

SOUTH TEXAS ORAL HEALTH NETWORK

PARTNERS OF EXCELLENCE



**ANNUAL 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING**

AGENDA

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 - 12:15-2:30PM

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 12:15 PM - 12:25 PM | OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME |
| 12:25 PM-12:55 PM | ICE BREAKER ACTIVITY |
| 12:55 PM - 1:35 PM | SAFE AND EFFECTIVE PAIN MANAGEMENT PRESENTED BY
DR. ASMA KHAN, UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO |
| 1:35 PM -1:40 PM | BREAK |
| 1:40 PM - 2:20 PM | E-CIGARETTE WEBINAR PRESENTED BY MS. BETSY
JONES, SACADA, & DR. AMISHA REVAWALA, TIDE
DENTAL AND ORTHODONTICS |
| 2:20 PM- 2:30 PM | CLOSING REMARKS |

NETWORK LEADERSHIP

RAHMA MUNGIA, BDS, MSC, DDPHRCS

Rahma Mungia is the Director of the South Texas Oral Health Network, and the Assistant Director of the Southwest Region of the National Dental PBRN and an Associate Professor in the Department of Periodontics. She oversees all STOHN research and infrastructure activities. She is a public health specialist with professional strengths in community-based participatory research, practice-based research, behavioral research and health service research. She is also a clinical study design expert and has led and coordinated multiple public health projects, community-based programs and practice-based research multi-center clinical observational studies. Rahma is married with two children and enjoys living in the country.

MELANIE TAVERNA, RDH, MSDH

Melanie Taverna is an Assistant Professor/Clinical Faculty in the Division of Dental Hygiene, Department of Periodontics, School of Dentistry; as well as Program Director of the Dental Hygiene Online Graduate Programs and Co-Director of STOHN. She has been in practice since 1999 and at UTHSCSA since 2010. She teaches all three levels of the Division of Dental Hygiene Program. Her goal is to increase the quantity and variety of dental hygiene research opportunities for graduate dental hygiene students. Currently, she serves as the Secretary of the Community Liaison Committee which brings State and local public health partners together with the Division of Dental Hygiene to better serve the public and students.

MARISSA MEXQUITIC, BA, MS

Marissa Mexquitic is the Network Coordinator for STOHN. She received her B.A. and M.S. degrees in Psychology/Experimental Psychology from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Though her experience is primarily psychology, she has implemented her experience in research to apply across multiple disciplines. She has research experience in substance use in adolescents and young adults, clinical interviewing, study coordination, and helps support PBRN infrastructure and the IIMS Community Engagement department.

ADVISORY BOARD

DR. PEGGY ALEXANDER, MPH, DDS

Dr. Alexander received a B.S. degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, in 1960, along with a certificate in Dental Hygiene from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry, Birmingham. After practicing Dental Hygiene for several years, she matriculated at Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry, Nashville, TN, graduating with a DDS degree in 1981. She then became a commissioned officer in a branch of the Uniformed Services, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and was assigned to the Barrio Comprehensive Health Center in San Antonio to provide dental services to underserved person in San Antonio. Seeking to ensure that high quality specialty dental services were made available to these worthy patients, she established a liaison between various specialties at the UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry and the Barrio Clinic. After completion of her commitment to the NHSC, Dr. Alexander became part of UT Health San Antonio's faculty in 1985. In this role she provided didactic and clinical instruction for predoctoral dental students and was a consulting dentist for the Dental Hygiene Program.

DR. CHERYL DAVIS, MS, DMD

Dr. Cheryl Davis, MS, DMD is the owner of Cheryl E. Davis, DMD, Family Dentistry located in historic Ellis Alley Enclave. She received her MS in Environmental Toxicology at Prairie View A&M University and her DMD at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, AL. She has served as a General Dental Officer in the United States Air Force, Associate Dentist in private practice, Adjunct Professor of General Biology at Northwest Vista Community College and a Contract Dentist for the Correctional Health Care Services/Bexar County Jail. She has a diverse background in research involving HIV, strep mutans and environmental toxicology which has taught her to think outside of the box when faced with challenging dental treatment. Her current research interests include the effects of diabetes and HIV/AIDs in the oral dentition.

DR. KEVIN DONLY, MS, DDS

Dr. Kevin Donly currently serves as Professor, Chair and Postdoctoral Director in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at UT Health San Antonio. He received his DDS in 1984, Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry in 1986 and MS in 1986 from the University of Iowa. He has published over 250 chapters, manuscripts and abstracts associated with pediatric dentistry and dental restorative materials research and clinical utilization.

