



MEDIA ALERT - MOUTH CANCER SURVIVOR RAISES OVER 1K FOR CHARITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE: FUNDRAISER - MIKE SMITH
FOUNDER OF THE MOUTH CANCER FOUNDATION -
DR VINOD JOSHI**

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

"After the fantastic treatment I received from all the doctors and nurses at Guys hospital, I decided to raise funds and promote awareness for the Mouth Cancer Foundation as a way of giving something back".

Mouth Cancer Survivor, Mike Smith

A Legal Assistant from Bexley, Kent has been awarded the title of Top Fundraiser from the UK's leading mouth cancer charity - The **Mouth Cancer Foundation** - after raising a staggering £1,607.

Mike Smith, 29, and his wife Laura, 26, both took part in the Mouth Cancer 10KM Awareness Walk 2009, held annually at Hyde Park in Central London. The couple wanted to raise funds and promote awareness after Mike won his grueling battle against cancer.

In January 2009, Mike was diagnosed with cancer of the tongue and immediately underwent radical surgery the following month. This entailed removing a large part of his tongue due to a cancerous lump and being replaced by a skin graft from his left arm. The surgery lasted around 6 months and included having his lymph node glands removed from the left hand side of his neck. Fortunately Mike did not require any chemo or radio therapy because they took a large proportion of his tongue out to remove the risk and the need for further treatment. Mike underwent speech therapy and is now fully recovered from the ordeal.

The Mouth Cancer 10K Walk is held annually at Hyde Park in Central London. This year's event on Saturday 18th September 2010 mark's the 5th anniversary and looks set to be the biggest yet. For more information please visit www.mouthcancerwalk.org.

The founder of the **Mouth Cancer Foundation** Dr Joshi says *"This story highlights the importance of an early diagnosis. The mortality rate from mouth cancer is just over 50% due to late detection so if in doubt about any symptoms* which occur in the mouth, get them checked out. Highlighting the symptoms of this terrible disease will help save lives in the future".*

For more information or to support **Mouth Cancer Foundation** please log onto www.mouthcancerfoundation.org

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Mouth Cancer Foundation - www.mouthcancerfoundation.org

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

In 2010 The Mouth Cancer Foundation celebrates its 5th 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 or by emailing info@mouthcancerfoundation.org