

SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT A DEVASTATING DISEASE

November is Mouth Cancer Action Month and the Oral Health Foundation is asking you to show your support and help save lives by raising vital awareness of mouth cancer.

Mouth Cancer Action

Month aims to reduce the amount of lives claimed by the disease and make a difference by promoting the importance of early detection and prevention. The campaign hopes to get more mouth cancers diagnosed at an early stage by educating people on the risk factors, signs and symptoms; while also encouraging the public to discuss them with their dental professional.

Like many cancers early detection makes such a vital difference to a person's chance of survival; in terms of mouth cancer early detection can dramatically increase the chances of survival to 90% from 50%.

In 2016, more than 2,000 dental organisations supported Mouth Cancer Action Month through education of patients and local people about this devastating disease, alongside the huge benefits of good oral health for our overall health.

Dr Nigel Carter OBE, CEO of the Oral Health Foundation, said: 'The good news is that we, and you, on the frontline of the profession are in the perfect position to do something about it; by pledging your support you can help raise awareness amongst your patients and in your local community.'

'We remain enormously thankful and humbled by the continued support shown by the dental community for an increasingly important cause.'

To find out how you can get involved in Mouth Cancer Action Month 2017 visit www.mouthcancer.org for inspiration on what you can do to spread awareness.

What is your dental team doing to raise awareness of mouth cancer among patients? Email bdjteam@nature.com or comment at www.facebook.com/bdjteam.



COMMUNITY DENTAL TEAM SCREEN FACTORY WORKERS FOR MOUTH CANCER

By Tami Lampert

Mouth Cancer Action Month takes place in November. As part of this national initiative, in 2016 Community Dental Services (CDS) spearheaded an education and screening day at the Vauxhall Motors plant in Luton.

The company was chosen for its profile of workers. Head and neck cancer is the fourth most common cancer in males and 93% are linked to lifestyle factors such as smoking and alcohol.¹ However, it is increasing in females and younger people and the incidence rates as a whole are projected to rise by 2035.¹

The CDS team included a foundation dentist, a dental nurse and two colleagues from the oral health promotion team. Two smoking advisors from Live Well Luton also supported our event.

We were overwhelmed with workers wanting to see the dentist for a screening and speak to the team. Thirty-two factory workers were screened and no referrals were made, but two smoking referrals were generated. One man was keen to share his experience and survival of mouth cancer, which he only

discovered through a car accident.

There was incredible enthusiasm from the factory workers to learn more about oral cancer, many of them unaware that they have a screening every time they go to the dentist. With the emphasis on prevention and early diagnosis all workers were advised to visit their dentist regularly.

CDS plan to return to the Vauxhall plant this year. We would encourage other dental professionals to learn more about Mouth Cancer Action Month and get involved this year: www.mouthcancer.org. We also found the British Dental Association's (BDA's) (in partnership with Cancer Research UK) Oral Cancer Recognition Toolkit to be an invaluable resource for dental professionals and patients: https://www.doctors.net.uk/eClientopen/CRUK/oral_cancer_toolkit_2015_open/.

1. Cancer Research UK. Oral cancer statistics. 2017. Available at: <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/oral-cancer#heading-Three> (accessed 4 September 2017).



NEW CHAIRPERSON FOR ORTHODONTIC NATIONAL GROUP

The Orthodontic National Group (ONG), the membership organisation for orthodontic dental nurses and orthodontic therapists, has announced that their new Chairperson is Sally Dye (pictured, left).

This represents a momentous achievement in the history of ONG as Sally is an orthodontic therapist while the new President, Debra Worthington (pictured, right), is an orthodontic dental nurse. It's the first time that both groups of orthodontic professionals are represented at the highest level of their representative body.

Sally has the Certificate in Education (Cert Ed) and has many years' experience of teaching. Debra, the immediate past Chairperson of ONG, has just been honoured with an Outstanding Contribution to Orthodontics Award by the British Dental Association (BDA). Both Sally and Debra will serve for two years in their new roles.

ONG is affiliated to the British Orthodontic Society (BOS) and its membership is open to orthodontic therapists, dental nurses, treatment coordinators and practice managers who work in the field of orthodontics.

ONG is active on behalf of members, representing their interests at meetings with the General Dental Council, the BDA, NHS England, The Royal College of Surgeons (Edin) and of course the BOS.

For more information about the ONG, visit their new website at: www.orthodontic-ong.org.

