

South Texas Oral Health Network


Co-Director: Rahma Mungia, DDS, MSc



1

Overview

- ▶ What is Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN)?
- ▶ Benefits of Participating in a PBRN
- ▶ How to Engage Community Dentists in Research?
- ▶ What is South Texas Oral Health Network?
- ▶ Resources Available



2

What is a Practice-Based Research Network?


- ▶ A group of practices devoted primarily to the care of patients, but also committed to collaboratively studying and improving care, with a representative governance structure that exists beyond the needs of a single project
- ▶ Tool for transforming the relationship between community clinicians and academic researchers



3

What is a practice?

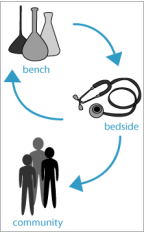
- ▶ Practice is defined as any clinical setting that provides comprehensive primary care services (acute or chronic illness and primary care)
- ▶ The setting can be private or public, community-based, or institutionally based



4

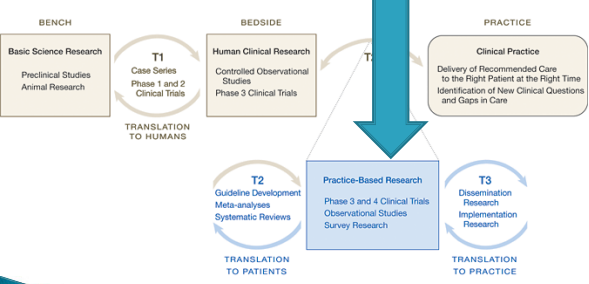
What is translational research?

- ▶ Aims to determine whether research findings from homogenous populations and settings are generalizable to more diverse ones such as those encountered in "real world" practices
- ▶ Increases external validity



5

What are the "Blue Highways" on the NIH Roadmaps?



Westfall, J. M. et al. JAMA 2007;297:403-406.

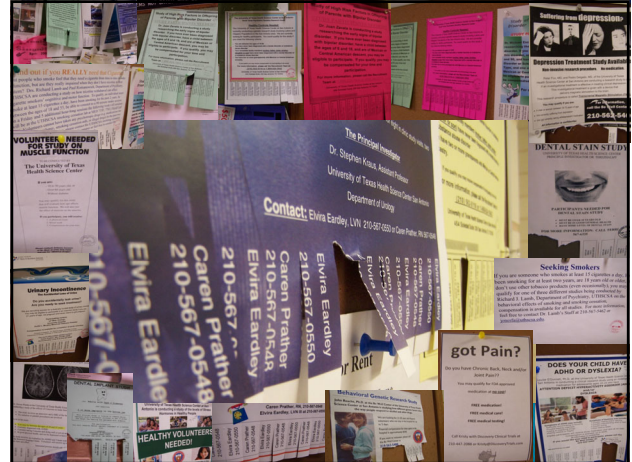
6

What are the benefits of participation with a PBRN?

- ▶ Access to large amounts of “real world” data
- ▶ Access to large numbers of patients
- ▶ Strengthens grant applications with pilot data
- ▶ Strong track record exists of funded PBRN projects



7



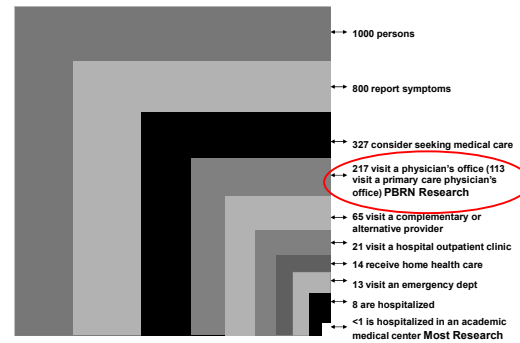
8

Why do research in practices?

- ▶ Sutton’s Law: “that’s where the majority of patients and problems are!”
- ▶ Practices are the best place to study the prevention of health problems
- ▶ Practices are a good place to study problems over time
- ▶ Patients in practices are more representative of any clinical problem than those seen in hospitals

9

Why is Practice-Based Research Needed?



Results of a reanalysis of the monthly prevalence of illness in the community and the roles of various sources of health care. Green LA et al., *N Engl J Med* 2001, 344:2021-2024.

10

Dental Research

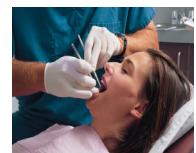
- ▶ Dental research is continually discovering improved treatment methods and therapies
- ▶ Dentists must stay current with changing therapies
- ▶ Evidence-based practice has been shown to keep dentists up to date in order to provide the best care to their patients



11

“If we want more evidence-based practice, we need more practice-based evidence.”

- ▶ Green LW and R. Glasgow, 2006



12

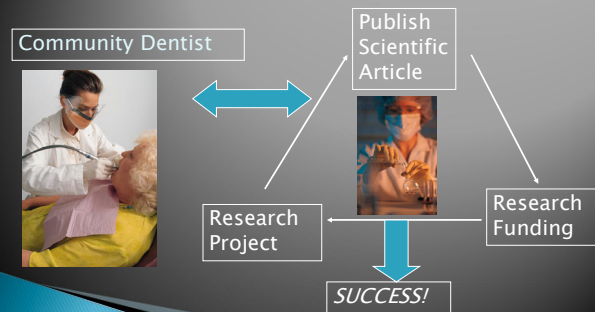
Why build research partnerships with community dentists?

