



**Mouth Cancer**  
**FOUNDATION**  
[www.mouthcancerfoundation.org](http://www.mouthcancerfoundation.org)

**MEDIA ALERT - LEICESTER DENTIST SUCCESSFULLY SCALES MONT  
BLANC**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 15.07.10**

**INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE: FUNDRAISER - ANDREW TOY  
FOUNDER OF THE MOUTH CANCER FOUNDATION -  
DR VINOD JOSHI**

*To arrange an interview please call Media Ambitions on 0208 940 2222.*

***"It was a challenging and exhilarating experience in equal measure."  
Andrew Toy, Fundraiser***

Dentist Andrew Toy, 52 from Nottingham successfully reached the 4800m summit of one of the highest mountains in the world to raise much needed awareness and funds for the UK's leading mouth cancer charity, the **Mouth Cancer Foundation**.

Andrew undertook the extreme challenge alongside best friend, Trevor Riddiough. The pair were assisted up the thick perennial ice and snow by Trevor's son Dai, 18 and Andrew's stepson Graham, 21.

Andrew practices in and around Loughborough and Melton Mowbray and has a professional connection with head, neck and mouth cancer in his daily work with patients; he also does a lot of lecturing around the UK in representing the FGDP (Faculty of General Dental Practice) as vice-chair of Research. However, this professional association drastically changed when very recently, Andrew's friend and financial adviser, Stephen Mills, was diagnosed with a squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue. Andrew and Stephen both share a passion for the mountains.

This encouraged Andrew to climb Mont Blanc for the **Mouth Cancer Foundation**.

Andrew says "Walking over the glaciers under the clearest of starry skies at 2 am was spectacular. Coming down was probably the most challenging, partly because, in daylight, we could actually see some of the crevasses we'd crossed. The last hour of the 10hours 40minutes involved climbing 300m in very soft snow and required all my reserves of determination - helped in no small part by my charity supporters!

*I know successful prevention, diagnosis and treatment of this disease comes as a result of investment in research and training and I hope my small efforts to raise some much needed funding and the profile of the **Mouth Cancer Foundation** will help others too".*

Mont Blanc lies between regions in Italy and France. Before attempting the ascent, it was necessary for the group to spend a few days with the guide on the nearby glaciers training with crampons, ropes and ice axe. They also had to stay overnight in a mountain hut to acclimatise so that altitude sickness didn't occur.

Dr Vinod Joshi, founder of the **Mouth Cancer Foundation**, says "Highlighting the symptoms of this terrible disease will help save lives in the future. Raising funds for us will allow us to provide free materials during our mouth cancer awareness campaigns and support for mouth cancer survivors."

For more information on the **Mouth Cancer Foundation** visit [www.mouthcancerfoundation.org](http://www.mouthcancerfoundation.org) or visit <http://www.justgiving.com/AndyToy> to donate to Andy's fund.

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**The Mouth Cancer Foundation - [www.mouthcancerfoundation.org](http://www.mouthcancerfoundation.org)**

The Mouth Cancer Foundation is a registered charity no. 1109298.

In 2010 The Mouth Cancer Foundation celebrates its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In the UK, nearly 8000 people are diagnosed with Mouth Cancer every year. Cancers can occur in any part of the mouth, tongue, lips, and adjacent areas like the throat, salivary glands, pharynx, larynx, sinus, and other sites in the head and neck area. In its very early stages, these Mouth Cancers can be easy to ignore.

\* Symptoms include:

1. An ulcer or white or red patch anywhere in the mouth that does not heal within 3 weeks
2. A lump or swelling anywhere in the mouth, jaw or neck that persists for more than 3 weeks
3. A difficulty in swallowing, chewing or moving the jaw or tongue
5. A numbness of the tongue or other area of the mouth
6. A feeling that something is caught in the throat
7. A chronic sore throat or hoarseness that persists more than 6 weeks
8. An unexplained loosening of teeth with no dental cause

More information about Mouth Cancer is available at the Mouth Cancer Foundation web site [www.mouthcancerfoundation.org](http://www.mouthcancerfoundation.org) or by emailing [info@mouthcancerfoundation.org](mailto:info@mouthcancerfoundation.org)