

## **Assessing Oregon's Unmet Oral Health Prevention And Service Needs And Reaching Out To Meaningfully Include Patients' Voices**

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Moderator: Gaudino JA, Kohli R

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Oral Health/Public health and health care practitioners, researchers, community members and students in the state and local public health departments and in other settings advocating and addressing the health and wellbeing of Oregon communities holistically (including physical, oral, mental health and wellbeing) especially among vulnerable population.

ABSTRACT: Addressing oral health and care needs is essential for improving overall health and wellbeing among individuals and their communities and is important for furthering Oregon's progress with health care transformation under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) law. Moreover, important links found between periodontal and other inflammatory disease processes, like diabetes, cardiovascular disease and obesity compel us to create, evaluate and implement scalable, evidence-based early prevention and treatments especially among vulnerable populations. Yet, community-level data and patient engagement to guide this work are lacking. Care availability and delivery capacity within communities also varies widely and coordination with physical and mental health services is limited. This session will provide an Oregon update about oral health needs statewide and among vulnerable populations, introduce a pilot program to empower Oregonians living with periodontal disease, and clinical research allies to identify priority and actionable research questions.

### OBJECTIVE(S):

- Describe and better understand Oregon's current oral health and health care services and key outcomes from both community- and practice-level perspectives.
- Identify oral health disparities and information/data gaps related to Oregon's oral health and health care services and outcomes.
- Describe the role of the statewide Dental Director and explain how oral health care is delivered in Oregon.
- Discuss strategic efforts to improve oral health.
- Discuss findings from oral health training for professional caregivers in assisted living communities in Oregon and suggest further initiatives.
- Discuss "Virtual Dental Home" initiative in Oregon which utilizes teledentistry to provide dental diagnostic, preventive and early intervention services in community settings.
- Define "patient engagement" in health care and research.
- State why patient empowerment is important to identify oral/dental health research and patient- and community-level intervention priorities.

- Identify Oregon's opportunities and challenges to integrate oral health services with primary care by leveraging health care transformation efforts beginning with Oregon's regional Medicaid coordinated care organizations (CCOs) and development of new partnerships.

**PANEL ABSTRACT 1:** Presentation Title: The State of Oral Health in Oregon: A Report of Key Findings, Recommendations, and Strategic Directions by the New State Dental Director

Presenter/Author: Austin B

Abstract: Maintaining healthy mouth and obtaining access to oral health care continues to be a challenge for many Oregonians. Oral diseases affect what we eat, how we communicate, the way we look, our ability to learn, and how we feel about ourselves. Despite being a preventable disease, 58% of third graders in Oregon have experienced tooth decay and 19.9% of older adults have lost six or more teeth. One in 5 low income adults say their mouth and teeth are in poor condition. In this presentation, the new State Dental Director within Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will share efforts and lessons learned in coordinating strategic efforts to improve oral health across OHA divisions, as well as with statewide community partners. There has been momentum in Oregon to address some of these challenges with integration of oral health care in Coordinated Care Organizations; the release of the Strategic Plan for Oral Health in Oregon: 2014-2020; and including oral health as one of seven priority areas in Public Health Division's State Health Improvement Plan. Although these efforts aim to improve overall oral health and care delivery, there are still challenges facing us in broadening the delivery of oral health care for all Oregonians.

**PANEL ABSTRACT 2:** Presentation Title: Capitol Dental Care Teledentistry Project in collaboration with Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) and University of Pacific (UoP) to reduce barriers to dental care

Presenter/Author: Mann L

Co-author(s): Schwarz E, Kohli R, Harrington M, Glassman P

Abstract: One third of the Oregonians live in rural and frontier areas with no or limited dental care access. Studies in areas lacking dentists in states like California demonstrated that enabling remotely-located dentists and locally-placed Expanded Practice Dental Hygienists (EPDHs), collaboratively working at their maximum scope of practice, can improve dental care quality and reduce dental access gaps. Through "store and forward" electronic delivery means, EPDH can send, patients' oral health information (medical history, radiographs, and photos) to remote dentists who develop and send back diagnosis and treatment plans, comparable to face-to-face evaluations at "bricks and mortar" dental offices, at far lower costs. At the heart of the "Virtual Dental Home," this model is particularly valuable in states like Oregon where more than 20% of counties are designated as "dentally deficient." To counter troubling gaps in care and quality rurally, Oregon's dental telehealth pilot, among rural Medicaid patients, and its evaluation are now underway being led by Capitol Dental Care (CDC), Oregon's largest Medicaid dental services network, in collaboration with Oregon Health and Science

University (OHSU) and University of Pacific (UoP). Project implementation, expanded coverage, efficacy findings and lessons learned, so far promising, will be shared.

**PANEL ABSTRACT 3:** Presentation Title: Oregon PerioPatient Pilot Project: Empowering patients, researchers and communities to break silence and meaningfully define patient-informed oral health prevention and treatment research

Presenter(s)/Author(s): Henson-Apollonio V, Gaudino JA

Co-author(s): Sehgal H, Kohli R

**Abstract:** Increasingly researchers and funders, like the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), created under federal ACA reform act, require patient engagement to maximize care and better address patient and community health priorities. Though affecting millions in the US, periodontal disease (PD), an embarrassing inflammatory disease linked to diabetes and other systemic illnesses, is understudied. We present early progress from the first US community-level, patient-driven research engagement pilot, Oregon's PerioPatient Project (P3), recently funded through PCORI's Pipeline to Proposal (P2P) Program. Our focus is to bring together patients and caregivers concerned about the effects of periodontal disease (PD), in their lives, with policymakers, other stakeholders and researchers. Our aims include involving periodontal patients/caregivers from Oregon's diverse racial, ethnic, socio-economic and age groups. Engaging together, in this collaborative, patients are being empowered to voice their needs, explore how PD impacts their health and wellbeing, and identify knowledge and care gaps that impede PD prevention and treatment. Together collaborators will develop real-world comparative effectiveness research (CER) questions that, if answered and communicated effectively, may advance prevention and care. Realistic, effective and scalable solutions will depend upon empowering patients and caregivers to maintain doable oral practices, proving these effective among different communities, and wide dissemination.

**PANEL ABSTRACT 4:** Presentation Title: Oral health training for professional caregivers in assisted living communities in Oregon - Oral Health for Seniors Project

**Presenter/Author:** Karen Hall

**Co-author(s):** Samantha Ulrich, Tony Finch, Richie Kohli

**Abstract:** The oral health of seniors in Oregon was given a poor ranking of 38 out of 50 states from national research conducted by Oral Health America's Wisdom Tooth Project in 2013. The reasons for this are complex. Lack of dental insurance, affordable dental services, community water fluoridation, and programs that support oral health prevention and education for older Americans are significant factors contributing to the unmet dental needs among older adults. Historically, caregivers of senior living facilities are not trained for the oral health care of seniors and there is a critical need to better equip the caregivers with appropriate oral health training. Oregon Oral Health Coalition presents results after developing and implementing a training program for care-providers to decrease the burden of oral disease among seniors and support equity of services. Ten Assisted Living Communities participated, and

265 care providers received training. Although 83.3% of the caregivers felt sufficient in meeting the oral health needs of residents, feedback forms indicated that 95.8% of the attendees learned new information and skills. All Assisted Living Communities reported an improved capacity to provide oral health care to residents. Similar interdisciplinary initiatives are needed which integrate preventive oral health practices into daily care.

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