Welcome to the SDPBRN Newsletter!

The 7th issue of the Scottish Dental Practice Based Research Network (SDPBRN) newsletter is now here. This issue gives you an update on the recent SDPBRN Symposium and Postgraduate Research Training Day, both of which were a huge success. Read on to find out more about the newly launched SDCEP Guidance in its exciting new video form and learn about some of our international ventures. Your views and contributions to research are very important to us, so please can I ask you to take the time to complete the questionnaire inserted in this newsletter to share your views further on conducting research. Enjoy the read!

SDPBRN Symposium 2014 - Closing the Gap

Over 70 delegates from all over Scotland attended the latest SDPBRN symposium in Dundee’s West Park Centre on 10 June 2014, which had Quality Improvement as its theme.

First up was Tom Ferris, Deputy Chief Dental Officer, who opened the event giving an overview of quality improvement in dentistry. Neil Houston, National Clinical Lead for the Scottish Patient Safety in Primary Care Programme, described the programme’s development and application to all GP practices across Scotland. Irene Black and Paul Bowie looked at planning for patient safety in dentistry, and how a dental-specific safety climate survey was being developed. Irene is NHS Education for Scotland’s (NES) Lead for Patient Safety in Dentistry. Paul is Programme Director for Patient Safety & Quality Improvement (NES). Steve Turner of SDPBRN and Edinburgh Dental Institute, presented research on the new arrangements for direct patient access for DCPs, including concerns about quality of care. Richard Macey from Manchester Dental School described his research on team-working, while SDPBRN’s Linda Young talked about developments in clinical audit and its relationship research investigating healthcare quality. The programme was completed by short presentations from GDPs – a regular on these symposia - and by a lively Q & A session, before Jan Clarkson closed proceedings thanking all for their attendance and hoping to see them back again next year.
Research activity as audit

Participating in research can now count towards your audit hours. Under the new arrangements for clinical audit, participation in many dental research projects carried out by SDPBRN, universities and health boards will be eligible for up to five hours credit in each three year clinical audit cycle. Eligible projects will be practice based and will explore the quality of health care: including projects that focus on the safety, effectiveness, patient centredness, timeliness, efficiency or equity of healthcare. Research audit credits will be administered by SDPBRN via the NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Portal.

The research team will let you know if a project has been approved for research audit credit and the number of hours available when you are invited to take part. All you have to do is complete a reflective activity and upload a reflective report to the NES Portal.

Recognition of the impact of participating in research on the quality of healthcare delivery is an exciting new opportunity for dentistry in Scotland. SDPBRN are delighted to have been given the opportunity to help take this forward.

For more information visit our website at www.sdpbrn.org.uk

SDPBRN Research training day

27 enthusiastic dentists and researchers assembled on 9 June at Dundee Dental Education Centre for the fifth SDPBRN Research Training Day. Dr Isobel Madden, who runs the Remote and Rural Fellowship Programme, began the day by reviewing the ten years since it began followed by presentations from Fellows who had completed their studies, along with Fellows that are still ongoing, many in remote and rural areas.

Sam Rutherford from SDCEP and Steve Turner from SDPBRN, presented on the role and structure of systematic reviews, meta-analyses and even blobbograms. There was also an informal Stats Question & Answer session led by Dr Steve Hubbard of the University of Dundee and in the afternoon session Steve Turner and Anna Templeton (also SDPBRN) led research methods workshops on database searching and patient-based research.

Finally Thomas Lamont spoke about the issues involved in setting up the large scale IQuaD study, before Jan Clarkson summed up. The day represented 6 hours verifiable CPD.

To find out more about the Scottish Dental Postgraduate Training Fellowship visit www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/education-and-training/by-discipline/dentistry -‘careers & recruitment’. 
SDCEP’s latest guidance, *Prevention and Treatment of Periodontal Diseases in Primary Care*, highlights the role of the patient in the successful prevention and treatment of periodontal diseases. The guidance introduces a behaviour change strategy, Oral Hygiene TIPPS, to help clinicians improve their patients’ plaque removal and SDCEP has produced its first video to show it in action.

