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Background & Purpose

The purpose of this review of the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) was to:

1. Quantify practitioner activities of the Network for which Continuing Education (CE) credits were received (study training, videos, webinars, meetings, and symposia)
2. Quantify practitioner coauthoring Network publications and presentations
3. Test whether practitioner characteristics were associated with participation in these activities.

Materials and Methods

- A retrospective analysis was conducted of practitioners who enrolled between April 12, 2012 and October 12, 2018 and activities as of December 17, 2018
- Data were gathered through Enrollment Questionnaires and previously awarded CE credits
- A total of N=4,361 dentists were in the study (See Table 1 for common practitioner characteristics)

Results

FIGURE 1. SOURCES OF CE CREDIT

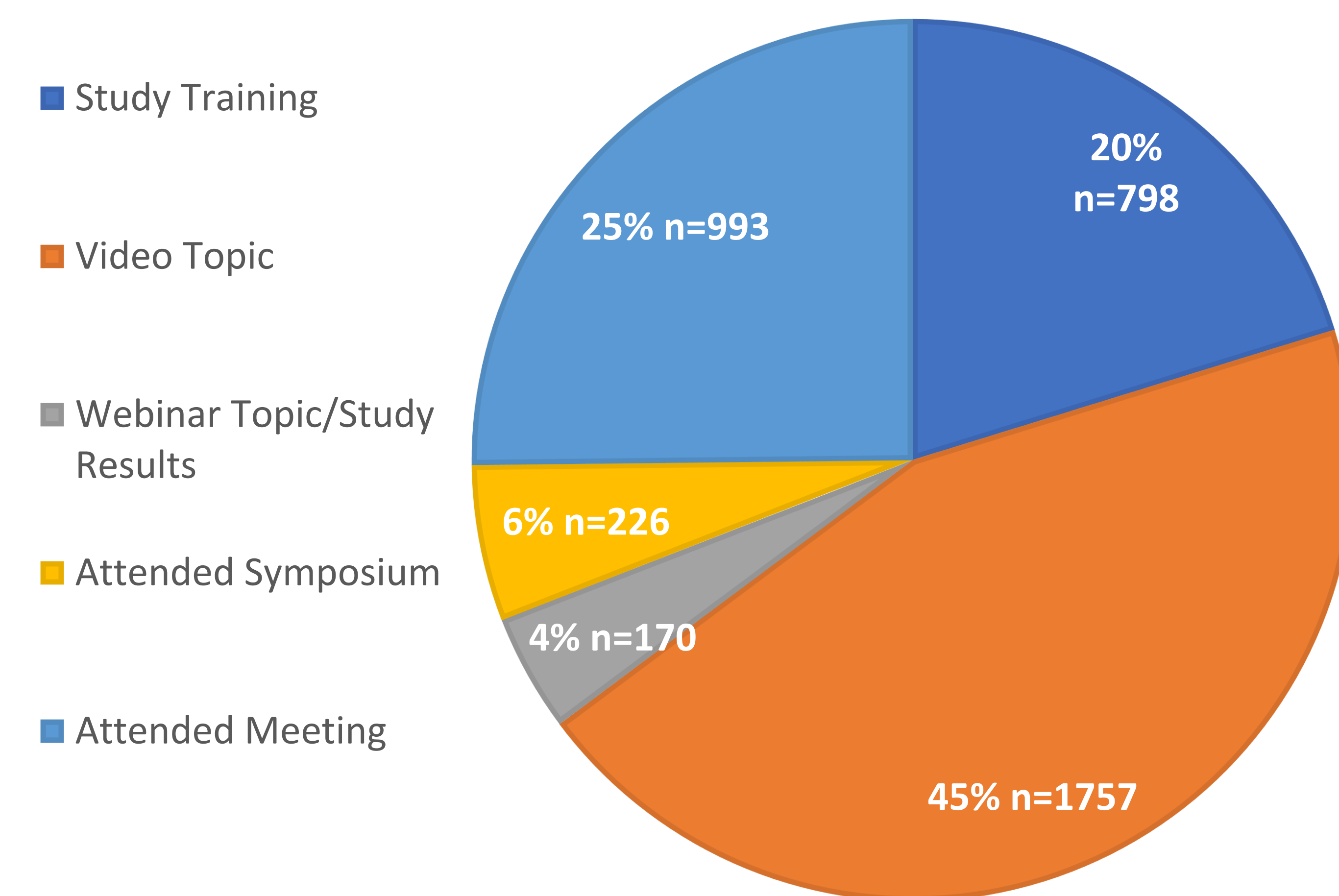


Figure 2. Publication Types Coauthored by Network Practitioners (%)

