

November conference to focus on translating research into practice

BY MICHELLE MANCHIR

Dental professionals who want to learn more about ways to help ensure they are using the best evidence to support their clinical decision-making and practice behaviors can get some of their questions answered, and earn some continuing education credit, at a November conference at the ADA.

Translating Clinical Trials Outcomes to Your Practice, scheduled for Nov. 17 at ADA Headquarters, will feature speakers who address questions such as whether there is a problem with bias in sponsored research related to the funding source; what safeguards are in place to eliminate bias in research; how clinical dentists can get necessary skills to understand when scientific literature is valid; and how dental professionals can ensure that high quality evidence is applied in practice.

“Accessing and using scientific literature is an essential adjunct to care, allowing dentists to make informed decision for their patients,” said Dr. Robert Weyant, a speaker at the conference and professor and chair of the department of dental public health at the University of Pittsburgh, who also holds a doctorate in public health. “Understandably, given several notable cases

where industry-sponsored medical research was used to mislead physicians, concern exists about the veracity of all industry-sponsored research. Fortunately, much of these concerns over biased studies are now in the past, given controls that have been put in place. Still, understanding how bias is managed and how fraud is prevented in scientific publications can help dentists to select and use evidence for patient care that is of the highest quality.”

The essential goal of the conference is to provide information to dental professionals to help them understand principles of dental research design and the safeguards in

place to ensure the reliability of clinical dental research, said Dr. Sebastian Ciancio, distinguished service professor and chair of the department of periodontics & endodontics at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York System, and the executive director of the Task Force on Design and Analysis in Oral Health Research, which is cohosting the conference with the ADA.

The schedule of event speakers includes, among others, Drs. Martha Somerman, director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; Alonso Carrasco-Labra, director of the ADA Center for Evi-

dence-Based Dentistry; and Christopher Fox, director of the International Association for Dental Research.

“This topic is important to dental professionals so that they can employ the best evidence in support of clinical decision making and practice behaviors,” Dr. Ciancio said.

Cost for ADA members is \$195. Cost for students is \$25 and for nonmembers is \$295. Hotel discounts are available. For more information about the conference, or to register for it, visit ebusiness.ADA.org/Meetings/Meeting.aspx?ID=20478. ■

—manchirm@ada.org