

# Hopping the pOHP to Eastern NC

Mary Bec Keith and Kaitlyn Spencer, 2015 NC Schweitzer Fellows

## Project Description and Goals

As Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation Schweitzer Fellows, Mary Bec Keith and Kaitlyn Spencer launched an ECU Prenatal Oral Health Program (pOHP) linking ECU OB/Gyn patients to the dental school for care. The referral system provided pregnant women and their future children with a dental home and provided an opportunity for dental students to gain experience treating this population.

## Why Pregnant Women?

- Evidence shows that poor maternal oral health can have significant consequences for a woman's systemic health and that of her children
- Transmission of oral bacteria from mother to child is well documented and poses a risk for early childhood caries, the most common chronic disease of childhood

## Community Partners

Keith and Spencer partnered with the ECU OB/Gyn Clinic and concentrated their focus on the high risk pregnancy clinic.

## Outcomes of the Project

- A Prenatal Oral Health Program was established at the ECU SoDM.
- 88 pregnant women were referred to the ECU pOHP
- 43 pregnant patients followed through with appointments and received \$5,065 of dental treatment. The private practice cost of care would be \$8051.
- 51 dental providers gained experience treating this population as some women came to multiple appointments
- 80 medical students and all 20 OB/Gyn residents received training and are committed to implementing oral health into their pre-natal appointments



## Sustainability

ECU SoDM students Alex Davis and Ljiljana Karan were awarded a 2016 Schweitzer Fellowship to sustain and expand ECU pOHP so it may impact the lives of more pregnant women and their children.

## Acknowledgements and

## Special Thanks

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