JO ANN JORDAN, MA, RDH

Jo Ann Diaz Jordan holds the position of Assistant Professor/Clinical and Program Director in the Division of Dental Hygiene, Department of Periodontics at UT Health San Antonio. She teaches dental hygiene courses at the baccalaureate and graduate levels. She received her certificate in dental hygiene from UT Health San Antonio in 1995 and her bachelor's degree in 2001. She obtained her Masters of Arts in Healthcare Administration concentration from the University of the Incarnate Word in 2010. Her twenty-one years of experiance as a hygienist includes private practice, educaton, research focused on oral piercings. She worked as a research coordinator for the Department of Periodontics overseeing studies involving dental implants, pregnant women, and preterm low-birthweight babies, diabetes and periodontal disease, and gingivitis. Jo Ann enjoys working at UT Health in San Antonio where she is able to combine her love of teaching and passion for research.

SPEAKER BIOS



DR. ASMA KHAN

DR ASMA KHAN IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT UT HEALTH SAN ANTONIO. AFTER DENTAL SCHOOL, DR. KHAN COMPLETED HER PHD IN NEUROSCIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AND A FELLOWSHIP IN CLINICAL PAIN RESEARCH AT THE NIH. SHE THEN MOVED TO SAN ANTONIO WHERE SHE EARNED A CERTIFICATE IN ENDODONTICS. HER AREAS OF RESEARCH INCLUDE PAIN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW DIAGNOSTICS.



MS, BETSY JONES

BETSY JONES IS A PREVENTION SPECIALIST AND PUBLIC HEALTH NERD. SHE SERVES AS A COALITION COORDINATOR AT THE SAN ANTONIO COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG AWARENESS, WHERE SHE WORKS ON STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN BEXAR COUNTY. ALONG WITH COALITION MEMBERS AND HEALTH EXPERTS, BETSY WORKED ON THE SAN ANTONIO SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE IN 2016 AND THE TOBACCO 21 ORDINANCE IN 2018. IN HER SPARE TIME, BETSY ATTENDS LAW SCHOOL AT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY.



DR. AMISHA REVAWALA

DR. AMISHA REVAWALA'S PASSION FOR DENTISTRY BEGAN AS A CHILD, AS SHE REQUIRED A LOT OF DENTAL WORK HERSELF. TODAY, SHE ENJOYS THAT EVERY DAY AS A DENTIST IS A NEW EXPERIENCE, FROM EACH PATIENT ENCOUNTERED TO EVERY PROCEDURE PERFORMED. DR. AMISHA GRADUATED WITH HER DDS FROM UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE IN 2014. SINCE THEN, SHE HAS WORKED IN DIFFERENT CLINICAL SETTINGS AND ENJOYS LEARNING ABOUT THE EVERCHANGING DENTAL MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY BY TAKING MULTIPLE CEs.

SOUTH TEXAS ORAL HEALTH NETWORK 2020-2021 RESEARCH STUDY

CURRENT STOHN STUDIES

Testing an Innovative E-Cigarette Cessation Program in a Real-World Dental Practice Setting- The purpose of this proposed research is to test the feasibility of a dental practice-based electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) cessation program targeting youth and young adults (15-29-year-olds) in Texas.

2020 COMPLETED STOHN STUDIES

A survey on the global response to the SARsCoV-2 pandemic of dental practitioner- The sweeping effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in varied responses at the national, local and workplace levels around the world. Dentists are at a particularly higher risk of contracting the virus. Their response to the pandemic depends largely on the policies and directives formulated by governments and organizations. This survey will attempt to elucidate the clinical care modifications employed by dental practitioners to mitigate the spread of the virus and their reflection on the effects of the pandemic on their lives.

A Collaboration of Oral Health Practitioners and Community Members Develops Culturally Competent Health Promotion Materials About Probiotic Use to Improve Oral Health - In partnership with STOHN, practitioners, and community members, this study has developed culturally competent health promotion materials about the benefits of oral probiotics to maintain and improve oral health and enhance communication about oral health through a collaboration of community members, patients and oral health professionals.

SOUTH TEXAS ORAL HEALTH NETWORK

CHAMPIONS

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POSTER ABSTRACTS

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF AN INNOVATIVE E-CIGARETTE CESSATION PROGRAM (R.A.K.E.) ON DENTAL PRACTITIONER KNOWLEDGE

Authors: Marissa Mexquitic, M.S, Gabrielle Oniya, BS, Rahma Mungia, BDS, MSc, DDPHRCS, Kathleen Case, MPH, Dr.PH, Maria Atique, DDS, Betsy Jones, MPA, **Background:** Important progress has been made in reducing the use of cigarettes among young people; unfortunately, the emergence of e-cigarettes threatens to reverse the gains made in reducing tobacco use among youth. Given that young people visit their dental practitioners more routinely than other healthcare providers, dental practitioners are uniquely positioned to screen for e-cigarette use and provide cessation counseling; in fact, the American Dental Academy (ADA) recommends that dental practitioners provide evidence-based tobacco (including e-cigarette) cessation programs. Our formative research with dental practitioners and community members led to the development of an online dental practitioner-based e-cigarette cessation program called the Reach Assessment of Knowledge for E-cigarettes (RAKE). SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has presented an opportunity for us to pilot an online e-cigarette cessation program that is self-paced and engages in learning about the risks of e-cigarette and resources to provide counseling to their patients.

