The National Dental Practice-Based Research Network

The nation’s network
What is the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network (National Dental PBRN)?
The national network is a consortium of practices and clinics devoted principally to
the oral health care of patients, but whose members investigate research questions with
practical impact that will improve the quality of dental care.

What are the goals of the nation’s network?
The goals are to conduct national oral health studies on topics of importance to practitioners
and their patients, to provide evidence to improve routine dental care, and to facilitate
movement of the latest evidence into routine clinical practice. A key objective is to conduct
studies that will improve the knowledge base for clinical decision-making.

How is the nation’s network funded?
The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), part of the
National Institutes of Health (NIH), funded for 2012-2019 the University of Alabama at
Birmingham in collaboration with six other institutions in the United States (listed below).
For more information, please visit the NIDCR website at nidcr.nih.gov.

How do I join?
You can enroll online by going to NationalDentalPBRN.org, and clicking on
the “Enroll Now” tab. You need to have a functioning email address to enroll.

How much time will I have to commit when I participate in a study?
The amount of time will vary depending on the specific project. Studies range from
questionnaires to studies in the office. Our goal is to implement projects that will easily
integrate into your everyday practice routine.

What are the benefits of joining the nation’s network?
• Exchange ideas with fellow practitioners
• Participate in research projects that benefit your practice with participation at one of
  three levels depending on your interest: 1. informational - receive newsletters
  and correspondence only; 2. limited-also participate in questionnaires; or 3. full -also
  participate in in-office clinical studies.
• Distinguishes your practice from other practices, acting as a practice promoter or
  practice builder increases your practice’s visibility and stature among dental patients
• Enhances communication with patients by showing that you and your office care
  about the scientific basis of daily clinical practice (you “stay current”) Serves as a
  team builder for practice staff, and engages the entire staff in the excitement of
discovery and quality improvement Studies can improve the quality of dental care by
contributing to the scientific basis for the dental procedures that are their focus
• Receive financial remuneration for the time spent doing research
• Potential to present at local, state, and national dental meetings and research
  conferences Receive Continuing Education credit for attendance at National Dental
  PBRN annual meetings and participating in training and certification activities for
  specific network studies
Western Region (region #1)
Administratively based at the Center for Health Research, Portland, OR.
This region comprises Alaska, American Samoa, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Midwest Region (region #2)
Administratively based at the HealthPartners Research Foundation in Minneapolis, MN.
This region comprises Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

Southwest Region (region #3)
Administratively based at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in San Antonio, TX. This region comprises Arizona, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

South Central Region (region #4)
Administratively based at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in Birmingham, AL.
This region comprises Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, West Virginia.

South Atlantic Region (region #5)
Administratively based at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL.
This region comprises Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia.

Northeast Region (region #6)
Administratively based at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY.
This region comprises Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, US Virgin Islands, Vermont. The Coordinating Center for the national network is administratively based at Westat in Rockville, MD.
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