

South Texas Oral Health Network

Co-Director: Rahma Mungia, DDS, MSc



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Overview

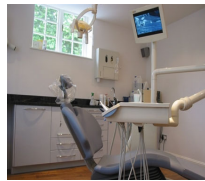
- ▶ Why do Research in Practices?
- ▶ What is South Texas Oral Health Network (STOHN)?
- ▶ Completed and Ongoing Studies in STOHN
- ▶ How to Engage Community Dentists in Research?
- ▶ Resources Available



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What is a practice?

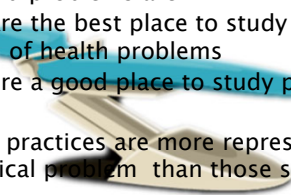
- ▶ Practice is defined as any clinical setting that provides comprehensive primary care services (acute or chronic illness and primary care)
- ▶ The setting can be private or public, community-based, or institutionally based



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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



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Dental Research

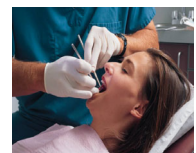
- ▶ Dental research is continually discovering improved treatment methods and therapies
- ▶ Dentists must stay current with changing therapies
- ▶ Evidence-based practice has been shown to keep dentists up to date in order to provide the best care to their patients



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"If we want more evidence-based practice, we need more practice-based evidence."

- ▶ Green LW and R. Glasgow, 2006



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SOUTH TEXAS ORAL HEALTH NETWORK

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INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRATION OF MEDICINE & SCIENCE
UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER[®]
 SOUTH TEXAS ORAL HEALTH NETWORK

- ▶ Formed 2008
- ▶ Co-Directors: Thomas Oates/Rahma Mungia
- ▶ Practice Facilitator: April Biasioli
- ▶ 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"

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Board of Directors

- ▶ 6 Board members
- ▶ February, 2009

Private Practitioner	Academic Faculty
Felipe Morales	Kevin Donly
James Bone	Peggy Alexander
Javier Garcia	
Kevin Scott	


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Network Members

20 STOHN Members (16 practices)	
Daniel Arredondo	Kimberly Koenig
Joshua Austin	Maria Howell
James Bone	Christopher Marlette
Jennifer Bone	Luiso Massa
Irma Cantu-Thompson	James Mazock
Cheryl Davis	Felipe Morales
Brandt Dotson	Christopher Perry
Veronica Garza	Richard Potter
Christina Garanzuay	Kevin Scott
Alicia Galvan	Emil Willmann

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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

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STUDIES

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What kinds of studies take place in practices?

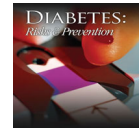
- ▶ Descriptive and observational studies
- ▶ Intervention studies
- ▶ Qualitative and mixed methods studies
 - Focus groups or in-depth interviews

Study ID: _____		
DATE:		
TITLE:		
CLINIC NAME:		
Questions	Answers	
1. Do you offer tobacco cessation counseling services?	YES	NO
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

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What are 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
 - Efficacy and Cost Effectiveness of Oral Cancer Screening Devices
 - Diabetes Assessment Card Study



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Prevalence of Undiagnosed Diabetes Among Patients in Community-Based Dental Practices

- ▶ **Purpose:** Identify the prevalence of undiagnosed diabetes in dental offices.
- ▶ **Method:** 185 patients/ aged 35–65/8 dental clinics
- ▶ **Results:** 36% (N=66) of patients were at high risk for Type 2 diabetes, but only 14% (N=26) had been diagnosed. Of the high-risk patients, 64% (N=42) were women and 49% (N=32) were Hispanic. 84% (N=53) of these patients were accessing health care services regularly.
- ▶ **Conclusions:** The prevalence of undiagnosed patients at high risk of Type 2 diabetes is 31.1% despite regular medical care.

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Assessment of Dentists and Patients Willingness to Participate in Finger-Stick

- ▶ **Purpose:** Assess the willingness of dentists and patients to participate in a study that will involve a finger-stick assessment of Blood Glucose Level.
- ▶ **Methods:** 25 patients /8 dentists/single-question survey.
- ▶ **Timeline:** Data collection will be completed by the end of April; data analysis will be completed by the end of May.

