South Texas Oral Health Network
Co-Director: Rahma Mungia, DDS, MSc

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

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

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

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

“If we want more evidence-based practice, we need more practice-based evidence.”
- Green LW and R. Glasgow, 2006
SOUTH TEXAS ORAL HEALTH NETWORK

Formed 2008

Co-Directors: Thomas Oates/Rahma Mungia

Practice Facilitator: April Biasiolli

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”

6 Board members
February, 2009

Academic Faculty
Kevin Donly
Peggy Alexander
Felipe Morales

Private Practitioner
Felipe Morales
James Bone
Javier Garcia
Kevin Scott

Network Members

STUDIES

STOHN Members (16 practices)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Arredondo</td>
<td>Kimberly Koenig</td>
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<td>Joshua Austin</td>
<td>Maria Howell</td>
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<td>James Bone</td>
<td>Christopher Marlette</td>
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<td>Jennifer Bone</td>
<td>Luiso Massa</td>
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<td>Irma Cantu-Thompson</td>
<td>James Mazock</td>
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<td>Cheryl Davis</td>
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<td>Brandt Dotson</td>
<td>Christopher Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veronica Garza</td>
<td>Richard Potter</td>
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<td>Christina Garanzuay</td>
<td>Kevin Scott</td>
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<td>Alicia Galvan</td>
<td>Emil Willmann</td>
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20 STOHN Members (16 practices)

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Age (%)

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Gender (%)

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Insurance Status (%)

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Clinic Name</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YES</td>
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<tr>
<td>YES</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Do you offer tobacco cessation counseling services?</td>
<td>YES</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Do you bill for the tobacco cessation counseling services you provide?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Did you know that you can be reimbursed for tobacco cessation counseling services?</td>
<td>YES</td>
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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

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.

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.

Health Literacy Card Study

- **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.

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
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.

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

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?

ENGAGING COMMUNITY DENTIST

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

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

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

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

What are the next steps?
>
- Apply for CTSA pilot funds to conduct a small research project (no more than 3 month project) in STOHN.

How do I learn More?
>
- Dr. Rahma Mungia at 210-567-7809 or email at mungia@uthscsa.edu
Thank you!