Methods: Dentists and dental hygienists (n=7) recruited for this study completed web-based, self-paced training on the ReACH Assessment of Knowledge for E-cigarettes (RAKE) program and receive additional training by the study coordinator on implementing RAKE. Following enrollment, dental practitioners completed a pre-training assessment to capture knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors regarding e-cigarette use and cessation. Additional items included demographic characteristics. Next, the participant took the RAKE training and completed the post-training assessment to assess acceptance, satisfaction, and usability of RAKE, as well as items that are parallel to items of the pre-assessment addressing knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors (intention to utilize RAKE), e-cigarette education and cessation training. All surveys and the training are accessible through REDCap.

Results: Six dentists and one dental hygienist completed the pre- and post-assessments as well as the RAKE training. Prior to the training, 71% of practitioners stated they felt they had little knowledge about risks of e-cigarettes and skills to conduct e-cigarette counseling with their patients. Furthermore only 29% had a moderate amount of knowledge. All practitioners (100%) stated they were willing to learn more on the topic. After the training, all practitioners (100%) stated the RAKE training was useful, an important part of patient care, and will utilize the information they learned to counsel patients on the use and risks of e-cigarettes. 100% of practitioners also agreed that they now have the knowledge and skills to conduct e-cigarette counseling with their patients.

Conclusion: During the time of the pandemic when virtual learning has become essential, dental practitioners are able to continue keeping informed on the latest information around e-cigarettes and providing cessation counseling. Dental practitioners who are given current, evidence-based information feel more confident to providing e-cigarette cessation. Providing resources on topics such as e-cigarettes are of value to dental providers.

DRY MOUTH: AWARENESS AMONG DENTIST AND COMMUNITY MEMEBERS

Authors: Monika Singh, **PI:** Rahma Mungia, Melanie V. Taverna, **Co-Authors:** Marissa J. Mendoza, Elisabeth M. de la Rosa, Thi Nguyen, Stephanie C. Reyes, Danielle Schramm

Background: Dry mouth, also commonly known as “xerostomia”, is a prominent symptom that is often overlooked by dental practitioners and patients. It affects an estimated 5.5% to 46% of persons in the United States and is more common in women, Caucasians, and the elderly. The purpose of this was to assess the self-confidence that practitioners and patients had in identifying the signs of dry mouth and how to care for the condition.

Method: The South Texas Oral Health Network (STOHN), a Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN), the Madonna Neighborhood Center (MNC), a nonprofit organization in San Antonio, and the Bexar County Translational Advisory Board (TAB,) part of the UT Health Clinical and Translational Science Award Program (CTSA), collaborated to develop this study and recruit participants. Two focus groups of dental professionals and community members were conducted to draw on common knowledge and awareness of dry mouth.

Results: A total of 52 individuals participated in the 2 focus groups, of whom 56% (n=29) were dental professionals and 44% (n=23) were community members. Fifty two percent (n=15) of the dental professionals estimated being aware of the prevalence of dry mouth in 40% or more of their patients. Thirty nine percent of (n=9) community members estimated being aware of the prevalence of dry mouth in 40% or more of the community. When asked about their awareness of the etiologies of dry mouth, 100% (n=29) of dental professionals reported that multiple medications and smoking were primary factors whereas the community members indicated that illness and dehydration (87%, n=20) were primary factors in dry mouth. Dental professionals (25% n=7) were very confident in recognizing symptoms and 28% (n=8) were very confident they knew how to manage dry mouth symptoms. Furthermore, 22% (n=5) of the community members were also very confident about recognizing dry mouth symptoms and 13% (n=3) were very confident knowing how managing it.

Conclusion: The dry mouth pilot study indicated that there is a gap between the self-confidence of dental practitioners and patients in identifying the signs and symptoms of dry mouth and how to manage it. The condition can seriously impact a patient’s quality of life and it is critical to empower and promote communication related to dry mouth between patients and practitioners so that they may explore proper treatment

GENERAL DENTIST AND ENDODONTIC PRACTICE AND FUTURE OUTLOOKS IN RESPONSE TO SARS-COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Authors: Arce, A., Mungia, R., Galicia, J.C., Vaughn, B.A., Mexquitic, M., Taverna, M., Khan, A.

Background: The nature of dentistry places dental practitioners at a high risk of infection and transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. An improved understanding of the differences in responses and outlooks of general dentists and endodontists to this COVID-19 environment can inform the dental communities on adaptability to change.

