

# International RDC/TMD Consortium Fifth Annual Consortium Meeting Meeting Report

Hyatt Regency Baltimore: Frederick  
March 9, 2005  
11:00am-1:00pm

## Administrative

1. Our annual meeting occurred on March 9, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore, in conjunction with the IADR meeting. Twenty-five members were in attendance, as well as two guests. Richard Ohrbach, Director, started the meeting after introductions were made, noting the diversity of members in terms of training and geographic location. It was noted that the Steering Committee had met that morning in order to discuss administrative issues, and individual Steering Committee members had other small meetings with members later in the week, resulting in some clarification of issues discussed at the regular meeting.
2. New members were approved at the meeting. The new members (in order of application) are:
  - a. Geoff Gerstner                      University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
  - b. Sunil Kapila                            University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
  - c. Anne McMillan                        University of Hong Kong
  - d. Yoly Gonzalez                         University at Buffalo, NY
  - e. Scott McCall                            University at Buffalo, NY
  - f. Maria Nilner                             University of Malmö, Sweden
  - g. EwaCarin Eckberg                     University of Malmö, Sweden
  - h. John Look                                University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
  - i. Marylee van der Meulen             ACTA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
  - j. Zibandeh Balke                        University of Heidelberg, Germany
  - k. Michael Leckel                         University of Heidelberg, Germany
  - l. Rachel Leeson                          Eastman Dental Center, London, UK
3. IADR Network. The Consortium has the opportunity to become a Network within IADR. Networks are affiliations that cross the discipline boundaries of the standing scientific groups. At present, only one Network exists: Evidenced Based Dentistry. Richard Ohrbach has had several conversations with Chris Fox, Executive Director of the IADR, regarding the Consortium becoming an official entity within the IADR, and the Consortium can apparently qualify for designation as a Network. The advantages for us are official recognition, symposium sponsorship, administrative support with respect to membership, and dues collection. The only disadvantage is that Consortium members must be IADR members, and that the IADR will retain \$3 of our dues for its administrative costs. The members unanimously approved submitting an application in order to become a Network within IADR.

Our application to IADR for Network status will emphasize our contributions to date to IADR programs and our practical needs. The IADR will consider our application at its May board meeting.

4. Committee Recommendations. Implementation of committee recommendations by the Consortium was discussed in the morning by the Steering Committee. Committee projects include documents, protocols, processes, instruments, and other activities. Some of these are small in nature, and some are larger in scope and impact on the Consortium as a whole. The plan is for all Committee activity to be presented at the Annual meeting in order for members to be appraised of such activities and to allow members to review and comment upon these projects. The Steering Committee will make the determination regarding what level of review is sufficient for Committee activities; small projects will require only notice or review at the Annual meeting, while more significant projects will require a more formal process of approval in order to insure maximal acceptance and implementation of such projects by the Consortium members. That more formal process includes the following: After a Committee has completed its work, the project will be presented at the Annual meeting for comment and discussion; after these comments are incorporated, major projects will be submitted to the Consortium membership as a whole for review and comment over a 30-day period. The comments will be reviewed by the Steering Committee for final approval. Such projects include, as examples, the present Guidelines for Translation and Cultural Equivalency, data collection instruments, database management, and recommended revisions to the RDC/TMD protocol. These principles will be incorporated into the Bylaws for membership review.
5. Committee formation. A new Committee, Examiner Training and Reliability, was formed in order to address this critical aspect of RDC/TMD protocol integrity. Further details are included below. The current committee for Translations and Data Management was restructured into a committee for Translations and Protocols, and a separate committee for Data Management, the latter to be implemented at a later time.
6. Annual meetings. A working meeting of committees may be held at the Orlando AADR, with the regular Consortium annual meeting to be held at the IADR in Brisbane, Australia. Iven Klineberg has been appointed as the Program Chair and for local arrangements for the social dinner. Our Bylaws indicate that Consortium meetings can occur in conjunction with other international organizations. The Steering Committee will probably meet while attending the IASP in Sydney, Australia, this August. Other sub-groups of the Consortium are encouraged to consider other possible meeting opportunities in order to further the collaborative work of this organization. In order to maintain continuity of this dynamic international group, full annual meetings of the Consortium will be held only in conjunction with the IADR meetings, as stipulated in the Bylaws.

