



Mouth Cancer
FOUNDATION
www.mouthcancerfoundation.org

**MEDIA ALERT – MOUTH CANCER FOUNDATION LAUNCHES SUPPORT GROUP
AWARDS**

EMBARGOED - 00:00 SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2010

INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE:

- **FOUNDER OF THE MOUTH CANCER FOUNDATION – DR VINOD JOSHI**
- **DIRECTOR OF POLICY & ADVOCACY – MELANIE BROOKS**

To set up an interview and for more information please call Media Ambitions on 0208 940 2222.

Calling all health professionals working with patients affected by head and neck cancers!

**Do you run a head and neck cancer support group?
Share your achievements and be in with the chance of winning £1500!**

Today, the country's leading Mouth Cancer Charity, the Mouth Cancer Foundation, is marking this year's Mouth Cancer Awareness Week (Sunday 14th to 20th November 2010) by launching the **Mouth Cancer Foundation Support Group Awards**.

The charity is giving awards of up to £3000* to support groups and projects across the UK who are solely dedicated to working with and supporting people affected by mouth, throat, or other head and neck cancers.

The **Mouth Cancer Foundation** is looking to reward large or small organisations with innovative and unique support services which can demonstrate how they impact and improve on the patients' quality of life. So, Support group leaders and healthcare professionals working across all disciplines who support people affected by head and neck cancer patients, get ready to enter the first ever awards of its kind.

The founder of the **Mouth Cancer Foundation** Dr Joshi says *"The awards celebrate and recognise the valuable efforts provided by local head and neck cancer carers and support groups. There are three categories of awards which will be granted. Gold Support Award winners will receive £1500, Silver Support Award winners £1000 and Bronze Support Award winners will win a cheque for £500 to contribute towards their resources."*

To take part, anyone running a support group needs to fill out an application form. All entries, which must be submitted by 31st December 2010, will be read by a panel of judges. The judges will be looking for evidence that the support group offers the opportunity to communicate experiences, improves patient services and tackles the consequences of head and neck cancer treatments. The three winning entries will be awarded their prizes in January 2011.

For more information or to take part in the **Mouth Cancer Foundation Support Group Awards** visit www.mouthcancerfoundation.org for an application form.

-ENDS-

For general press enquiries, please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Mouth Cancer Foundation Support Group Awards

*Prize values will be awarded as follows:

Gold Support Award - £1500

Silver Support Award - £1000

Bronze Support Award - £500

Terms and conditions apply. The judge's decision is final.

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