



## 001 – Evaluation of eviDent

Chief Investigator – Dr Denise Bailey

Associate Investigators – Dr Mary Miller and Dr Tony Robertson

Research Collaborator – Ms Meaghan Quinn

Research Assistants – Ms Karen Escobar and Ms Wendy Thomson

Support – Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch and Oral Health CRC

The evaluation of the eviDent dental practice based network and its activities is an essential and integral part of eviDent. This project aims to evaluate the eviDent network from the perspectives of practitioners, academics and the network infrastructure. The objectives of the evaluation are to:

- clarify eviDent's important areas for evaluation;
- select the appropriate design of evaluation for those areas; and
- formulate a strategy for gathering the evidence needed and using the evaluation findings.

Defining the benefits for practitioner participation in the eviDent network was identified as a priority area for evaluation. This project will help the network devise strategies to maximise those benefits and ensure that practitioner engagement in future research projects is a positive experience.

As part of this project, eviDent Associate Investigators and other practitioners were surveyed to elicit their perceptions of the benefits and burdens of being involved in eviDent research. Results were generally very positive although some of the benefits of participation initially expected were not perceived by practitioners. Recommendations for raising eviDent's profile, the type of practitioner who might most benefit from eviDent participation, reducing burdens on practitioners and a possible new tier of eviDent membership were suggested by the project team, and approved for implementation by the eviDent DPBRN Committee.

The next stage of this project will be to compare findings with PEARL DPBRN's (New York) findings from a similar questionnaire, and to continue to evaluate other aspects of the eviDent network.

## 002 – A 5-year Retrospective Assay of Implant Complications in Private Practice



Chief Investigator A – A/Prof Roy Judge

Chief Investigator B – Dr Denise Bailey

Associate Investigators – Dr Peter Apostolopoulos, Mr Arun Chandu, Dr Robert De Poi (pictured), Mr Michael Lacy, Dr Angelos Sourial, Dr Jeremy Sternson (pictured), Dr Tim Stolz, Dr Jason Wang, Dr Simon Wylie (pictured), Dr Vivien Yeo

Research Assistants – Ms Karen Escobar and Ms Wendy Thomson

Support - Australasian Osseointegration Society (Victorian Branch), Australian Society of Periodontology (Victorian Branch), Australian Prosthodontic Society (Victorian Branch), Australian Society of Implant Dentistry

With the implant experience in Victoria well developed, this eviDent project seeks to gain information about the past experiences of practitioners that will then drive a set of evidence based guidelines for the management of implant patients.

This project aims:

- To describe practitioner characteristics;
- To describe the demographics of patients receiving implant restorations;
- To describe the baseline medical and oral health conditions of patients receiving implant supported restorations;
- To describe the distribution of the different implant systems used;
- To document the time and type of implant restoration;
- To describe the placement/ location of implant restorations by tooth position in the arch;
- To describe the type and timing of restorative and biological complications observed; and
- To identify trend patterns that appear to contribute to these complications.

The project team has been working hard to analyse the huge amount of data obtained from the 34 practices who volunteered their records for this project. The project has already reported preliminary findings at a number of conferences during 2012, and looks forward to presenting further findings, and discussing the prospective component at the ADA Inc Congress in April.

## 003 – Molar Incisor Hypomineralisation

Chief Investigator A – Emeritus Prof Louise Brearley Messer AM

Chief Investigator B – Prof David Manton

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

Support - Australian and New Zealand Society of Paediatric Dentistry, Victorian Branch and eviDent Foundation

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.

The project's aims were:

- To investigate the distribution and severity of MIH/ MH in children attending four participating specialist paediatric dental practices in Melbourne;
- To trial the use of the newly-developed MH Severity Index (MHSI) in these practices to assist in the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of MIH/ MH; and
- To propose new clinical management protocols for affected

dentitions in order to maximise oral health and improve clinical outcomes.

Data collection commenced in October 2010 and ceased in April 2012, with 285 children participating in the project. Of these children, 283 were eligible with treatment data available for 152 children. Data collected in the project were used to investigate the distribution of the characteristic features of hypomineralised teeth and dentitions, treatment of affected children, associations between the characteristics of hypomineralised teeth and treatment, and the ability of an Index to predict treatment. It is hoped that findings of the project will help guide clinicians in the management of affected children.

eviDent thanks the project team for the invaluable contribution that they, their staff, and their patients (and their parents) have made throughout the course of the project. The project could not have run so smoothly without the enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism of the project team and their staff.

