

Bridging the Gap

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



THE ALBERT
SCHWEITZER
FELLOWSHIP

Brittanie Height and Monique Duru, 2019-2020 J. Bradley Wilson Schweitzer Fellows

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



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.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We'd like to thank the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation and The ECU School of Dental Medicine and ECU Family Medicine, our mentors: Dr. David Paquette, Dr. Shiv Patil, Dr. Skip Cummings and Dr. Ronnie Bell for all they did to help us bring this project to fruition. We are forever grateful to you.

To Ms. Barbara Heffner and Dr. Trisha White thank you for believing in our project enough to select it for this fellowship. We will always be grateful for this transformative opportunity.