Hu-Friedy product donation benefits NCOHF affiliate

Hu-Friedy, a manufacturer of dental instruments, recently donated dental products valued at more than $11,000 to the National Children’s Oral Health Foundation: America’s Toothfairy (NCOHF) to enhance vital oral health services for children from vulnerable populations. Howard University, a member of the NCOHF affiliate network, is recipient of the contribution.

The Hu-Friedy dental supplies will aid in expansion of Howard University’s pediatric oral health outreach programs in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

As an NCOHF affiliate, Howard University is part of a national network of 60 non-profit health-care programs with a shared mission to provide the best education, prevention and treatment programs for underserved children.

In less than five years, NCOHF such as Hu-Friedy make it possible for NCOHF affiliates to give underserved children the comprehensive care they deserve.”

Diagnosis for Michael Douglas highlights oral cancer risk

The British Dental Health Foundation is calling for more attention to be paid to mouth cancers. Oral health experts and the foundation are advising the public to regularly check their mouths after news broke recently of actor Michael Douglas being diagnosed with oral cancer.

The Academy Award winner was diagnosed with a tumor in his throat, and he now faces an eight-week course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. This high-profile case has brought oral cancers into the limelight, and oral health experts are keen to make the public more aware of the key risk factors and early warning signs.

Douglas quit smoking in 2006, after a long “half a pack a day” habit. Yet, the possibility of developing oral cancer remains higher for ex-smokers than non-smokers for 20 years after quitting.

Tobacco is considered to be the main cause of mouth cancer, with three in four cases being linked to smoking. Drinking in excess is also a known factor, with those who both smoke and drink in excess being up to 50 times more likely to be at risk.

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It is crucial the public know about the risk factors and early symptoms as early detection can save lives,” said Dr. Nigel Carter, chief executive of the British Dental Health Foundation. “Survival rates can increase from just 50 percent to over 90 percent with early detection, yet over two-thirds of cases are diagnosed at a late stage.”

Many people have not heard of mouth cancer and do not realize how common it is,” Carter said. “The latest figures show that men over the age of 40 are twice as likely to develop the condition as women.”

(Source: British Dental Health Foundation)