

Congress delegates hear how eViDent's projects' findings help practices

eViDent Dental Practice Based Research Network was a feature at the 35th Australian Dental Congress held in Melbourne last month (pictured right).

The network was both on the program and attended as part of the dental exhibition— both attracted a lot of interest from Victorian and interstate practitioners.

First on the program for eViDent was a lively lunch-and-learn session, *eViDent: participating in a practice based research network*, facilitated by Dr Denise Bailey, Chair of the eViDent Foundation. Participants came from around the country and had varying backgrounds. The session generated a good debate about academia vs. 'real world' dentistry, the strengths and limitations of practice-based research and the benefits of evidence based practice.

The lunch-and-learn led nicely into the joint presentation by Professor Mike Morgan and Dr Mary Miller (pictured second right), *Enhancing Clinical Practice Through Research*. Mike and Mary talked about bringing research into the 'real world' and the benefits that flow from that. Mary drew upon her own experience with eViDent and shared with the audience how she believes eViDent can influence clinical research.

The Saturday afternoon session, *Contemporary Australian Research*, showcased three of eViDent's completed or nearly completed projects:

- A five-year Retrospective Assay of Implant Complications in Private Practice
- Molar Incisor Hypomineralisation/ Molar Hypomineralisation
- The PREVENT study

The eViDent project - *Implant complications in private practice* - investigated the frequency and type of complications that occurred in private general and specialist practices in Victoria retrospectively over a five year period. Dr Jeremy Sternson's (pictured third right) brief presentation whet the appetite of those in the audience, and stimulated the way they thought about implant treatments.

Having obtained the data from 32 practices in Victoria, the next step is to provide guidelines to enrolled centres and to continually monitor the details of implants placed and/ or restored in these practices. A/Prof. Roy Judge (pictured fourth right) reported on a prospective study that hopes to show the effect of the implementation of the evidence based guidelines drawn from the previous retrospective study. It also aims to provide an ever increasing pool of clinical implant data that will be used for enhancement of all aspects of dental implant care.

Molar-Incisor Hypomineralisation (MIH) and Molar Hypomineralisation (MH) are two related conditions affecting first permanent molars and/ or incisors. The exact causal factors are still unknown, so primary prevention is difficult.



Many of these teeth provide great clinical challenges as they are sensitive, difficult to anaesthetise and restorations fail readily. Dr Karen Kan (pictured third right) shared findings about the distribution and severity of MIH/ MH in children attending four specialist practices in Victoria and the trial of a newly developed MH Severity Index to assist with the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of MIH/MH.

Whilst dry mouth is rarely the primary reason for seeking a medical consultation, it is a condition which is common amongst patients on multiple medications, who are frequently older Australians. Despite the discomfort to patients and the health consequences of dry mouth, little attention has been given to general medical practitioners' knowledge and management of dry mouth. A/Prof. Meredith Temple Smith (pictured third right) presented findings from an intervention study aiming to improve general medical practitioners' management of this condition.

We look forward to hearing more about the findings from eViDent's projects and thank those involved with the Congress: the presenters, those who assisted on the eViDent booth and the Congress organisers for the opportunity to showcase eViDent and its projects.

Meaghan Quinn, Executive Officer, eViDent Foundation

