

Get involved

Bruce Duguid reports from the SDPBRN and provides details on the different ways you can be part of it

Last month saw the Scottish Dental Practice Based Research Network's (SDPBRN) 8th Annual National Symposium, hosted at West Park Conference Centre in Dundee.

SDPBRN is a network of dentists from general dental practice, the hospital services, dental public health, DCPs, vocational trainers and trainees, policy makers and researchers, all keen to develop evidence-based practice within the setting of primary care dentistry. The network was launched in 1998 and since then has grown from strength to strength. SDPBRN is funded by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and supported by the University of Dundee Dental Health Services Research Unit/ Dundee Dental School, The University of Glasgow Dental School and Edinburgh Dental Institute. With Professor Jan Clarkson as director, its knowledge base and expertise is vast and by tapping into its extensive network, the high quality research it produces in relation to evidence-based dentistry in primary care is second to none. SDPBRN is currently involved in three major National Institute for Health Research funded projects, namely INTERVAL, FICTION and IQuaD.

The acting postgraduate dental dean for NES, Dr David Felix, opened the Symposium. He welcomed the 100 delegates in attendance and presented the newest Fellows of the Scottish Postgraduate Rural Fellowship with their completion certificates. This marked the successful conclusion of a variety of masters degrees, partially funded and supported by NES for practitioners working in rural areas.

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Insightful

Chief dental officer, Margie Taylor was next to take the podium, where she extended her support to the work that SDPBRN is involved with, particularly in today's evidence-based world. Her opening presentation, entitled 'The National Institute for Health Research – Dental Research Portfolio: A Review', set the scene for the day. Delegates were then treated to a number of presentations giving insights into the practice-based research that is currently going on in the UK and further afield. The speakers included Professor Ivor Chestnutt, Professor Helen Worthington, Professor Jan Clarkson, Professor Craig Ramsay, Dr Analia Veitz-Keenan from the PEARL Network, New York University and our very own Hall Technique pioneer, Dr Nicola Innes. Other highlights of the day included the opportunity to vote on future priorities for primary care research and presentations from early career dental researchers.

The day was rounded off by a fascinating presentation from Professor Jimmy Steele from the University of Newcastle. He made clear the real mountain that dental research has to climb in order to compete financially with medical research, but as he said: 'In general, we are doing pretty well!'

Projects

One of the big messages of the day was just how easy it was to be involved with SDPBRN. Currently, a number of projects are running and SDPBRN would be happy for any involvement from practitioners.

After the successful delivery of the NIHR HTA INTERVAL feasibility study, the trial team in Dundee is now looking to recruit dentists for the main trial in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This randomised, controlled trial will investigate whether fixed-period 24-month or risk-based (as indicated in the NICE guideline) recall intervals



are more effective and cost effective in maintaining oral health than the traditional fixed-period six-month recall. Please contact the trial administrator, Hazel Braid at h.j.braid@cpse.dundee.ac.uk or 01382 420107.

The FICTION trial (www.fictiontrial.info) has now completed the pilot rehearsal trial. The study team is currently waiting to hear back from the HTA regarding progression to the main trial and are very grateful to the dentists who took part in the pilot rehearsal trial.

The IQuaD randomised, controlled trial funded by NIHR HTA will compare the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of oral hygiene advice and periodontal instrumentation (scale and polish) in dentate adults in dental primary care. The IQuaD trial has started recruiting dentists in Scotland and north-east England. Please contact the Dundee trial administrator, Lorna Macpherson at Lorna.Macpherson@nes.scot.nhs.uk or 01382 740911.

Becoming a rapid evaluation practitioner (REP) will give you and your patients the opportunity to contribute your expertise to SDPBRN projects, or lead one of your own. SDPBRN is keen to recruit as many dental professionals as possible and emphasises the importance of your contribution in helping to drive a real change in evidence-based practice. To become a REP, please contact either Lorna Barnsley or Anna Templeton at SDPBRN@nes.scot.nhs.uk or access the SDPBRN website at www.sdpbrn.org.uk, an excellent starting point for your participation in the shaping of evidence-based practice of the future.