Methods: Responders completed a 33-item cross-sectional Qualtrics XM™ survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This study collected data from 66 general dentists and 523 endodontists to examine the changes they implemented in their practice, their patients' outlook on dental care amid the pandemic, and how the pandemic affected both their personal and professional lives.

Results: Most participants implemented several modifications such as enhanced personal protective measures, stringent aseptic measures and changed the layout of their clinics in order to mitigate the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus in the workplace. However, patient continuity of care was significantly disrupted, staff were reduced, income was lost, and office hours were curtailed. Most general dentists and endodontists felt safe as they continued to work with patients. However, general dentists were more worried about the future of their professions than endodontists. General dentists also reported that their patients were more apprehensive about visiting a dental practice for elective procedures when practices re-opened.

Conclusions: General dentists and endodontists implemented several modifications to their workplaces and strived to provide continuity of care for their patients during the pandemic. This study provides an understanding of the differences in responses and outlooks of general dentists and endodontists that can be used to inform the dental communities on adaptability to change.

PROBIOTICS FOR ORAL HEALTH

Authors: Kaela Maldonado, BS; Taverna, Melanie RDH MSDH; Mungia, Rahma BDS MSC DDPHRCS

Background: Probiotics specifically for the oral cavity may be of great benefit to a person's overall oral health. Promoting probiotics for oral health is an important step to ensure an increasing number of patients are receiving the benefits of oral probiotics. Creating proper educational materials requires much thought and communication between health professionals, patients, and material designers.

Significance: Educational materials must be used in the proper context in order to educate the maximum number of people. The purpose of this study was to create and test materials to ensure that the information is clear and concise while still getting the message across to all audiences. Gathering health professionals and community members to test the content and validity of the educational materials will allow the materials and information to be presented in a proper manner.

Methods: Two focus groups (12 health professionals and 21 community members) were initially formed to gather ideas on the creation of materials that promote probiotics for oral health. During the first stage of the study, focus groups designed several different educational materials. The next stage of the study consisted of testing the materials and gathering input about revisions that may be needed. 10 community members and 10 health practitioners were interviewed to test the face validity and provide input on the educational materials.

Results: After the first stage of the study, the materials created were brochures, a patient information sheet, a practitioner paper, children's coloring pages, and a simple poster. The testing of the validity and content of the materials brought about ideas as to how the materials may be revised to enhance the information they provide. The interviews also established awareness that educational materials should be used differently for specific audiences.

Conclusion: Educational materials are used to promote ideas, bring about awareness, and even enhance knowledge. The type and creativity of materials used in certain settings can make the difference as to whether the message is getting across to the learner. Health professionals can promote and encourage probiotics for oral health to their patients in the most effective way when the materials they are using are understandable and valid.

SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE, A SUIT OF ARMOR FOR CHILDREN: A SOUTH TEXAS ORAL HEALTH NETWORK SHORT SURVEY

Authors: Mendoza M, Garcia K, Mungia R

Background: Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) is a colorless, liquid solution composed of silver and fluoride ions that function as antibacterial and demineralizing agents to arrest and prevent caries. Approved by the FDA in 2014, SDF at 38% concentration has efficiently demonstrated to inhibit the development of caries when compared to fluoride varnish. Overall, this solution is a safe, noninvasive procedure that involves topical placement on carious lesions in primary teeth.

Significance: Although a limitation of SDF treatment involves teeth staining, it can be presented as a noninvasive alternative to the application of general anesthetics and removal of tooth structure. Furthermore, this procedure can also be advantageous in pediatric settings where children are uncomfortable with receiving traditional restorations. As a newer form of treatment, a fraction of dental practitioners are utilizing SDF. Therefore, enhancing awareness among practitioners is optimal for patient communication and introduction of another form of caries management.

Methods: The STOHN PBRN released a 5-question survey about the use and perceptions about silver diamine fluoride. The survey was distributed via a newsletter where responses could be collected anonymously. Attention was given to dental practitioners and participants provided their viewpoints of SDF as caries treatment in children through a Likert-scale questionnaire.

Findings/Results: Dental practitioners (N = 10) completed the anonymous survey that recorded their perspectives regarding SDF as carious treatment in children. Participants strongly agreed (90%) that SDF is an effective method to treat caries in children. Similarly, 60% believed that SDF is “very safe” for the treatment of caries in children between ages 3-12 and would “strongly recommend” this procedure to parents. Interestingly, 40% stated they do not provide SDF as an option to treat caries, however, they agree to the implementation of this procedure in their clinics.

Conclusion: Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) application as a method of treatment for caries in children is greatly supported by dental practitioners. The results demonstrate that there is a consensus of reliability in the effectiveness and safety of this solution and this information can be utilized to promote awareness in other clinics. The application of SDF in children involves communicating potential risks to caregivers and creating a more pleasant dental experience.

DISCOVERING DENTAL PRIORITIES



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION



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