



Project ECHO®

Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
Cancer Center
Making Cancer History®

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Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes

“In the U.S. and around the world, people are not getting access to the specialty care they need, when they need it, for complex and treatable conditions”

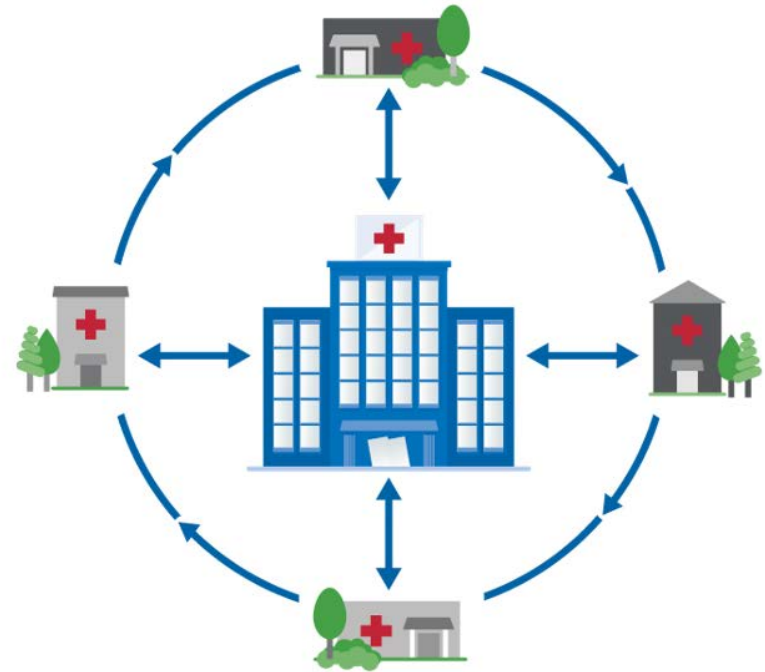
-Sanjeev Arora



*Project ECHO Goal:
Demonopolize knowledge

Project ECHO: Addressing the Hepatitis C crisis in NM

- In response to Hepatitis C crisis in New Mexico Dr. Arora developed Project ECHO
- Patients in rural areas unable to travel to University clinics (UNM)
- Community providers not comfortable treating HCV
- Identified primary care providers from 16 rural clinics and 5 prisons
- Started a **telementoring** program
- Compared outcomes between UNM (hub) and clinics/ prisons (spokes):
 - No difference in cure rates
 - No difference in adverse events
- Improved patient satisfaction and **physician and provider self-efficacy**



Hub and spokes model of Project ECHO

Hub: Academic center, governmental institution, professional society

Spokes: Community centers, medically underserved hospital, public health offices

Project ECHO is a telementoring program to increase capacity in resource limited settings

~~**Telemedicine**~~
Provider to Patient
Communication

vs.

Telehealth/mentoring
Provider to Provider
Mentoring



Force multiplier

Project ECHO Format

- Weekly/monthly one hour videoconferences using Zoom
- Partners present cases - history, exam finding, labs, treatment, challenges (45 min)
- Feedback and guidance provided by the specialists
- Both groups work together to provide quality patient care
- Short didactics to complement case presentations (15 min)



Telementoring not Telemedicine

First Project ECHO at MD Anderson: Cervical Cancer Prevention in Texas-Mexico Border (RGV)

- Population of ~1.3 million
- Medically underserved area with 40% fewer doctors and nurses
- Few providers performing colposcopy and LEEP
- **~30% higher cervical cancer incidence/mortality vs. rest of Texas**
- MD Anderson partnered with two FQHCs/mobile van to teach doctors/NP/PA/midwives to screen/treat preinvasive cervical disease
- Biweekly ECHO videoconferences (~22 participants/sessions) combined with hands-on training courses and regular visits
- Since 2014: local providers screened 19,500 women; 2,795 colpos; 222 LEEPs; 105 ECHO sessions with 188 cases presented

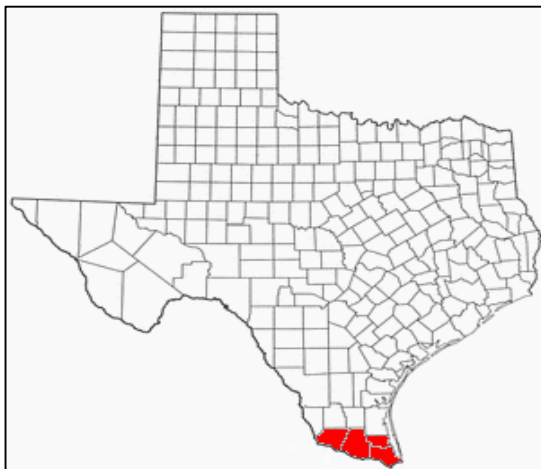


Photo: Marie D. De Jesus, Houston Chronicle



Project ECHO Programs at MD Anderson

- Cervical Dysplasia - Rio Grande Valley, Texas
- Early diagnosis of Melanoma – Texas
- Tobacco Cessation - Texas
- Cancer Survivorship – Texas
- Cervical Cancer Treatment – Latin America (Spanish)
- Mozambique, Africa – Cervical, Breast, H&N and Hematologic Cancers (Portuguese)
- Radiation Oncology – Zambia, Africa
- Palliative Care – Africa (5 countries)
- Pharmacy – Zambia and Tanzania, Africa

MD Anderson designated the “ECHO Superhub” for oncology in 2017 – to date we have trained 133 individuals from 34 organizations to start their own oncology-focused ECHO

ECHO

moves
knowledge,
not people

Best practices
to reduce
disparity

Case-based
learning
to master
complexity



Outcomes
focused
to measure
impact

Technology
to spread
specialized
knowledge

Thank You!

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