

# **Bridging Community Dental Practitioners to Research:**

# The South Texas Oral Health Network (STOHN)

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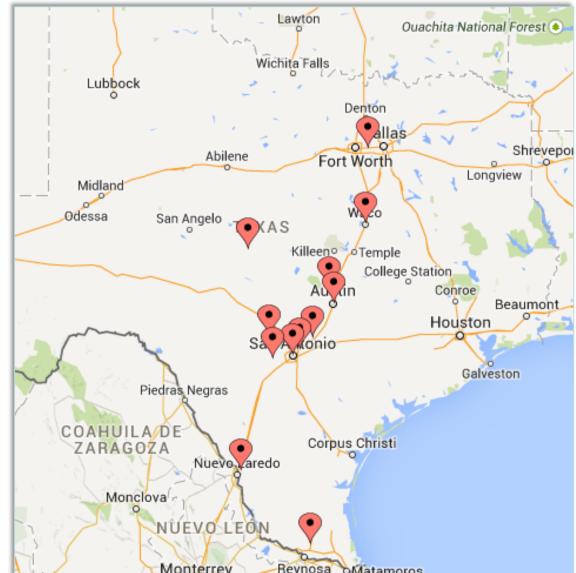


#### Introduction

The South Texas Oral Health Network (STOHN) was established through the Clinical Translational Science Award funded by the National Institutes of Health in May 2008.

#### STOHN...

- is dedicated to improving quality care by conducting oral health studies on topics or interest and importance to local dental practitioners and their practices;
- provides an opportunity for community dental practitioners to participate in cutting-edge research to improve health outcomes for patients;
- offers its members the potential to gain valuable insights into many aspects of clinical practice that cannot be easily understood through more traditional academic research settings;
- and strives to incorporate the goals of the community into the goals of its research.

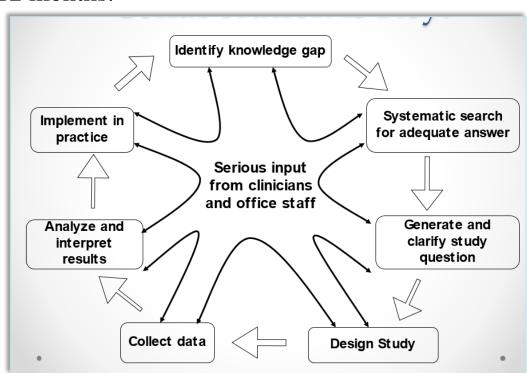


STOHN's 59 members are located in the 12 cities indicated above.

## **Recruitment and Development**

Recruitment of dental practitioners is done through mailers, Texas State dental meetings, dental district society meetings, the network website and existing network members.

Research topic idea generation to data collection to data analysis takes 6-12 months.



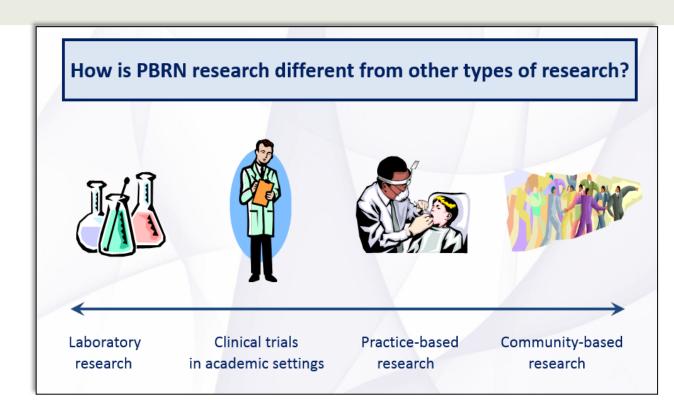
STOHN has 5 active board members who aid study development: Jamie Bone, DDS, Jennifer Bone, DDS, Cheryl Davis, DDS, Peggy Alexander, DDS, and Kevin Donly, DDS

#### **Publications**

- 1. Gonzales, Young, Ketchum, Bone, Oates and Mungia. How concerns for bisphosphonate-induced osteonecrosis of the jaw affect clinical practice among dentists: a study from the South Texas Oral Health Network. *Academy of General Dentistry*. 2015. 61-67.
- 2. Oates, Cornell, Mungia, Scott and Biasiolli. Undiagnosed diabetes in San Antonio: using practice-based research to identify a gap in care. *Investigación Clínica*. 2010. 9-15.
- 3. Mungia, Oates. Bridging community dental practitioners to research: the South Texas Oral Health Network (STOHN). *Texas Dental Journal*. 2011.1031-1038.

#### **Conclusion**

STOHN provides a centralized university-based infrastructure, link to research resources, and an engine to move forward research projects of direct relevance to dental practitioners in the community.



## **Recent Projects**

#### 1. Oral Cancer Knowledge Assessment Survey:

With the UTHSCSA School of Dentistry, STOHN participated in a survey for dental practitioners and students to assess their current knowledge of oral pharyngeal cancer (OPC).

- Less than 80% of Dentists, Hygienists, and Dental students correctly identified that the oropharynx should be screened during an oral soft tissue exam.
- Less than 50% of all respondents accurately reported the correct anatomical location, age group, race or gender of patients with HPV OPC<sup>1</sup>.

#### 2. Prevalence of Molar-Incisor Hypomineralization (MIH):

With the UTHSCSA School of Dentistry, this in-office study seeks to learn how many children in South Texas have MIH.

- Goal: examine 2000, 6-14 year old children
- Analyzed subset of 346 children:
  - 34.4% of 6-14 year old children in South Texas have MIH<sup>2</sup>.

## Acknowledgements

- <sup>1</sup> Rowan and Redding. *Oral Cancer Knowledge Assessment Survey*. 2015.
- <sup>2</sup> Cervantes, Abudawood and Chun. *Prevalence of Molar Incisor Hypomineralization in South Texas*. 2015.

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