**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 bans 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.

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.

**Horse Dentist Awarded**

Equine dentist, Andre Majerksi, 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 bareback as a child in his native Blackforest.

Mr Majerksi 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 from knowing 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 BDHA Dental Showcase on stand L49. 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 fizz 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

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