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Health Literacy Card Study

- ▶ *The goal of the proposed study is to develop and test a practice-based intervention to improve oral health literacy and periodontal outcomes among consumers, ages 45–74 years old, who are participating in a STOHN practice-based research network (PBRN) in San Antonio, Texas.*
- ▶ **Purpose:** To show the network's/individual practices capacity to survey patients in the waiting room using a simple one-question form.
- ▶ **Method:** Patients aged 45–75/ 13 dental clinics/ self reported patient card survey.
- ▶ **Results:** 78 percent of the patients were interested in participating in a study that would help their practice create new ways to improve the patient's understanding of dental information.

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Barriers to Tobacco Cessation Counseling in Dental Offices

- ▶ **Purpose:** Determine barriers to dentists and physicians providing in-office tobacco cessation counseling, brainstorm solutions, and provide resources.
- ▶ **Methods:** 6 dental and 6 primary care practices/focus groups.
- ▶ **Results:**
 - Concern about patients' reactions
 - No Impact
 - "Chair time" that could be used otherwise
 - Billing Issues

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Efficacy and Cost Effectiveness of Oral Cancer Screening Devices

- ▶ **Specific Aim #1:** Design a multi-center randomized controlled clinical trial to estimate and compare the diagnostic accuracy of three screening regimens: a) visual and tactile oral examination, b) visual and tactile oral examination + Velscope, and c) visual and tactile oral examination + Trimara OCS 3000.
- ▶ **Specific Aim #2:** Develop a tactical plan for the safe, rapid and rigorous execution and analysis of the proposed trial.
- ▶ **Specific Aim #3:** Write a detailed Manual of Procedures (MOP) for conducting the proposed trial.

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STOHN Convocation

Research priorities were developed at the STOHN Convocation Meeting. Members brainstormed ideas and voted on their top five priorities. These were:

1. Relationship between wound healing, Implant integration and bisphosphonates
2. Sudden tooth decay in elderly population
3. Endodontic failure associated with obturation materials and techniques
4. Controversy over restorative material
5. Failure of in office CAD-CAM crowns vs. traditional gold PFM crowns



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How to generate a research question?

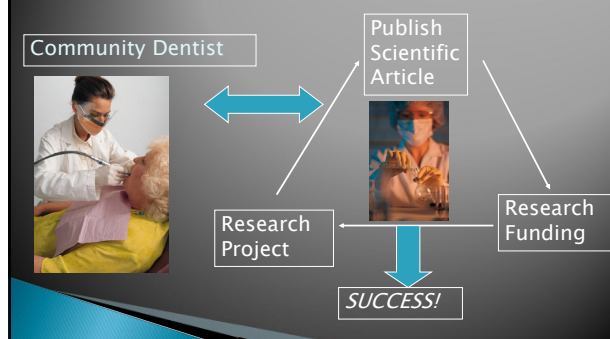
- ▶ *I wonder if ____ is related to ____?*
- ▶ *Why do patients with ____ usually present with ____ symptom?*
- ▶ *Are patients with ____ condition more likely to have/develop/present with _____?*
- ▶ *How common is _____ in my patient population?*

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ENGAGING COMMUNITY DENTIST

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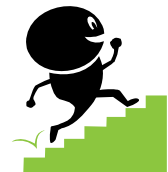
How do I engage community dentists in the research effort?



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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



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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



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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



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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



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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 clinical sites
 - Human Subjects Protection Training
 - Training of clinicians and staff
 - Letters of support/MOUs
 - Marketing



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What are the next steps?

- ▶ Apply for CTSA pilot funds to conduct a small research project (no more than 3 month project) in STOHN.



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How do I learn More?

- ▶ Dr. Rahma Mungia at 210-567-7809 or email at mungia@uthscsa.edu
- ▶ Visit our website.
http://iims.uthscsa.edu/community_pbrn_stohn.html



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