

## Testimonial from Dr. Sylvia A Frazier-Bowers



The National Dental Practice Based Research Network (PBRN) started in 2005 with the goal of advancing knowledge of dental practice and ways to improve it. I joined the network both as a registered clinician and as a member of the American Association of Orthodontists PBRN committee with the goal of advancing the orthodontic specialty. It is an honor and a privilege to help foster the creation of - and engagement with - study initiatives that will allow the profession to deliver the best patient care. The “value add” of the PBRN is its ability to really get to the heart of the questions that we encounter in the real world of clinical practice. The PBRN infrastructure offers the missing piece to the puzzle that bridges the knowing-doing gap that we experience throughout our lifelong learning journeys. Most importantly, the orthodontic profession is rapidly evolving with an even more urgent need to understand and guide the current trends of our specialty so that we can continue to evolve in a meaningful way.

The dental profession, and orthodontics specifically, is frequently ranked in the top five of all professions in the US (by US News and World Reports), making it more important that we collectively remain evidence-based through initiatives like the NIH Dental PBRN. With more than 7,000 dentists and hygienists in the network, the possibilities - to interrogate existing best practices and innovate for even better gold standards – are endless. And the PBRN allows us the most precious benefit, that of understanding any clinical problem through the diverse lenses and experiences that the pool of network practitioners offers. I like to think of our collective participation in the PBRN as literally ‘the gift that keeps giving’ – to our individual professional pursuits, and to the dental profession as a whole.

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