7. Dues collection is proceeding very well via the current PayPal system recently implemented by Mark Drangsholt. A warm appreciation is extended to our membership for their active response to this request that has been finally implemented.
8. Changes in Bylaws. The Bylaws will be revised in order to clarify membership types, new member application process and membership approval of new applicants, approval process for Committee recommendations to the membership for inclusion as a formal Consortium document, clarification of officer duties, and inclusion of the annual symposium program chair as an ad hoc member of the Executive Committee. The revised Bylaws will be submitted to the members for review and approval in the near future.
9. IADR 2006 Symposium. The Consortium has been very active and successful in submitting symposium proposals to the IADR for the past 5 IADR meetings (including the 2005 meeting). Symposium submission for IADR 2006 was discussed. A symposium on neuropathic pain is a likely candidate. Anne McMillan of Hong Kong has offered to be a symposium coordinator. More details will follow.

## **Committee Reports**

1. Communications Committee. The Consortium web-site continues to develop, with Scott McCall as the web master since last year. Mark Drangsholt and Richard Ohrbach have been consulting with Scott regarding the web site content and design.
  - a. Changes that have been completed include:
    - i. New home page: mission statement and logo have been inserted.
    - ii. Officer names are listed on a new Members page.
    - iii. Remove MFIQ (Mandibular Function Index Questionnaire) from the RDC/TMD page, because that instrument is not an approved part of the RDC/TMD. It remains for future discussion what instruments beyond the approved RDC/TMD can be appropriately placed on the web site.
    - iv. Remove Literature Database and Data Collection pages temporarily, until further resources can be identified for their maintenance.
    - v. Translations page: add Table of Contents for each language.
    - vi. Updated translation status table has been placed, with comments from members now incorporated.
    - vii. Revise overview of translations, in order to call more attention to the level of effort, per our developing guidelines, that has gone into producing these translations.
    - viii. Reliability Assessment protocol was reviewed by Kimberly Huggins, and the content remains current as is.
  - b. Changes that are in progress include:

- i. Revise English language version of the Patient Questionnaire in order to correct errors in the original version pertaining to the Graded Chronic Pain Scale items.
  - ii. Kimberly Huggins has completed a clarification-revision of the original RDC/TMD examination specifications, incorporating comments, suggestions, and questions that have occurring during training sessions and reliability studies conducted around the world by Kimberly and Sam Dworkin over the past several years. These revised specifications will be posted on the web-site in the near future.
  - iii. Membership information and application forms will be downloadable.
  - iv. Post translation and cultural equivalency guidelines, after Consortium membership approval.
  - v. More translations currently in progress are to be added, as they become completed.
  - vi. Key words for the web site will be identified and inserted into the appropriate area of the underlying website code, allowing interested individuals to better find this web site via use of search engines that rely upon embedded key words.
  - vii. Include notice regarding permission for accessing raw translation.
  - viii. Add a note that NIDCR has been a significant sponsor for the Consortium and its web-site.
- c. Potential changes to be discussed by the Communications Committee include:
- i. Whether to include member information and direct email addresses on public pages in the website; clearly, a centralized location for member information is urgently needed, in order to maintain a valid list of member addresses etc.
  - ii. Post previous meeting summaries
  - iii. Post presentation slides from symposia
  - iv. How to update the Abstracts section

## 2. Translations and Protocols Committee.

- a. An update on language translations was provided by Richard Ohrbach. The translations are becoming more standardized in format on the web-site; some problems with existing translations have been detected while performing house-keeping, and the authors have been contacted regarding what have been to date minor concerns. The Committee asks translators to respond as promptly as possible with the changes in order to more rapidly correct the errors that are found. Newly revised RDC/TMD versions include Dutch and Finnish. The German translation has been accompanied by initial psychometric analyses demonstrating consistent performance in terms of reliability and validity, compared to data regarding the English language version. Language versions for Arabic (a revision of the currently posted version), Farsi (final stages of review), and Tamil (creation of an electronic version)

are in progress. A Hindi version has been initiated by the Buffalo group and will be conducted according to the recently developed Guidelines (next section) in order to assess their feasibility in practice.

