Bans Boost Mouth Cancer Campaign

Mouth Cancer Action Month's timely launch as MPs vote to ban tobacco vending machines and point of sale displays

The British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF) has welcomed the decision to ban tobacco vending machines before this month’s Mouth Cancer Action Month.

MPs voted in October to ban tobacco vending machines and retain the ban on tobacco displays at point-of-sale.

The British Dental Health Foundation (BDHF) - whose support for the ban’s put forward the oral health case for tobacco control measures - praised the decision.

BDHF chief executive, Dr Nigel Carter, said: “Our Mouth Cancer Action Month campaign began Sunday, November 1 so this news is a great boost.

“Tobacco is linked to three-quarters of mouth cancer cases and also worsens gum disease.”

“Banning tobacco vending machines is a landmark decision, which will help keep tobacco out of children’s hands. The point-of-sale display ban is proven to help prevent impulse purchases so this vote is very welcome”

The campaign promotes lifestyle choices such as quitting smoking, cutting down on alcohol and eating healthily. Mouth cancer kills about one person every five hours in the UK, with about 1,800 dying each year. It is diagnosed annually in more than 5,000 people, an overall rise of 40 per cent in ten years.

US research shows chronic gum disease may also present a high risk for mouth cancer.

This could provide a clue to the rise in mouth cancers where no traditional risk factors such as tobacco, excessive alcohol and the human papillomavirus (HPV) were present. There are now more deaths from mouth cancer than cervical cancer or testicular cancer.

The five year survival rate for sufferers of mouth cancer is 50 per cent. About 70 per cent of cases are detected late, but early diagnosis improves survival chances to more than 90 per cent.

Mouth cancer usually affects people well into their middle age, though more young people are developing it. People who smoke and drink alcohol to excess are 30 times more likely to develop mouth cancer.

Research now suggests that (HPV) - transmitted by oral sex - could soon rival tobacco and alcohol as the main cause of mouth cancer.

The Mouth Cancer Foundation is announcing the winner of the third annual Mouth Cancer Voice Awards on November 16. It wants to encourage young people not to take their voices for granted.

Founder, Dr Visold Joshi, said: “We want all students to know that mouth cancer exists and what symptoms to look out for in order to help with early detection. If in doubt, get it checked out!”

In the US, the Oral Cancer Foundation (OCF) has donated a screening device for free clinics at Phoenix, California’s Native Health clinic in a country-wide scheme.

The scheme is funded by OCF partner, the Bruce Paltrow Oral Cancer Fund, in memory of producer/director, Bruce Paltrow who died of oral cancer.

OCF founder, Brian Hill, said: “Our intent is to identify free clinics and health service providers in areas that have a high concentration of people who are both at risk for oral cancer and without the financial means to pay for comprehensive oral exams.”

Because of reported links between oral cancer and the sexually-transmitted HPV, screenings are provided for everyone 16 and above.

Native Health’s dental director, Dr. Mahasin Hangala, added: “The community we serve has the highest rate of tobacco usage of any major demographic group in the country, an extremely high poverty rate and very poor access to health care.”

Horse Dentist Awarded

Equine dentist, André Majerski, 61, was honoured by the International Fund for Animal Welfare at the House of Lords in October. He has helped with animal welfare on Greek islands for seven summer holidays.

He says he takes his time to ensure the animal is relaxed. His love of animals came from learning to ride ponies bare-back as a child in his native Blumenau, Brazil.

Mr Majerski was steered towards an equine dentistry course at Cambridge after his daughter’s father-in-law became chairman of the Greek animal welfare fund.

He said: “The satisfaction I get, is being aware that when I first see a horse or donkey they have problems and are in discomfort, but when I leave them they are better than when I found them.”

Eurostar Draw

Visit Smile-on at the BDTA Dental Showcase on stand L69. Be the first to preview the latest and best in education for Dental Teams. Send an email to info@smile-on.com to reserve your free demonstration, your glass of fiz and entry into a Eurostar draw.

New MSc from Smile-on

University of Manchester has teamed up with Smile-on to produce a world-class distance-learning MSc in restorative and aesthetic dentistry. The course will be delivered through combining an internationally-renowned faculty with cutting-edge webinars - the learning delivery method at the core of this MSc. A live internet feed provides fully interactive lectures at home, in real-time.

A Smile-on spokesman said: “Many dentists would love to pursue an MSc in restorative & aesthetic dentistry, but have been unable to do so through traditional methods. This distance learning MSc fits around you. With our MSc, attending lectures is as easy as switching on your computer!”

Smile-on has organised a free introductory webinar for would-be participants on Tuesday, November 10, at 7:30pm, at the venue of your choice. The lecture is given by Dr Chris Orr, course director and a world-leading aesthetic dentist.

To book, email your details to info@smile-on.com or phone 020 7400 8989

www.dental-tribune.co.uk

Published in London

November 9-15 2009

Vol. 3 No. 27

News in Brief

A winning read

Celebrating the launch of a fascinating book on art and dentistry and win a copy!

Safeguarding stance

BADM supports nurses’ concerns over new child protection rules

Getting an education

A closer look at the groundbreaking Msc in Aesthetic & Restorative Dentistry

Impact India

Dentist Neil Sikka recounts his experiences on board the Life-line Express

Get these great gifts when you shop with Kent Express at the BDTA Dental Showcase

*Minimum order required £500

Visit www.kentexpress.co.uk/dental

www.dental-tribune.co.uk

News

Education

Feature

News

Page 2

Page 4

Page 10/11

Page 22-24

www.dental-tribune.co.uk