposals approved by the eviDent Committee include:

- Project 001 – Evaluation of eviDent. This project will evaluate the 'success' of eviDent.

Chief Investigator – Dr Denise Bailey.

- Project 002 – A 5 year retrospective assay of implant complications in private practice. This project has been divided into 4 parts:
  - o Part A – retrospective assay of implant complications in participating practices
  - o Part B – Development of management guidelines
  - o Part C – Five year prospective study using guidelines developed in parts A and B
  - o Part D – publish findings showing a change in treatment planning and maintenance regimes.

Chief Investigator A – Dr Roy Judge

Chief Investigator B – Dr Denise Bailey

Associate Investigators - Dr Jolene Chapman, Dr Robert De Poi, Dr Andrei Locke, Dr Jeremy Sternson, Dr Simon Wylie, Dr Tim Stolz, Mr Michael Lacy, Mr Arun Chandu

The project is proudly supported by the Australasian Osseointegration Society (Victorian Branch) Inc., the Australian Society of Periodontology (Victorian Branch) and the Australian Prosthodontic Society (Victorian Branch) Inc.

- Project 003 – Molar Incisor Hypomineralisation (MIH) and Molar Hypomineralisation (MH). The aims of this project are:
  - o To investigate the distribution & severity of MIH/MH in several specialist paediatric dental practices in Melbourne
  - o To implement the use of the newly developed MH Severity Index in these practices to assist in the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of MIH/MH
  - o To propose & pilot new clinical management protocols for affected dentitions to maximise oral health & improve clinical outcomes.

Chief Investigator A – Emeritus Professor Louise Brearley Messer

Chief Investigator B – Dr David Manton

Associate Investigators - Dr Fiona Ng, Dr Karen Kan, Dr Margarita Silva, Clinical A/Prof Christopher Olsen, Dr Kelly Oliver, Dr Narisha Chawla, Dr John Sheahan.

This project is proudly supported by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Paediatric Dentistry and the ADAVB.

If you would like to know more about eviDent, have a project idea, or would like to become an eviDent member (membership is free), please contact:

Meaghan Quinn

eviDent DPBRN Coordinator

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Email: [coordinator@evident.net.au](mailto:coordinator@evident.net.au)

**MQ & DB**

<sup>1</sup> Clarkson J. Experience of clinical trials in general practice. *Adv Dent Res* 2005; 18: 39-41

<sup>2</sup> Crawford F. Clinical trials in dental primary care: what research methods have been used to produce reliable evidence? *Br Dent J* 2005; 199: 155-160

<sup>3</sup> Balas EA, Boren SA. Managing clinical knowledge for health care improvement. *Yearb Med Inform* 2000