- b. A set of Guidelines for Translation and Cultural Equivalency have been developed, as part of a research proposal, by Richard Ohrbach with significant input from the Committee as well as by a cultural anthropologist and a psychometrician. An overview of these guidelines was discussed, which includes operations for translation activity, cultural equivalency procedures, and data analysis methods for equating instruments across different language versions.
  - c. Detailed procedures for the translation of the RDC/TMD have also been developed, as a companion document to the Guidelines. These recommendations are in the final stage of completion.
  - d. Translation revisions are an inevitable potential occurrence as the user base of a translation widens. Procedures regarding who to contact and how to proceed will also be developed by this Committee as part of the overall translation guidelines project.
  - e. The next activity for this committee will be a set of guidelines regarding the steps to be followed in the review of data and/or instruments that could result in potential changes to the RDC/TMD protocol.
3. Examiner Training and Reliability Committee. This newly formed committee will address examiner validity, credentialing, and standardization for training & reliability studies. As an extension, it will also develop a set of author guidelines regarding citation standards in using RDC/TMD, how to describe the RDC/TMD as used in a study, and examiner training with respect to reliability claims by an author. This committee is in the process of formation, and members will be identified.
  4. Research and Publications Committee. Additional members for this committee were identified.
  5. Data Collections Committee. There was no report at this meeting.

### **Scholarly and Research Activity**

1. RDC/TMD Validation Study. An update of this NIH-funded multi-site study (University of Minnesota, University at Buffalo, University of Washington) was provided by PI Eric Schiffman. Current progress, some issues associated with the testing of validity, and the time-line for completion was discussed.
2. Multi-site US study of pain in ethnic groups. An update of research by the group at UCSF (PI: Octavia Plesh) was presented by guest collaborator Stuart Gansky. Stuart also presented some interesting findings from a prior poster presentation regarding cultural

practices in child rearing and their impact on caries development, with respect to the problems inherent in establishing cultural validity of questionnaire items.

3. Heidelberg validation study. The “Random Forest” method. Marc Schmitter used slides to discuss a CART approach to taxonomic evaluation with respect to internal derangement diagnosis based on MRI. This presentation led to considerable discussion regarding this fundamental aspect of the RDC/TMD: its diagnostic validity.
4. Consortium recommendations for outcomes measures. Mike John is the Chair of an ad hoc committee formed for the creation of a set of disease-specific outcomes measures intended to complement the recommendations by the IMMPACT group as recently published in Pain regarding general pain outcomes measures. A group of interested members has been created. The goal is to have a white paper draft by the next Consortium meeting.
5. Orofacial neuropathic pain taxonomy. Mark Drangsholt has received a career development award from NIDCR, which he is using to study neuropathic pain with the goal of developing better assessment methods and to further develop a working diagnostic taxonomy. As this work proceeds, it is expected that the Consortium may change its name to reflect the inclusion of other orofacial disorders as amenable for Research Diagnostic Criteria development.
6. Research Proposal in Development. Richard Ohrbach, Thomas List, Ed Truelove, Kimberly Huggins, et al are developing a proposal for submission to NIDCR, entitled “Multinational TMD Study: Culture & Longitudinal Patterns”. This proposal has been in development now for about 1.5 years; the Guidelines document, described above, is one tangible product of the proposal development. The PI extends his appreciation to the patience of the Consortium members involved with this project which is taking more time to develop than initially anticipated. Richard is working with program officers at NIDCR regarding the development of the proposal, which will be submitted as a logical extension to the original planning grant that was the foundation for the Consortium.
7. Consortium research goals: Open discussion. Ambra Michelotti identified logical gaps in the current RDC/TMD taxonomy with respect to assessing problems with jaw mobility. Other members agreed that this is a substantial problem in terms of identifying a solution.
8. Cultural adaptation of RDC/TMD for Black Americans. As identified at last year’s Consortium meeting, adaptation of an instrument need not be restricted to other languages; cultures within a single language group may express language differently, leading to concerns regarding equivalent measurement in those other cultures compared to the dominant culture. There is the possibility that a cultural adaptation in English for black Americans may be initiated. Individuals interested in this project should contact Octavia Plesh.

## Notices

1. A symposium was held on Saturday, March 12: Longitudinal Studies of Orofacial Pain: Challenges and New Findings; Mark Drangsholt, Chairperson; T List, LA Mancl, G MacFarlane. This symposium was well-attended and received good feedback. The Consortium contributed from its dues financial sponsorship for this symposium in order for Dr. MacFarlane to come to the IADR.
2. Dr. Dworkin was an invited speaker at a symposium, Incentives and Barriers to International Collaborative Research. Dr. Dworkin spoke on "The Challenges of Universal Diagnostic Criteria: The Case of TMDs". This was a timely talk with respect to the maturation of the Consortium; Dr. Dworkin highlighted the large number of papers that have been published in the past several years by the Consortium members addressing international pain issues.
3. An informal dinner was held on Friday, March 11, at which 22 Consortium members attended. This social event was a welcomed addition to the Consortium activities at the IADR meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 1p.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Ohrbach, June 15, 2005.