

The Arthur Prophet Memorial Lecture

Community dental team screen factory workers for mouth cancer

The Arthur Prophet Memorial Lecture and Annual Dinner of the UCH Old Students Association will take place on Friday 10 November 2017 at Holborn Bars, Holborn, London. Dr Jackie Brown, Consultant Dental and Maxillofacial Radiologist, will give the lecture entitled 'Modern Radiology – All Black and White? Some Reflections on Shades of Grey'. Further details can be requested and tickets booked through Sandip Papat, Hon Secretary at uchosa2016@gmail.com and bookings must be made by 1 November 2017.

Eavesdroppers and nosey neighbours required



What's the funniest thing you've overheard in the dental practice from a colleague/patient/in the waiting room?

In this year's Christmas issue of the *BDJ* we are planning to publish a 'Heard in the practice' article. If something you overheard tickled your funny bone and you would like to share it, please email Jonathan Coe, Associate Editor, on jonathan.coe@nature.com.

Only good natured comments will be included!



Mouth Cancer Action Month takes place in November. As part of this national initiative, in 2016 the community dental services (CDS) spearheaded an education and screening day at the Vauxhall Motors plant in Luton.

The company was chosen for its profile of workers. Head and neck cancer is the fourth most common cancer in males and 93% are linked to lifestyle factors such as smoking and alcohol.¹ However, it is increasing in females and younger people and the incidence rates as a whole are projected to rise by 2035.¹

The CDS team included a foundation dentist, a dental nurse and two colleagues from the oral health promotion team. Two smoking advisors from Live Well Luton also supported our event.

We were overwhelmed with workers wanting to see the dentist for a screening and speak to the team. Thirty-two factory workers were screened and no referrals were made, but two smoking referrals were generated. One man was keen to share his experience and survival of mouth cancer,

which he only discovered through a car accident.

There was incredible enthusiasm from the factory workers to learn more about oral cancer, many of them unaware that they have a screening every time they go to the dentist. With the emphasis on prevention and early diagnosis all workers were advised to visit their dentist regularly.

CDS plan to return to the Vauxhall plant this year. We would encourage other dental professionals to learn more about Mouth Cancer Action Month and get involved this year: www.mouthcancer.org. We also found the British Dental Association's (in partnership with Cancer Research UK) Oral Cancer Recognition Toolkit to be an invaluable resource for dental professionals and patients: https://www.doctors.net.uk/eClientopen/CRUK/oral_cancer_toolkit_2015_open/.

By Tami Lampert

1. Cancer Research UK. *Oral cancer statistics*. 2017. Available at: <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/oral-cancer#heading=Three> (accessed 4 September 2017).