## 004 – The PREVENT study



Chief Investigator A – Dr Denise Bailey

Chief Investigator B – Dr Margaret Stacey

Chief Investigator C – A/Prof Marie Pirotta

Chief Investigator D – A/Prof Meredith Temple-Smith (pictured above)

Research Assistants – Ms Natalie Appleby, Ms Karen Escobar and Ms Wendy Thomson

Support – IADR/ Colgate Community Based Research Award for Caries Prevention

Dry mouth is a pervasive problem which can lead to an increased risk of oral and general health problems such as increased levels of tooth decay, difficulties eating and difficulties wearing dentures. Many dry mouth sufferers report a decrease in their quality of life. Dry mouth is much more common in those taking certain medications and, as our population ages, the number of people taking multiple medications is rapidly increasing. General medical practitioners (GMPs) prescribe medications that can cause dry mouth on a daily basis and frequently come into contact with a group of people that may have dry mouth; GMPs are therefore ideally placed to give initial advice to their patients with dry mouth.

The project's aims were:

- To improve the level of knowledge of GMPs regarding the oral health risks of prescribing medications causing salivary deficiency;
- To utilise GMPs as a first line for identifying those at increased risk from dental caries (and other saliva-related oral health problems); and
- To equip GMPs to provide general oral health advice.

The PREVENT study successfully created and used a model which helped GMPs to identify their patients at risk

of dry mouth, diagnose dry mouth and implement a dry mouth management program that also included improved communication between GMPs and dental professionals.

The project team has submitted the final report to IADR, and presented two poster presentations at the 2013 IADR Conference in Seattle in March.

## 005 – Children's Dental Program



Chief Investigator – Prof Mike Morgan

Associate Investigators – Dr Sajeew Koshy, Dr Samantha Lew (pictured above) and Dr Shibu Mathew

Research Collaborator – Mr Tan Nguyen

Support – Plenty Valley Community Health and DHSV Research & Innovations Grant

Plenty Valley Community Health (PVCH) is one of many Victorian government dental agencies committed to community engagement and improving client access to its services. When the School Dental Services was transferred to the community health services environment in 2007, decisions on how to promote children's dental services to the community, how to manage demand, balance priority care between children's dental and adult dental became local decisions. It has been identified that the children most vulnerable to dental disease are the least likely to access services. A recent publication by the Department of Health (Victoria) showed that only 22.8% of the eligible population were treated in 2009-2010. This falls significantly below the benchmark by the Australia's National Oral Health Plan 2004-2012 that all children should receive at least one course of general oral health care including appropriate oral health promotion every two years.

This project aims:

- To investigate the current patterns of child attendance for dental visits since Dental Health Services Victoria School Dental Services was integrated into community health services from 2007.
- To determine whether school-based dental screening retain high-needs child patients for oral health care using the existing publicly funded community health services.

The project team has received ethics training, and undertaken project specific training, in addition to eviDent's minimum training requirements. Having just received a DHSV Research & Innovation Grant, this project has recently commenced.

# 14 eviDent Project Updates

## 006 – Diagnosis, treatment and maintenance of periodontal patients by general dentists



Dr Su-yan Barrow determines the winner of the iPad3

Chief Investigator A – Prof. Ivan Darby

Chief Investigator B – Dr Denise Bailey

Associate Investigators – Dr Bob Cvetkovic, Dr Ross Musolino, Dr Susan Wise, Dr Claudia Yung

Research Collaborator – Dr Su-yan Barrow (pictured above)

Support – PEARL DPBRN for sharing study information for a comparative study and Australian Society of Periodontology, Victorian Branch

There are relatively few reports regarding periodontal therapy in the general dental practice setting. This project is a survey of Victorian dental practitioners to determine the criteria used to establish a periodontal diagnosis, what periodontal therapies are used and who subsequently provides periodontal therapy within general practices.

This project aims to determine the criteria used in general practices to:

1. Establish a diagnosis of health, gingivitis or mild, moderate or severe periodontitis.
2. Triage periodontal care of patients with periodontitis among the dental hygienist, general dentist and periodontist.
3. Determine the interval of maintenance and recall of patients after active periodontal therapy.

The online case-based questionnaire went live on 11 December 2012, and received a great response from ADAVB members. The project team will shortly commence analysis of the data, and a comparison with PEARL DPBRN's (New York) findings from a similar questionnaire.

For more information please contact the eviDent Executive Officer – **Meaghan Quinn on (03) 8825 4603** or email: [ask@evident.net.au](mailto:ask@evident.net.au) Visit: [www.evident.net.au](http://www.evident.net.au)

## Donate to help promote the prevention and control of dental and oral diseases!

We invite you to make your donation to the eviDent Foundation using the donation form from [www.evident.net.au](http://www.evident.net.au) > Donate to the eviDent Foundation

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Most people who make donations to deductible gift recipients see a tax benefit in their return.

The Australian Taxation Office has endorsed the eviDent Foundation ABN 81 152 078 487 as a Health Promotion Charity and as a Deductible Gift Recipient. eviDent's fundraiser registration number is 11984 (valid 6 June 2012 to 5 June 2015).

**eviDent**  
Foundation