



THE ALBERT  
SCHWEITZER  
FELLOWSHIP™

## Accelerating Dental Clearance for Cancer Treatment

### 2018-2019 NC Albert Schweitzer Fellows

Ashton Lyle and Greyson Vann

ECU School of Dental Medicine and Brody School of Medicine



#### PROJECT GOALS

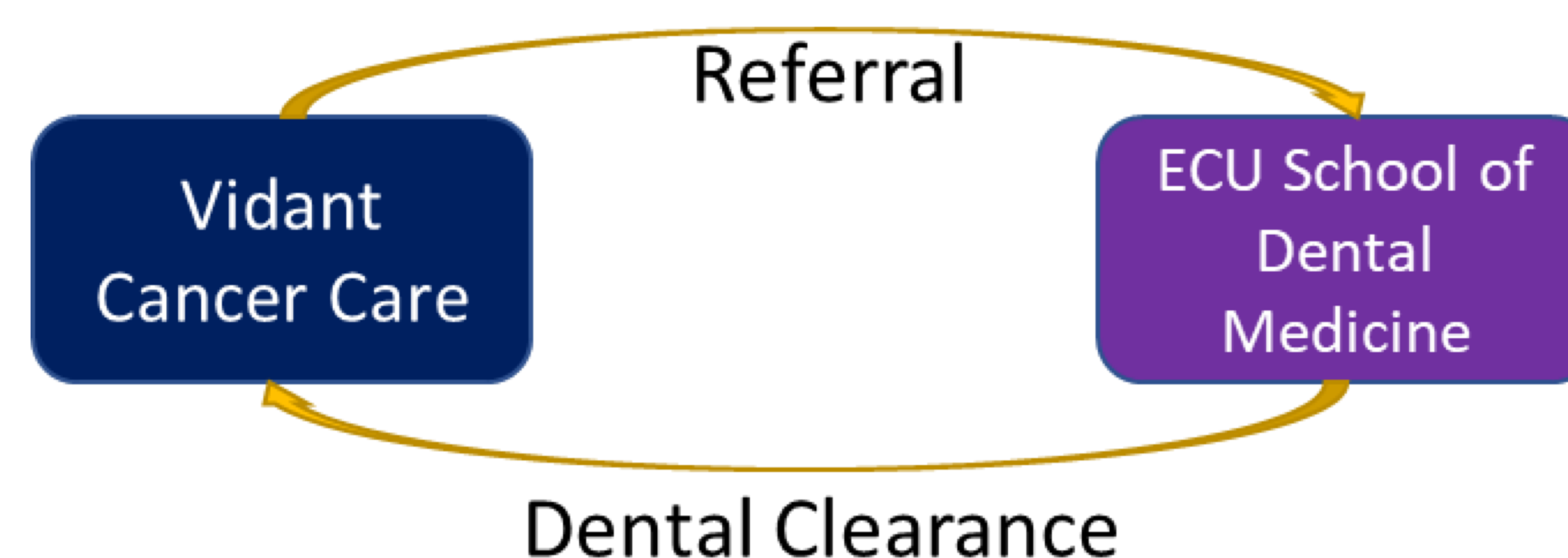
- Improve the lives of patients with cancer by connecting them with dental services that are required before life-saving medical treatment can begin; providing dental care, patient education, provider training and improved interprofessional communication between medical and dental providers.
- Streamline bidirectional referral and tracking processes between ECU School of Dental Medicine and referring medical and cancer treatment facilities.
- Develop and implement an efficient standard protocol for expediting the time it takes from cancer diagnosis to dental clearance before life saving medical treatment can begin.

#### RESULTS

##### Project Impact

7 Patients Cleared for Cancer Treatment

- Education Provided:
  - Effects of Radiation Therapy and the Mouth
  - Effects of Chemotherapy and the Mouth
  - Tobacco Cessation if Necessary
- Services Commonly Needed for Dental Clearance:
  - Problem Focused Detailed Limited Oral Evaluation
  - Panoramic Radiograph
  - Periapical and Bitewing Radiographs
  - Routine Extractions
  - Surgical Extractions
  - Adult Prophylaxis
  - Full Mouth Debridement



#### SUSTAINABILITY

- Two ECU School of Dental Medicine students—Skyler Lagcher and Joshua Stewart—are going to take over the project to help sustain it.
- Implement dental clearance education in the Oral Medicine Course and Clinic Orientation for second year dental students.
- Grow Oral Medicine Clinic allowing more patients to be served
- Develop a new student Oral Medicine Group for ongoing volunteers to sustain the project.
- Customize the project for use in communities surrounding the eight ECU SoDM CSLCs.
- Interprofessional Continuing Education and Faculty Development programs.

#### SERVICES PROVIDED

- Provide dental exams to assess patient's need before dental clearance
- Provide treatment needed before being cleared
- Provide Oral Hygiene Instructions and patient education
- Provide educational pamphlets regarding Radiation and Chemotherapy to patients receiving treatment



#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*We would like to thank the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship as well as:*

**Dr. Iquebal Hasan** (Academic and Site Mentor)  
ECU School of Dental Medicine

**Dr. Suzanne Lea** (Academic Mentor)  
ECU Brody School of Medicine

**Janet Reimer** (Site Mentor)  
Vidant Cancer Center

**Dr. Margaret Wilson**  
Interim Associate Dean for Extramural Clinical Practices  
ECU School of Dental Medicine