Bridging the Gap
Creating a Referral Pipeline between ECU Family Medicine Center and ECU School of Dental Medicine for Patients with Type 2 Diabetes

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**PROJECT GOALS**
- 25 patients to be given patient education and Oral Hygiene Instructions (OHI) kits
- 30 PCPs and health educators attend training sessions
- 25 patients referred to ECU SoDM for screening
- 15 patients seen 2 or more times throughout the fellowship year establishing a dental home at SODM
- 10 patients improved on OHI standard
- 10 Patients will report reduced HbA1c levels at the culmination of the project

**RESULTS**
- 27 out of 25 patients were referred to ECU for a dental home
- 15 out of 30 PCPs, faculty, providers diabetes educators received oral health training
- Oral health screening protocol developed at ECU Family Medicine Center
- Due to complications with COVID-19 we are not currently on track to achieve our metrics, but anticipate we will complete our goals when we resume clinical activities.

**SITES SERVED**

**SUSTAINABILITY**
- Improvements in the use of medical and dental EHR systems to screen, refer and track patients
- Engagement of PCPs and diabetes educators in the education and referral pipelines
- Continued engagement by the fellows after the project year is over
- Created a curriculum, proposed updates to ECU SoDM EHR, and researching possible inclusions in the Family Medicine EHR

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Our project addressed the oral manifestations of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus for patients in Eastern NC. We sought to do this by creating a referral pipeline between ECU Family Medicine Center and ECU School of Dental Medicine that seeks to educate primary care providers, health educators and patients on the oral manifestations of diabetes.