Lead researcher Sam Rutherford said “The Group that developed the Perio guidance was keen to include a video showing how Oral Hygiene TIPPS can be used to help patients change their behaviour. The video illustrates how clinicians can communicate to their patients the importance of regular, effective plaque removal. It also emphasises the value of hands-on oral hygiene demonstrations and having the patient practise plaque removal whilst in the surgery. We filmed in one long day and with eight people, two cameras and studio lights in the surgery it got hot very quickly!”

The new Perio guidance includes evidence-based recommendations on assessment, diagnosis, treatment and long-term maintenance with advice on referral and record keeping. The guidance was widely distributed to dental professionals in Scotland in July and is also available with the video and patient leaflets from the SDCEP website, www.sdcep.org.uk

**Norwegian collaboration by Thomas Lamont**

In May I represented SDPBRN, travelling to Norway to talk about research in primary dental care at an international meeting hosted in Bergen. The meeting was organised by local medical and dental networks in Norway working with the Norwegian Directorate of Health (NDH) to set up practice based research networks (PBRNs).

SDPBRN were invited by Professor Ivar Espelid (Public Dental Health Service, Tromsø) following a visit to SDPBRN in Dundee in March 2013. They were joined by an impressive line-up of worldwide speakers sharing their experiences on a range of topics such as helping to build research networks in primary medical practice ‘from scratch’ in both Scotland and Canada, and the success factors and challenges for an established research network in primary care. Their experiences will help the NDH understand the strengths and benefits of PBRNs. I presented the research of SDPBRN highlighting the importance of research networks in dentistry which was an excellent opportunity to build on SDPBRN’s reputation internationally.

Jon-Torgeir Lunke, (NDH) thought the meeting was well received, informative and provided positive feedback and support to the Norwegian team in their bid to set up research networks in primary medical and dental care.
Tea time teaser!

Last issue’s winner was Fiona Todd from Inchvannie Dental Surgery in Dingwall. Time for a cuppa and a chance to win an SDPBRN goodie bag. All you need to do is spot Danny the dentist and tell us how many times he appears in this newsletter. Get your entry in by 30 September 2014 to be in with a chance of being the first one pulled out of the bag!

Antibiotic Prescribing Audit

This national pre-approved project for 7.5 audit hours is now available. It can be accessed by logging into the NES Portal in the usual way at www.portal.scot.nhs.uk. Further information and detailed instructions for completing the audit can also be found on our website www.sdpbrn.org.uk.

Meet a new member of the team

Catalina Martin has recently been appointed as a knowledge translation research officer for dentistry, within the Translation Research in a Dental Setting (TRiaDS) programme. Catalina’s background is in social research and politics. She previously worked with the University of Dundee’s School of Medicine at the Centre for Addiction Research and Education Scotland (CARES) where she was involved in research in mental health. Catalina also worked with CAMILLE (www.camilleproject.info/) a European training programme for professionals who work with families where there is a parent with mental health issues. During her short time with TRiaDS, Catalina has enjoyed learning about Patient Safety and is keen to take this forward in Dentistry.

Patient Safety

SDPBRN is working with NHS Education for Scotland in the development of a safety climate assessment questionnaire which aims to support dental teams evaluate and develop the safety climate in their practices. The questionnaire being developed is based on a safety climate survey, GP SafeQuest, currently used in General Medical Practice. This questionnaire contains thirty items that are grouped into five sections (Workload, Communication, Leadership, Teamwork and Safety systems) and it’s intended for all members of the primary care team, in both clinical and non-clinical roles, practice or community based.

So far SDPBRN REPs and their dental teams have helped evaluate the relevance of this tool to primary care dental practice. The next step is to pilot the questionnaire in practices across Scotland during autumn 2014.