

Keith Muller, PhD in Biostatistics and member of the faculty of the Southeast Center for Research to Reduce Disparities in Oral Health (SCRRDOH) has been invited to present at the Spring meeting of The Task Force on Design & Analysis in Oral Health Research. The meeting will be held in Newark, NJ, May 9-10. Dr. Muller's talk is titled "Meeting The Challenge Of Clustered And Multilevel Data".

The Task Force is an influential organization to Oral Health researchers, industry associations such as the American Dental Association, manufacturers and government agencies such as the NIH and FDA. Presentations to the Task Force are by invitation-only and help to define the agenda for future funding of research in this area within the NIH. Dr. Muller's invitation to speak is an important recognition of the work that Dr. Muller does with the Center and one that Dr. Muller feels reflects his career in Biostatistics.

Dr. Muller is involved in every protocol of the research that the Center produces from the very beginning to the very end. Dr. Muller's work aligns the science goals with the data collected and he is there to make sure that the research of the Center delivers the most "bang for the buck" – that the protocols use the best research designs to combine the right number of subjects with the process that will develop the best likelihood of delivering the results that the researchers need. Dr. Muller is also focused on ensuring that the research of the Center is conducted efficiently – that all of the Center research really does get the best bang for our funding bucks.

Although Dr. Muller's research with the Center is just a small portion of his time, this invitation to present at such an influential Oral Health research group reflects the enormous value that his work adds to the Center's mission. Dr. Henrietta Logan, Director for the Center, states that the significance of this task force, and consequently the recognition of Dr. Muller's work with the Center, is an opportunity to help forge the agenda for future funding for behavioral change studies through the National Institutes of Dental and Craniofacial Research, the Center's principal funding agency at this time.

The Task Force on Design & Analysis in Oral Health Research meets in May and November each year in Newark, NJ. Presentation and membership in the group is by invitation only. The FDA often references publications of the Task Force during the drug review process.

The Southeast Center for Research to Reduce Disparities in Oral Health opened in October 2008, with a goal of eliminating disparities in head and neck cancers among vulnerable and underserved individuals. We're "taking the bite out of head and neck cancer." The Center's website is www.dental.ufl.edu/TakeTheBite.