



# **Did you know that information about your dives could be included in a worldwide scientific research project into SCUBA diving?**

## **What Research Project?**

As you know, certain conditions or practices could increase the chance of decompression illness (DCI). However, it is still often not clear why, on a particular day, you can get DCI on a dive that you might do perfectly safely on other days. We need to collect information to shed light on this.

In addition, there is very little validated data around on which the programs of various dive computers and tables are based. DAN is trying to collect information to feed back to the designers and manufacturers to help improve the accuracy of these in the future.

Project Dive Exploration (PDE) is designed to collect data to study the incidence of DCI, factors contributing to DCI (particularly the types of dive profiles) and the effectiveness of various first aid techniques and treatment for DCI. DAN aims to collect information from 1 million dives. At the moment there are fewer than 200,000 dives collected so we need to enlist a lot more divers to help with this study!

DAN-AP has begun an initiative to ensure that data from our region and under our conditions are included in the statistics. Divers from Melbourne (especially those who are out there in winter!) generally make more difficult dives in harsher conditions than those who dive in tropical locations. We believe you have much to offer this project in terms of interesting data. If you would like to be involved, please contact us and ask about training to become a "Field Research Coordinator".

## **What is a Field Research Coordinator (FRC)?**

As an FRC, you will collect data from divers. This involves briefing the divers, and ensuring they have filled in the three forms required in the PDE process. You will also make sure the PDE data loggers supplied by DAN are firmly attached to the divers' BCDs. We'll do the rest. We'll organise drop-off and pick-up of the forms and data loggers and we'll add the data to the database. Of course, it's very easy to enter the data and, if you choose, we would welcome anyone to get more involved in the project.

This sort of role would be ideal if your dive club is going on a trip as this gives the potential for collecting information from a number of divers performing repetitive dives. It is also very useful for recording weekend dives. You and your buddies will be contributing to a research project that aims to make diving safer.

## **How long is the FRC training?**

The training session would only take two hours and would be held at the DAN training facility in Ashburton.

## **Other options?**

Anyone who dives with certain brands of dive computer can also participate in the research. You can directly add your own data into the DAN America database via the Internet. A number of dive computer manufacturers have included software that is compatible with DAN's PDE database. Compatible computers include models from Suunto, Cochrane, Uwaterc and Oceanic. We will run sessions about this option in the future. Contact us for more information.

**We need FRCs to ensure that the Asia-Pacific is included in this important research project.**

**If you're interested please contact Scott Jamieson on 9886 9166 or email [training@danasiapacific.org](mailto:training@danasiapacific.org). You can also check out the DAN America site:**

**[www.diversalertnetwork.org/research/projects/](http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/research/projects/).**

**The PDE manual is available for download from DAN America.**

***Please pass this information on to other interested divers.***