- ▶ Creation of practice-based evidence
- ▶ Quick solutions to health problems
- ▶ The current biomedical research engine is designed primarily to drive the academic tenure/promotion system
- ▶ It takes an average of 17 years for 14% of new discoveries to be incorporated into practice



13

How do I engage community dentists in the research effort?



14

What are the steps of collaborative research I should know about?

- ▶ Groundwork for Partnership
- ▶ Identify research area
- ▶ Generate study questions
- ▶ Design and implement study
- ▶ Analyze and interpret data
- ▶ Implement results
- ▶ Disseminate findings



15

How to generate a research question?

- ▶ *I wonder if ____ is related to ____?*
- ▶ *Why do patients with ____ usually present with ____ symptom?*
- ▶ *Are patients with ____ condition more likely to have/develop/present with _____?*
- ▶ *How common is _____ in my patient population?*

16

What might I need to know about community dentist and the community setting?

- ▶ Leadership of the clinic (clinic directors, staff supervisor, etc.)
- ▶ Site visit with clinicians and staff are essential for the success of the project
- ▶ Human Subjects Protection training requirement



17

What are the challenges of collaboration I should think about as I consider research collaborated with community dentists?


- ▶ Funding to build relationships with clinicians
- ▶ Time needed for collaborative planning
- ▶ Negotiating between your own research agenda and the clinicians' needs



18


What do I need to know to obtain funding for collaborative research?

- ▶ Funding is scarce for relationship building
- ▶ Start with a small pilot study and use the preliminary data in a grant application for a more ambitious study
- ▶ NIH and AHRQ recognize the importance of PBRNs and are now requiring that you meaningfully engage the community



19

What is STOHN?



- ▶ South Texas Oral Health Network (Formed 2008)
- ▶ Co-Directors: Rahma Mungia
Thomas Oates
- ▶ 20 members
- ▶ 14 practices
- ▶ 4 new clinics


20

South Texas Oral Health Network

- ▶ Goal:
 - Is to develop the research infrastructure for generating practical, timely information that can be used by dental practitioners to enhance the quality and efficacy of oral health care.
- ▶ Mission: "Generate evidence that matters in dentistry"

21

Size and Diversity of the Patient Population in STOHN



	STOHN
Annual Patient Visits	4,000
Race/Ethnicity	
Non-Hispanic White	40
Hispanic	36
African-American	15
Others	9
Age (%)	
Children < 14	15
Adults 15-64	58
Adults >65	27
Gender (%)	
Male	40
Female	60
Insurance Status (%)	
Private Insurance	47
Medicare	0
Medicaid	6
No Insurance	47

22

What kinds of studies take place in community dental settings?

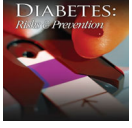

- ▶ Descriptive and observational studies
- ▶ Intervention studies
- ▶ Qualitative and mixed methods studies
 - Focus groups or in-depth interviews

Study ID: _____		
DATE:		
TITLE:		
CLINIC NAME:		
Questions	Answers	
1. Do you offer tobacco cessation counseling services?	YES	NO if no, go to question #3
2. Do you bill for the tobacco cessation counseling services you provide?	YES	NO
3. Did you know that you can be reimbursed for tobacco cessation counseling services?	YES	NO

23

What are some examples of STOHN Studies

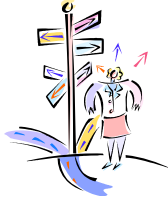
- ▶ Completed studies:
 - Prevalence of Undiagnosed Diabetes in Dental Offices
 - Health Literacy Card Study
- ▶ Ongoing studies:
 - Barriers to Tobacco Cessation Counseling Services
 - Oral Cancer Screening Study
 - Diabetes Card Study

24

What options for research partnerships with community-based dentists should I know about?

- ▶ Participatory Engagement
 - Clinician serves as co-investigator
- ▶ Supportive Engagement
 - Gain input from clinicians on research question, study designs and implementation protocols
- ▶ Minimal Engagement
 - Contact clinicians to assist in recruiting of patients for a fully designed and funded study with little input from clinicians



25

What administrative mechanisms should I know about when setting up a research partnership with community clinicians?

- ▶ Use the PBRN Resource Center housed at the UT Health Science Center to assist you with:
 - Recruitment of primary care sites
 - Human Subjects Protection Training
 - Training of clinicians and staff
 - Letters of support/MOUs
 - Marketing



26

What are the next steps?

- ▶ Apply for CTSA pilot funds to conduct a small research project (no more than 3 month project) in STOHN
- ▶ Use the PBRN as your primary care laboratory



27

How do I learn More?

- ▶ To become a STOHN member contact Dr. Rahma Mungia at 210-567-7809 or email at mungia@uthscsa.edu
- ▶ Visit our website to complete a brief survey. http://iims.uthscsa.edu/community_pbrn_stohn.html



28