

eviDent shares experiences with US dental researchers

The sixth PEARL (Practitioners Engaged in Applied Research and Learning) dental practice based research network Annual Meeting was held 25-26 March 2011 at the IBM Palisades Conference Center in Palisades, New York. eviDent Committee Member, Dr Denise Bailey, and eviDent Coordinator, Ms Meaghan Quinn (both pictured), were fortunate enough to be invited guests at this meeting to share research experiences and ideas with their American counterparts.

About 70 PEARL members and approximately the same number of practice research coordinators received scientific updates on studies already conducted within the PEARL network were updated on Good Clinical Practice guidelines and other research items, and enjoyed the opportunity to socialise and network.

PEARL Investigators and the Executive Management Team shared findings from the following PEARL projects:

- Deep Caries Treatment Outcomes
- Post Operative Hypersensitivity
- Practitioner-Investigator Perceptions of Participation and Information Dissemination in the PEARL Network
- A Case Study of Diagnosis, Treatment and Maintenance of Periodontal Patients by General Dentists in the PEARL Network
- Noncarious Cervical Lesion RCT
- Outcomes for Single Unit Implant Placement and Restoration in General Dental Practice
- Analgesic Use and Effectiveness

Keynote speakers, Dr Edward Swift and Dr Edwina Kidd engaged and challenged the audience with their talks about 'Contemporary Options for Resin Bonding' and 'When Do We Need Fillings? How Much Carious Tissue Should We Remove for a Filling?'.

The objectives of the PEARL DPBRN address the shared purpose with eviDent of improving the health of the community with eviDent, and will help to provide answers to the complex and difficult questions that decision makers face when designing policies that affect health and health care.

eviDent recognises that the partnership between academic research experts and practitioners provides optimal conditions for clinical research that is relevant and valuable for practitioners, and to that extent, it is much more likely than laboratory

based research to result in early adoption of findings by the profession. The focus on policy issues which have bearing on the community's oral health is expected to lead to more rapid science transfer than is usually experienced via traditional research activities.

eviDent has forged strong links with PEARL, and is excited about the prospect of sharing survey data of clinical studies that will inform translational research. We believe that the critical mass of people from both DPBRNs,

and the synergy of the DPBRNs will be able to promulgate change, improve the dissemination and translation of research findings, and ultimately, improve global health.

We look forward to the oral health benefits that will flow from these two DPBRNs.

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Above: eviDent meets PEARL (from left) Don Vena, The EMMES Corporation, Meaghan Quinn, eviDent, Denise Bailey, eviDent and Rick Curro, PEARL Network. Photos courtesy of PEARL