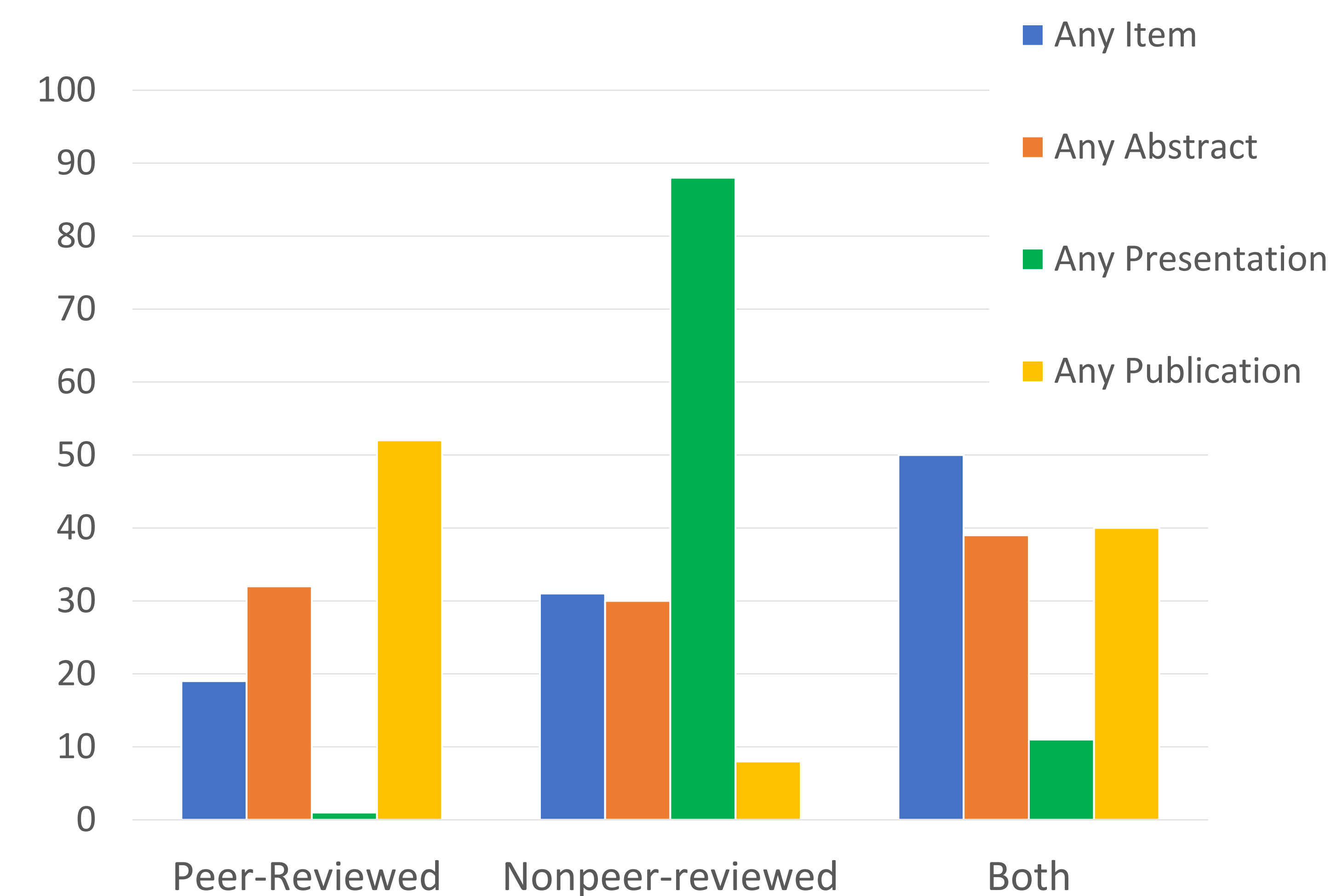


Table 1. Practitioner Characteristics Associated with Network Activities

| | n (%) |
|---|-------------|
| Year graduated from dental school: 1980-1989 | 1,247 (29%) |
| Age enrolled into Network: 55-64 years | 1,298 (30%) |
| Occupation: General Dentist | 3,227 (74%) |
| Practice Type: Owner, Private | 2,917 (68%) |

Table 2. Other Engagement Activities (Quick Polls)

| | n |
|--------|---------|
| Mean | 476 |
| Median | 444 |
| Range | 277-782 |

Results Continued

- Being a general practitioner (vs specialist) and having more experience since time of graduation, were more strongly associated with these activities

Conclusions

1. These activities were successful in sustaining a high level of practitioner engagement in clinical research and its relevance to everyday clinical practice
2. Most activities were related to evidence-based dentistry and improving oral health and not only provided dissemination of study results, but also encouraged an environment to build collegiality
3. Practitioners have stated intentions to change practice behavior as a consequence of study results disseminated at meetings
4. Regional Coordinators serve as a catalyst to engage practitioners in Network activities, allowing them to be part of the research process from start to finish

Acknowledgements

This study was funded by grants U19-DE-22516 and U19-DE-28717 from the National Institutes of Health